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Puppetry through VC, Learning that's Atomic, STLP/STEM Fair --It's TIPS for January, '10!

...maintained by Jeffrey L. Jones, Site Admin, last updated 1/7/2010

TIPS - The Technology Feed Vol 9, #5(January 2010)

TIPS is a feed of technology integration ideas for Fayette County teachers, delivered through blogs maintained by Technology Resource Teachers. To see all editions (including pre-blog ones), visit our [old archives](#).

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TIPS - The Editor's Desk

Brief musings on the implementation of technology integration in Fayette County Schools...from the Office of Instructional Technology



...from the desk of Jeffrey L. Jones, Site Admin

Thursday, January 07, 2010 3:12 PM: It's a Brand New Decade!

Thanks to several of the district tech resource teachers for their suggestions for this editorial. It's a new decade, and time for a quick glance backward, and forward, at what's happening in technology!

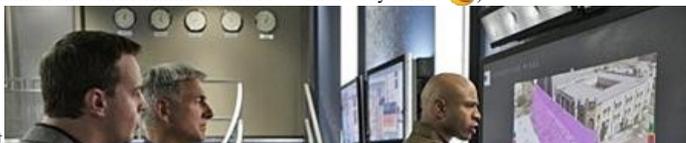
What's outahere... Here is a brief list of dead things we just couldn't do without just a few short years ago.

- **The PDA.** Remember the Palm Pilot? This, and a half-dozen other technologies (remember pagers?) were victims of the rise in popularity of smart phones (more on that later).
- **The Map.** The American Automobile Association had a wonderful service. Called the TripTik, it was a spiral-bound series of maps, assembled by hand, which showed, in bright yellow, your exact path for a long trip. In the age of Mapquest/Google Maps/GPS's, that concept is, well, just *adorable*...
- **The Film Camera.** Remember how excited you were when "One Hour Photo Processing" became available? Remember spending \$20 on a box of Polaroid film so you could see 10 very low-quality photographs immediately after they were taken? Me neither...
- **The Wire.** Schools spend thousands of dollars on network wiring 15 years ago. Wireless connections do require some money, but there's nothing more expensive than physically pulling wires through walls and ceilings and terminating them in connection blocks and switches. I'm sure we'd all love to have that money back! Nowadays, I'm online almost anywhere in the world!
- **The Classified Ad.** Person-to-person advertising was one of the biggest revenue streams for the traditional home-town newspaper. Now, if I want to sell (or buy) anything, from a used pair of shoes to a couple of Cats b-ball tickets, where would I go? How about *personal ads*? (It might be too early to throw the print newspaper into the "outahere" category...for now...)
- **Long Distance Phone Calls.** The convergence of digital phone services (both cell and over wire) and the Internet's "I don't care where you're sitting" design concept inevitably eliminated the whole idea of long distance phone calls. If you're still paying long distance fees...uh...*why?*!
- **The Long Letter.** Remember adjectives? Remember spelling? Remember writing a letter to someone with more than one complete thought? In the age of character-count limits in Twitter and Facebook, all written communication has been reduced to sound-byte status. Even email (which never had such a limit) has succumbed. (OK, this one hurts!)
- **Analog:** Besides phones and cameras, the world of the analog (which includes everything from phonograph records/cassette tapes to broadcast/VHS television) is almost gone. If it can't be converted to zeros and ones, *it's toast!*



What's here... There's nothing in this list we can call strikingly new, but they seem to be technology changes that'll hang in there past this year, maybe next...

- **Flat panels.** The huge, stunningly brilliant, high-definition television of today takes up less space, and uses less electricity, than that 27" tube it replaced. It has even supplanted another artifact of the analog world, the wall painting. (Remember the "entertainment center"? Want to buy mine? 😊)
- **The Touch Screen.** With touch screens, mice and buttons all go away, making the smart phone a lot easier to design. Don't



you just *love* those big touch screens they use in *NCIS Los Angeles*? Wouldn't you just love to have one? Well...*go buy it!*



- **The Smart Phone.**

Multi-tasking technologies have appeared everywhere, starting with your laptop (which will do everything from make a phone call to deliver a movie) and right through that multi-function printer you just stuck on your desk. Smart phones like the iPhone, Blackberry, and the new Google entries, will do everything short of making your coffee...but it'll find the nearest Starbucks for you!

- **Virtual 3-D:** *Avatar* may be the latest techno-darling of Hollywood, but in general, 3-D TV and movies are gaining traction, and other technologies such as holographic display are coming. Just as the Internet and digital telephony have expanded our sense of place, so will virtual 3-D expand our flat-display world, so we don't have to just watch, we can be in it!
- **The Hybrid.** It may be too early to call *the '10's* the decade of the electric car, but hybrid cars, with their clever use of electric motors and batteries, get twice the mileage and put out half the pollutants of many other passenger cars. Do you love to take bike rides, but hate those uphill slogs? Get a hybrid bike!
- **The Wii.** It took lowly Nintendo to one-up the slick, high-resolution, wildly addictive game console manufacturers like Sony and Microsoft – by getting everybody up out of their sofas and physically into that tennis game or boxing match. (How those bowling alleys stay in business, I'll never know...)
- **The Virtual Community.** Facebook, Ning, courseware systems, micro-blogging (which is what Twitter is), Second Life all pull people together across space and time, reinforcing existing communities or families, or building new ones. The platforms will change (remember LISTSERVs and Bitnet?), but the concept is here to stay.

Did I leave anything out? Of course! If so, by all means, join my blog and leave a comment! (Link below...)

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=10067>

Student Technology Leadership Program

A discussion of STLP activities, issues, and projects in Fayette County Schools.



...from the desk of Julie Gaskin, District TRT

Thursday, January 07, 2010 2:10 PM: STEM Fair 2010 - Registration Open



Registration Open Showcase & Presentation Deadline: February 12, 2010

STEM Fair
Saturday, March 6, 2010
Bryan Station High School
Public Hours: 9:00 - 11:00
Awards Ceremony: 11:30

Students and teachers are encouraged to participate in this celebration of student accomplishments in their use of technology to support science, engineering, and mathematics. Students have the opportunity to give presentations and display showcases at the fair. Prior to the fair, students may participate by submitting digital art, videos, technical writing, and interactive content for judging. Products will be displayed and winners will be announced at the fair.

The STLP Coordinator from each school is your contact who can help you with registration. If you need further help, please contact Julie Gaskin at julie.gaskin@fayette.kyschools.us. Check out the STEM website for more information: <http://teach.fcps.net/stem/Default.htm>

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=16314>

The Video-Linked Classroom

Videoconferencing, Live Streaming, and Internet 2 in Fayette County



...from the desk of Jeffrey L. Jones, Site Admin

Thursday, January 07, 2010 4:20 PM: Videoconference Workshop!

Attention! Date change! There's still time!

Need PD credit, but don't want to sit in one place for the whole hour award? Want to see what the big deal is about real-time connections through videoconference? How about a stroll through the world of puppetry? Then join us for a series of professional development sessions titled **Integrating Videoconferencing into the Curriculum - A Workshop!** This PD will be in three parts.

1. **Thursday, Feb. 11, 4:30-6:00 p.m., IAKSS Annex 306:** Join us to see **Discovering Puppetry in Other Cultures**, offered by the **Center for Puppetry Arts**, Atlanta. This award-winning interactive program will be demo'ed as a part of this session.
2. **Thursday, Feb. 18, 4:30-6:00 p.m., IAKSS Annex 306:** During the second in this series, we'll look at how to schedule, organize, set up, and do a videoconference in your classroom.
3. **Virtual:** For the third part of this series, you will participate in discussions, and submit a lesson plan which leverages this exciting technology.



[Sign up soon!](#) (Click to go to the district PD menu.) Seating is limited!

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=16775>

Intelligent Classrooms

Promoting the use of intelligent classroom tools and connecting them to your content.



...from the desk of Diana Hendrix, DTRT

Tuesday, January 05, 2010 11:45 AM: Smart User Groups: Get Smart!

Reminder that our Smart User Groups are finally ready to begin!

Elementary User Group begins on January 27th at 3:30 in the Library at Deep Springs and the Middle School/ High School Group on January 13th, 4:30 in Bryson Perry's room at Henry Clay High School.

Please come even if you are a brand new user! You will learn from the more experienced learners and hopefully get some great ideas to take back with you to your classroom.

Refreshments will be provided, so another good reason to attend!!

If you have questions please contact Diana.hendrix@fayette.kyschools.us

Look for our iSchool "Get Smart" course coming in the near future!!

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=16514>

The Virtual Elementary Classroom

A place to showcase virtual activities in the Elementary Classroom.



...from the desk of Jamie Burch, District TRT

Thursday, December 17, 2009 2:52 PM: Virtual Cookies With Santa!



MAGPI



In December, Mrs. Watts 2nd grade class at Garden Springs Elementary School signed up with MAGPI to participate in a video conference with Santa Claus. Prior to the video conference, the students had to write a persuasive letter and mail it to Santa Claus, design and create a cookie to share during the event and write five questions to ask during the conference. Following these activities, the students had the chance to connect to the "North Pole" along with five other schools from different parts of the country to have a real time conversation with Santa Claus. The students were very excited to know that Santa had read their letters and replied to them during the event. A fun time was had by all and the students learned a variety of facts thanks to the great questions that all the schools prepared and asked, they reviewed the steps to writing a good persuasive letter and were able to show their creative side by designing and creating cookies to share.

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=28445>

Robotics

(Personal blog)



...from the desk of Leanna Prater

Tuesday, January 05, 2010 3:47 PM: First Lego League Results

Several Fayette County teams participated in the the First Lego League and Jr. First Lego League competition at the University of Kentucky on December 5th.



(Picture from Dayna Lykins, Athens-Chilesburg Elementary)

The Denominators (a team made up of students from different schools), Winburn Middle School's Winburn Warriors and the Athens-Chilesburg Elementary ACE Eagles were invited to advance to the state FLL tournament Jan. 9 at Western Kentucky University's Diddle Arena.

Congratulations to these Fayette County winners:

Teamwork Award: Denominators (students from LTMS, Beaumont and Dixie)

Sportsmanship Award: Colorbots, Explorium and Harrison Elementary

Team Spirit Award: ACE Eagles, Athens-Chilesburg Elementary

Innovative Project Award: JLA Tigers, James Lane Allen Elementary

Robot Design Quality Award: Mindstorms, Stonewall Elementary

Robot Innovation Award: Winburn Warriors, Winburn Middle School

Most Explosive Award: Bear Cat Techs, Bryan Station Traditional Magnet School

Jeff Stellar Award: Robo Patriots, Veterans Park Elementary

Rising Star Award: Arlington Eagles, Arlington Elementary

Effort and Learning Award: RoboGeniuses, Stonewall Elementary

Junior teams from Picadome and Arlington elementary schools also presented their research project and robots.

Congratulations to all teams!

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=40708>

Atomic Learning

An introduction to some of the online tutorials and lesson ideas available from Atomic Learning.
...from the desk of Julie Gaskin, District TRT

Tuesday, January 05, 2010 7:05 PM: Windows Movie Maker 2



Atomic Learning offers short, online, video tutorials and lesson ideas to help you embrace technology and integrate it into your classroom.



Windows Movie Maker

Although there is a charge to view many of the resources, the video tutorials for [Windows Movie Maker 2](#) are FREE for everyone to view - from teachers, students, your grandmother just anyone! View the tutorials at your leisure, project them to help instruct a class, or refer students to the tutorials so they become independent learners and create their own classroom projects.

Windows Movie Maker is a free software program available on all FCPS computers running Windows XP. If it's not on your home computer, it's a free [download](#). The 63 Atomic Learning tutorials for [Windows Movie Maker 2](#) run from 39 seconds to 3 minutes, 41 seconds. After watching just a few of these tutorials, you'll be ready to import movie clips from your camcorder and combine, edit, and render the clips into a final product. Watch a few more tutorials and you'll be adding titles, transitions, special effects... and don't forget the credits!

Navigation Tip: I've provided a direct link to the [Windows Movie Maker 2](#) tutorials but if you'd like to go to [Atomic Learning](#) and navigate, just look for this button on the right. Click and then use the drop-down arrow to choose the tutorial you would like to view.



Be sure to check out Leanna Prater's [Internet Safety blog](#) to learn more about entering the FCPS Internet Safety Video Contest. Now that you're an expert with Windows Movie Maker, let's get more Flip Camcorders into the hands of students! And as always, feel free to call our department if you'd like some help.

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=41976>

Video Conferencing Events, PD's and Collaborations

Upcoming video conferencing events, PD's and collaborations from CILC, MAGPI and more.



...from the desk of Jamie Burch, District TRT

Monday, January 04, 2010 10:15 AM: CILC Weekly Update - January 4, 2010



Content Provider Programs

Collect, Renew, Reuse: Water Shortage? What Water Shortage? - by [Alaskan EcoEscape](#)
Audience: Education: Grade(s): 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

ELEMENTARY: G.R.O.S.S. - Functions of the Human Body - by [COSI Columbus](#)
Audience: Education: Grade(s): 2, 3, 4, 5

From Jerusalem! A Live Interview with an Israeli Soldier - by [Distance Learning Solutions LLC](#)

Audience: Education: Grade(s): 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

[DL/ House and Home in Victorian America](#) - by [Newark Museum](#)

Audience: Education: Grade(s): 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

[A Celebration of Sustainability](#) - by [RoundTrips](#)

Audience: Education: Grade(s): 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

[Aviation Pioneers: Wright Brothers to the Space Race](#) - by [SOITA](#)

Audience: Education: Grade(s): 4

[1945: Witnesses to War - Holocaust Survivors and Artists](#) - by [University Circle Interactive Cleveland](#)

Audience: Education: Grade(s): 9, 10, 11, 12

Collaborations

[Immigration: World Perspectives](#)

My American History class will be studying about immigration patterns to the United States during the last 100+ years. I am seeking partners from around the world to participate in a discussion board regarding world views on immigration to the United States.

Status: Seeking Partners

Audience: Education: Grade(s): 9, 10, 11, 12

[Folk Tales](#)

Does your class have a folk tale about your region, area, or culture that they would like to share with the world? Do you have a folk dance or song that you would like to share? If so, we have conference for you: Feb. 11, 2010 **Status:** Seeking Partners

Audience: Education: Grade(s): 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

Class Offerings

[Environmental Science Honors: A Case Based Approach \(online course: no video interface\)](#) Available Class

Type: Supplementary

Audience: Education: Grade(s): 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

Calendar Events

[Read Around the Planet and Other Collaborative Projects \(1/12/2010\)](#)

The more people you know, the more videoconferences you can do! Join Janine Lim of Berrien RESA and learn about Read Around the Planet, an international videoconference project. Janine will also share tips on how and where to manage videoconference projec...

[The Myth of Homework: Examining Current Practice, Research and Alternatives \(2/3/2010\)](#)

Ever wonder if your homework strategies are working? Ever actually wonder WHAT kind of homework strategy you have? Join Jeff Harker, long time middle school educator, as he explores current homework practices and beliefs about homework and its effectiveness...

[21st Century Skills and STEM-How do they intersect? \(2/18/2010\)](#)

Interested in 21st Century Skills? Want to explore them further, especially look at how 21st Century Skills intersect with STEM? Then, take the time to join Charles Fadel, co-author of 21st Century Skills: Learning for Life in Our Times

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=33972>



The contents of this website are intended for the enhancement of instruction only. "It's About Kids"