

...the feed...



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...maintained by Jeffrey L. Jones, Site Admin, last updated 1/10/2011

TIPS - The Technology Feed Vol 10, #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

Sunday, January 09, 2011 11:11 PM: Through Bein' Cool: Devo and Motivation

Yes, that's Devo, the rock group out of Akron, Ohio, famous for "Whip It" and red flower pots for hats. They released an almost intentionally dorky tune (with a matching low-budget video) on their "New Traditionalists" album called "Through Bein' Cool," with advice to all of the strange and misfit teens of the time...

"...If you live in a small town You might meet a dozen or two Young alien types who step out And dare to declare We're through bein' cool..."

The band was actually pretty serious about the issue of conformity. Their name, Devo, was an intentional play on "de-evolution." It reflected their concern that humanity had actually begun to regress, citing the intense herd mentality of American society (and teens!) as evidence.

Devo's interest in the effects of conformity were more artistic and satiric, but there is plenty of research out there showing that, in fact, a lack of personal expression and autonomy actually contributes to a variety of physical and psychological problems. Huffington Post blogger and self-styled "work-life balance/stress management trainer" Joe



**Announcements**  
(Julie Gaskin,  
District TRT)

**Atomic Learning**  
(Julie Gaskin,  
District TRT)

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classroom  
blogspace from  
[fcps.net](#)



Robinson cites dozens of articles in his blog entry "[Don't Curb Your Enthusiasm: The Problem With Being Cool](#)" (Oct. 13, 2010)...

"...Being cool is supposed to make us irresistibly confident in our up-to-the-minute blase-ness, but it actually feeds insecurity with the false belief that popularity or a certain image is needed for validation. The research shows that real self-worth comes from internal goals that satisfy values and needs that are actually your own, such as autonomy and growth, the polar opposite of the external approval circuit..."

A lot of the "research" underlying these ideas comes from the work of Edward Deci and Richard Ryan, an unlikely pair of social scientists from the University of Rochester, described in some detail in Daniel Pink's new book on motivation in business, **Drive**. The underlying assumption in business is that the motivation to succeed originates from external sources -- pay bonuses and high salaries, or, alternatively, the threat of sanctions or other deterrents. In education, we've built an entire superstructure around this concept, from high-stakes testing and school assessment processes, to teacher merit pay and other performance incentives. None of it, say Deci, Ryan and Pink, works. As a matter of fact, this sort of approach is actually counter-productive, reducing creativity, productivity, and personal satisfaction and happiness.

I truly celebrate the anytime, any place nature of digital social connections, and they have great implications for how and why we learn. But two recent events have caused me to, once again, ponder whether the tech-focused among us really have a handle on things, or are we just trying to be cool like our kids.

#### **Teachers Weigh In**

"...If we were to offer something significant for a prize, incentive, reward, benefit, etc., what would you like? We are thinking something in the category of a tool or resource that would help your organization be more effective..." ...was a posting to a discussion list of a professional organization to which I belong. When cooler heads finally prevailed, the resultant discussion was quite interesting and revealing. But that had to wait for the chorus of "A new iPad!!!" postings to die down.

#### **A Student's Spin.**

A student taking my online course on open-source web applications -- a pretty powerful and tech-savvy junior who has produced marketable software of his own, and participated in our superintendent's student advisory council on technology in the classroom.-- has often mentioned his lack of interest in the use of smart/personal devices like phones and PDAs. "Real learning" he states "takes place with paper and pencil tasks...games and online activities are just a distraction."

#### **The Results?**

Needless to say, these anecdotes have no obvious connection, and they, even together, prove absolutely nothing of substance about learning and motivation. Despite my high school student's observations, I will, as I mentioned, continue to be an advocate for inexpensive and ubiquitous computing devices, and the connections they bring us. Besides, I suspect that our young spokesman probably will be using such tools to learn and work when he's no longer in high school (if he's not already using them now).

But the contrast to be gained from their juxtaposition, still, could not be more striking. What the adult members of the discussion list (educators, all) were saying was that a very popular device was a great "...prize, incentive, reward, benefit..." In fact, that's not what research, and our example student, are saying. People (including students) owning the learning process, and owning its results, is how that works. If we want to engage and motivate our students, then we can't assume that access to cool devices will do that for us, and "access to tools"

does not, in itself, translate into student ownership of the learning process. It must be a pre-existing lesson design piece, a specific pedagogical decision which does not depend on the physical details of the lesson. It can, in fact, be a part of a paper and pencil lesson.

Students are kids. They're heavily invested in "being cool," and a lot of that motivation is driving their own use patterns for computers, smart phones, and other such devices. That is exactly what caused my student's observation that interactive games and other computer experiences were a waste of time -- what he saw was students taking those opportunities and abusing them to pursue what was interesting to them. Those use patterns are heavily influenced by their own herd mentality, their own sense of "cool." If a teacher selects a tool, or an online experience, for how much s/he perceives it fits the students' interests (instead of selecting it for how it supports an otherwise strong lesson), that will be the result. We have a lot to learn from our students, but, as teachers, we'll always get into trouble simply trying to be like them, trying to motivate them by giving them what we think they think is cool.

To leverage the true power of online computing and other technology tools, we need to put the flower pots on our heads, and join Devo. Learning is way too important to simply be driven by our desire to fit in -- with each other, or our students. It must be driven by our students' desire to learn, to advance, to succeed. And Deci and Ryan tells us that's got to come from within....

*:"... Time to clean some house,  
Be a man, or a mouse....  
Put the tape on erase,  
Rearrange a face,  
We always liked Picasso anyway.  
We're through bein' cool..."*

[To see how these ideas translate into tech policy at the school or district level, come to [KySTE 2011 March 1-2](#), and attend my session "Managing Classroom Gadget Overload: Using Pedagogy to Drive Technology Tool Selection."]

**Sunday, January 09, 2011 11:52 PM: KySTE 2011 Education Technology Conference + Online PD from eLearning KY**



With nearly 250 presentations, over 160 vendors, plus pre-conference workshops and connection opportunities, KySTE 2011, Kentucky's premiere education technology conference, has an enormous amount of experiences and resources to offer!

- **What?** KySTE 2011, the conference of the Kentucky Society for Technology in Education.
- **When?** Feb. 28-March 2, 2011
- **Where?** Galt House, Louisville, KY
- **Who?** Presenters include Pamela Hambric and Karen Williams/Russell Cave Elementary, Kim Overstreet/PL Dunbar High, Jamie Burch and Jeffrey Jones/Office of Instructional Technology, and

# IT'S a Big Deal

240 other presenters from across the state and beyond. Keynote from education innovator Ian Jukes.

- **How?** Links and descriptions are available from the [KySTE website](#)



**All courses \$25**

**Registration:** Jan 3—Jan 28

**Courses Run:** Feb 9—March 30

**Courses provide participants an opportunity to improve instructional practices that will help**

- Increase student proficiency
- Reduce achievement gaps
- Provide successful transition to post-secondary
- Increase graduation rate
- Implement the characteristics of Highly Effective Teaching and Learning

**All courses are**

- **High Quality**
- **Facilitated**
- **Interactive & Engaging**
- **Media-rich**

ALL courses are eligible for EILA or PD credit. Most courses are appropriate for P-12 teachers and administrators.

**Course Catalog and Registration:** [KY Virtual Schools website.](#)

**Questions:** 1-866-432-0008, ext. 4541 [elearningkyinquiry@education.ky.gov](mailto:elearningkyinquiry@education.ky.gov)

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

## The Virtual Elementary Classroom

A place to showcase virtual activities in the Elementary Classroom.



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

Monday, January 03, 2011 9:16 AM: United States Regions Project

## The US Regions Projects



Fayette County's US Regions Project involves connecting classrooms in Fayette County with classrooms all across the nation. During this project each class shares information about their state including landforms, history, culture and economy. For the culminating activity, the classrooms connect via video conference to share their final project and see each other "in person." This project was originally created by District TRT Leanna Prater who used Fayette County's blog platform "The Point" for communication between participating schools. This year we would like to move the students to the iSchool platform and take advantage of the online discussion forums as our main way of communicating.

We currently have about seven schools interested in participating in the project from the following states: Pennsylvania, New Orleans, Maryland, Missouri, Minnesota and Wisconsin. We plan to begin the project in February and will be using this iSchool space for collaboration. <http://ischool.fcps.net/course/view.php?id=469>

Please feel free to browse the course to see what information we plan to share and if you have a 4th grade class that is interested in participating, please contact Jamie Burch via e-mail.

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

## Intelligent Classrooms

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

Tuesday, January 04, 2011 10:27 AM: SMART Board Training Opportunities

This month there will be 2 PD offerings for SMART Board training.

January 12th is a beginner SMART Board training that will



...from the desk of  
Diana Hendrix, DTRT

include basic board information and beginner Notebook training.

January 26th is an intermediate PD for those that want to go to the next level with Notebook and other great things your board can do.

See the Professional Development Menu to sign up! There are only 15 spots per class so sign up early!

If you have questions contact,  
[Diana.hendrix@fayette.kyschools.us](mailto:Diana.hendrix@fayette.kyschools.us).

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

### Student Technology Leadership Program

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



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

Sunday, January 09, 2011 4:08 PM: STEM Fair 2011 - Registration Open



Science  
Technology  
Engineering &  
Math Fair

Registration Open  
Showcase & Presentation  
Deadline:  
January 13, 2011

**STEM Fair**  
**Saturday, February 12, 2011**  
**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 can help you with registration. If you need further help, please contact Julie Gaskin at [julie.gaskin@fayette.kyschools.us](mailto:julie.gaskin@fayette.kyschools.us). Check out the STEM website for more information: <http://teach.fcps.net/stem>

**Sunday, January 09, 2011 4:26 PM: STLP Senior Scholarships**

**STLP Senior Scholarships  
4\* Scholarships of \$1000 each**

The Mary Grace Jaeger STLP Award recognizes and honors STLP seniors who have demonstrated outstanding achievement and leadership in technology. KySTE offers its members an opportunity to nominate students for this award annually. The nomination process opens Monday, January 10, 2011 and closes Tuesday, March 1, 2011. Submit the required nomination materials by email to Michele Crowley by the submission deadline. Each nomination will be evaluated using the selection criteria below by a review committee selected from within the KySTE membership. Winners will be announced at the STLP State Championship and Annual Awards on May 13th at the Lexington Convention Center (LCC) & Rupp Arena. Start your application today by [clicking here!!!](#)

Michele Crowley  
ISTE Liaison  
Kentucky Society for Technology in Education  
[michele.crowley@pendleton.kyschools.us](mailto:michele.crowley@pendleton.kyschools.us)

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

**Internet Safety**

Information regarding digital citizenship in our schools.



...from the desk of  
Leanna Prater

**Thursday, January 06, 2011 8:39 AM: Video Contest Deadline This Month**

Don't forget about the Internet Safety/Digital Citizenship Video Contest for students. It isn't too late to grab that video camera and create a great video on an internet safety topic. Winners will be announced at the 2010-2011 STEM Fair on February 12<sup>th</sup>!

Each school can submit two instructional videos they have created in which teachers can then use as part of their Internet safety instruction. The instructional video can be any length (we recommend 5 to 10 minutes) and must focus on one aspect of digital citizenship.

**\*\*\*\*\* IMPORTANT \*\*\*\*\***

**Due to the new date for the STEM Fair, the date for the registration and submission of the Digital Citizenship contest has changed. Please note new date.**

The deadline for registration and submission of entries is **January 25, 2011, 4:00 pm**. The school's STLP coordinator must post all registrations and submissions. Contest information and general information about the STEM

Fair can be found here: <http://teach.fcps.net/stlp/>

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=16411>

## Robotics

Thursday, January 06, 2011 9:06 AM: State FLL Contest This Month

(Personal blog)

...from the desk of  
Leanna Prater

KY State First Lego League Competition will be held January 29, 2011 at WKU's Diddle Arena in Bowling Green.

Fayette County teams advancing to the state competition include:

- JC3-PO from Jessie Clark Middle
- Denominators from LTMS and Dixie
- LEGO Cyborg Warriors from Winburn Middle
- Warriorbots from Winburn Middle
- ACE Alumni from Athens-Chilesburg Elementary and Edythe J. Hayes Middle
- Mindstorms from Stonewall Elementary.

The RoboPatriots from Veterans Park Elementary are a first alternate for state. The ACE Eaglets from Athens-Chilesburg Elementary are a second alternate.

You can read more about the regional competition held this past December, including individual team awards and students participating in the state competition here: <http://www.fcps.net/news/press-releases/2010-2011/robotics-regionals>

Good luck to all of our students competing!

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

## Announcements

Sunday, January 09, 2011 5:52 PM: Population Connection Video Contest

Technology News

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



## Population Connection Video Contest

The human population is set to reach 7 billion by the end of 2011. Population Connection is hosting a nationwide video contest challenging high school students to create a 30-second public service announcement that illustrates the impact of this milestone as it relates to environmental and global issues. The video should relate to one of the following:

- Energy
- Water

- Land Use
- Public Health
- Economics

Awards will be made in the following categories:

For grades 9-10:

- One First Place: \$1,000
- One Second Place: \$500
- Two Honorable Mentions: \$250

For grades 11-12:

- One First Place: \$1,000
- One Second Place: \$500
- Two Honorable Mentions: \$250

Teacher Bonus: If at least 10 of your students submit videos, you'll get a set of free classroom resources. Entries due by March 1, 2011. [Complete Details](#)

Sunday, January 09, 2011 5:54 PM: Google Science Fair 2011



## Google Science Fair Competition

On Jan. 11, 2011 Google is launching its inaugural Google Science Fair. Google has partnered with NASA, CERN, National Geographic, Scientific American and the LEGO Group to create this new STEM competition. This is a global competition open to any student age 13-18; students may enter as individuals or in teams up to three. There is no entry fee.

Registrations and submissions will be made online. The Science Fair will culminate in a celebratory event at Google headquarters in California in July 2011, where finalists will compete for internships, scholarships and prizes in front of a panel of celebrity scientist judges, including Nobel Laureates. Submissions are due by April 4, 2011. [Complete Details](#)

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=18376>

Atomic Learning

Sunday, January 09, 2011 4:38 PM: Kidspiration Tutorials in Atomic Learning

 [Atomic Learning](#) offers

An introduction to some of the online tutorials and lesson ideas available from Atomic Learning.

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



short, online, video tutorials and lesson ideas to help you embrace technology and integrate it into your classroom. AL has been purchased for all FCPS students and staff.



Kidspiration

[Kidspiration](#) uses visual learning to strengthen reading and writing schools. Many elementary school have this software available for teacher and/or student use. The tutorials offered by Atomic Learning can help you and your students make use of this software. Atomic Learning offers tutorials covering 3 versions of the software covering topics such as *Picture View*, *Writing View*, *Math View*, *SuperGrouper Tool*, *Teacher Tools*, and more. Within each of these lessons are several 1-3 minutes tutorials on how to do very specific things - and [Atomic Learning](#) is available 24/7 to students and teachers!

 Navigation Tip: Remember you'll need your login and password from your school STC. I've provided a direct link to the [Kidspiration 3](#) tutorials but you may also like to go to [Atomic Learning](#) and discover the multitude of tutorials offered!

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



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