

Log-on



January/February 2008

Mifflin County School District Technology Department

Issue 30

► Microsoft Office 2007



Microsoft Office 2007 will be installed on all district computers by next fall. We are in the process of developing a schedule with various kinds of training to meet everyone's needs. You can be ahead of the game by requesting a free copy of Office 2007 for your home computers. There are limited copies available so request one soon. The request form can be found at https://intranet.mcsdk12.org/fac/forms/MS_WAH_jan08.pdf and the pdf is also attached to this Logon email.

Office 2007 looks different and takes some getting used to. The first thing you notice is the *Ribbon* that replaces the drop down menus and toolbars. All of the commands, styles and resources are arranged on the Ribbon in task oriented tabs. The *Galleries* are also new features. They replace the drop down menus and they show you pictures of available choices and give you a live preview of your document. *Smart Art* is a new graphics tool in Word that helps you create diagrams, concept maps, graphical lists and much more. Other features have been improved. For example, the grammar and spelling is more accurate and contextual mistakes are flagged. <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/getstarted/FX101055081033.aspx>

Wilkes University is offering ED585 Integrating Technology into the Curriculum (using Microsoft Office 2007). This class will be held at HPAAE, Tuesday and Thursday, May 13 – June 19, 2008 from 4:30 - 7:45 Contact Karen Galbraith or Wilkes for more information.

► Pennsylvania Technology Inventory (PATI)

Each year Pennsylvania teachers, administrators and technology directors are asked to complete various surveys that comprise the Pennsylvania Technology Inventory (PATI).

Data gathered from these surveys is used to provide an annual snapshot of technology in areas such as equipment in schools, infrastructure and connectivity and the impact of this technology on teaching, learning and administrative practices. Such aggregated data assists PDE and local officials in documenting the impact of technology funding for policymakers.

Schools and LEAs that participate in the PATI surveys will have access to data on an ongoing basis that will guide technology planning processes and document the future success of technology and learning initiatives.

Our district will once again be participating in the online survey. Phase I, February 4 - March 14, includes district and building level technology contacts. Phase II, March 25 - May 23, includes principals and teachers. You will be receiving more information as it becomes available. http://www.pde.state.pa.us/ed_tech/cwpview.asp?Q=109231&A=169

Our Goals

Our goals are to provide staff with up-to-date information regarding all areas of technology, share helpful hints and ideas, showcase teachers and students, and communicate staff development plans. Any questions or suggestions can be directed to **Karen Galbraith * 248-6480 gkg26@mcsdk12.org**

► WPSU Our Town - Lewistown - The Kid's Cut

by Leanna Palm, IVMS

IVMS Students

Allison Eldredge
 Ayla Hockenberry
 Brandon Michaels
 Jordan Walters
 Taylor DeArment
 Allison Rhodes
 Shana Wagner
 Hannah Kline
 Selina Roman-White
 Mackenzie Erb
 Katie Forshey
 Tyler Gentzel
 Hannah Spiglemyer
 Ali Fox
 Suruchi Sheth
 Alysha Bunch
 Brandi Sherwood
 Page Herto
 Carley Bingaman
 Miguel Rodriguez
 Rachael Fike
 Sarah Beckenbaugh
 Jenn Kline
 Makayla Pearce
 Timmy Pearce
 Ellie Confer
 Emily Shawver
 Josh Frampton
 Aria Zanghi
 Jared Hunter
 Jacob Owens
 Kelsee Russler
 Tanner Rager
 Brock Riden
 Rachel Johnson
 Tarynn Sullivan
 Kelsey Whalen
 Briana Wagner
 Ryan Powell
 Jake Green
 Rebecca Boyer
 Olivia Harshbarger
 Breanna Wagner
 Darienne Hetrick
 Tory Mills
 Alek Moore
 Katie Fox
 Abby Bingman



Our Town: The Kids' Cut is a WPSU program which offers the use of video cameras and editing equipment in exchange for productions of young people telling the story of their towns through their own eyes. According to Charlie Gudeman, Senior Producer and Director at WPSU, "There is a special magic in telling the many stories of the historic towns of central Pennsylvania."

Penn State Public Broadcasting serves central Pennsylvania with programming, educational services and community outreach. According to a press release, the "Our Town" series was created in an effort to involve the communities and their residents with WPSU-TV. The "Kids' Cut" version of the series differs from the original by giving local middle school students an opportunity to create an entire story for television broadcast.

Students from Indian Valley Middle School and Lewistown Middle School are taking advantage of this opportunity by interviewing, filming and editing footage for feature stories about significant and historical citizens and locations in the Lewistown area. Some of those feature stories include Asher's Candy, Hartley's Potato Chips, Standard Steel, McCoy House, Embassy Theatre, Old Courthouse, Monument Square, the Lincoln Stone, Stone Arch Players and the Stone Arch Bridge.

Because this program is constructed entirely by students, the groups of volunteer teachers and staff at each middle school are able to supervise the students creating a series that is truly their own. What's great about this program is that the students are in charge. They do everything from selecting the topics to editing the videos.



Mark Crosson, Principal of IVMS, stated, “The teaching staff and Mrs. Short have done a wonderful job and both, they and the students, have produced a DVD that is of the utmost quality.” IVMS teachers involved in the project include Steve White, Edna Snook, Hope Palm, Kyle Cramer and Robert Lepley.

According to Christina Short, Vice Principal at IVMS, “Working on the ‘Our Town’ video has been a very gratifying experience for me in a variety of ways. It gave me the opportunity to work with our students in a way I don’t always get to do and see our students involved in a project they were enjoying. It also reaffirmed how many great things we have going on here in ‘our town’ that one tends to take for granted.”

The “Kids’ Cut” series involves students in many educational and practical experiences. In addition to meeting many notable community members and leaders, Crosson claimed, “This project has provided many benefits. It has taught our children team work, goal setting and instilled a sense of pride in our community.” Gudeman added, “It’s always great to see the people of a town so proud of the place where they live.”


Although the Lewistown group of students is small in number, Mr. Reeder, LMS principal, stated that he and Angela Pollock, Vice Principal, “are proud of the enthusiasm and work ethic that the LMS students displayed during this process.” He is especially appreciative of the leadership and dedication to students exhibited by LMS staff member Noah Miller who is leading the project. Mr. Reeder added, “This project has exposed students to invaluable real world training at a relatively young age and I would like to thank Mr. Gudeman and WPSU for presenting this opportunity to our students.”

Commercials for “Our Town - Lewistown -The Kids’ Cut” are already airing on WPSU and there will be a screening of the video, prior to its airing, for students as well as those involved in its making.

- LMS Students**
 Kelsey Barth
 Derek Heimbach
 Jason Perry
 Evan Pupo
 J.T. Earnest
 Eddie Varner
 Nick Conigliaro
 Kristen Doverspike
 Ian McGinnis

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► Dr. Seuss Collaborative Projects



This fall, students at Brown and Strodes Mills Elementary Schools participated in an online collaborative Dr. Seuss project.

The second grade students at Brown created movies using PhotoStory3. They started by voting on which Dr. Seuss book to read. After Nancy Ressler, their computer teacher, read the book, each child illustrated one of the pages. Their illustrations were scanned and imported into PhotoStory3. The students then recorded their voices narrating their illustrations. View the movies on the MCSD Curriculum Links website.

http://www.mcsdk12.org/curr/Dr.SCP/Dr.Seuss_CP.htm

Students in Lani Reese's fourth grade Strodes Mills computer classes created Dr. Seuss webpages. They were required to include the title of the book using Word Art, a short summary, a character review, and clip art. They could choose their own backgrounds, fonts and colors. This was their first experience using Front Page. View their webpages at http://www.mcsdk12.org/smms/salute_to_seuss.htm

The Dr. Seuss Collaborative Project Student Gallery hosts all of the projects submitted by schools across the country. <http://salutetoseuss.wikispaces.com/StudentGallery>



Brown students draw Dr. Seuss illustrations, practice their scripts and narrate their stories.

► PA High School Computer Fair

The 2008 Tuscarora Intermediate Unit 11 Regional Computer Fair will be held Tuesday, April 8, 2008, from 7:30 - 12:00. The registration deadline is Friday, March 21, 2008. Register online at <http://computerfair.cciu.org>

Regional winners will compete in the PA State High School Computer Fair at Dickinson College on Tuesday, May 20, 2008. This is an annual, competitive event that highlights Pennsylvania high school students' application skills and computer knowledge. Participation is open to any student enrolled in grades 9 – 12.

There are eight categories of competition. They include Animation, Computer Fair Logo, Curriculum-Based Web Page Design, Information-Based Web Page Design, Digital Movie, Graphic Design, Multimedia Presentation and Text-Based Desktop Publishing. Each category is described in detail on the website.

<http://www.pacomputerfair.org/rules.html>

Last year, Lewistown students, Katie Stimely and Zachary Long and Indian Valley students, Charity Weaver, Nicole Harshbarger, Trevor Shoemaker and Derek Kepner won regional awards. Their advisors were Richard Penepacker, Alan Streisel and Margaret Fisher.