

Log-on



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Mifflin County School District Technology Department

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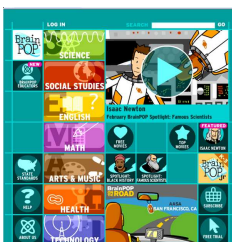
Technology News

► Educational Improvement Grants Fund Technology

The Mifflin County School District was awarded the Enhancing Education Through Technology Grant for grades K-8. The grant has allowed us to purchase instructional technology equipment. We have purchased 24 SMART Boards that will be installed in the next few months and during the summer. Training will be offered in the spring and again in the fall. Document cameras have also been purchased and are available. Please submit a Track-It to borrow one. Each school has received an additional LCD projector and there are eight available to lend throughout the district. Contact your principal to use the projector provided for each school and contact Karen Galbraith to borrow one of the district projectors.



Lewistown Middle School has received a PDE School Improvement State Grant in the amount of \$9,000. The grant was written by Robert Reeder, LMS principal. "The goal of the program is to improve student achievement by ensuring schools and districts have access to high-quality school improvement and professional development services." LMS will add two complete SMART Board systems (complete with ceiling mounted LCD's) in math and language arts classrooms before the start of the 09-10 school year. In addition, they will order two classroom sets of Senteo Interactive Response Systems (These are 'clickers' for students to answer teacher created questions in the classroom. Response is measured and displayed on a SMART Board once a student keys in an answer). LMS had two new SMART Boards entering the 2008-09 school year and will end the year with eight classrooms being outfitted with this technology.



BrainPOP subscriptions for grades K-8 have also been purchased through educational funding. Each school was assigned a user login and password for teachers and students to use. There is also a teacher user login and password for after school hours. If you are unsure of your password, contact your principal or Karen Galbraith. BrainPOP training sessions have been offered. One interesting feature of the BrainPOP movies is that they are all the result of teacher or student requests. The BrainPOP Jr. "Pass a Note" section and the BrainPOP Help section both have areas that allow teachers and students to request movies and additional activities. One of

our teachers requested a movie about vowel sounds. Within the hour, BrainPOP responded to her email citing a short vowel movie and lesson that would be the feature movie the following day. A technical support question was also responded to within an hour. So don't be afraid to request something! They have amazing technical and educational support.

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**

Indian Valley Middle School Technology

Mix together:

1. A problem solving challenge on renewable energy
2. Cool, creative, collaborative IVMS 6th graders
3. Online tools and multimedia

.....and what do you get?

▶ Fun informative and exciting Wikis!

A wiki is a page or collection of webpages designed to enable those who access it to contribute or modify content. From the Hawaiian word that means fast, wikis allow people to collaborate and present information on the web. Mrs. Snook's 6th grade computer classes at IVMS have been hard at work creating "wikis" for the purpose of convincing Mr. Crosson that their energy source would be the best alternative/renewable source of energy for their school.

Students researched in pairs to get some general background on each renewable energy source. Then each group chose one of the sources (solar, wind, geothermal, hydro, or biomass) that they felt would be a good match for their school. Their research included: a description of the energy source and how it works; considerations and pros/cons for using this source at IVMS; a persuasive argument/appeal to the principal for consideration of use of that energy.

Students created PhotoStory movies, inserted pictures and movies from the web and created their own talking Avatars (Vokis <http://www.voki.com>) which they embedded as "widgets" on their site. They used these different forms of media to introduce, support and present information. One group of 6th graders interviewed an adult about his opinion on renewable energy sources. They then created a Voki in the likeness of that interviewed person and had the Voki say the words from the interview! Others researched President Obama's

thoughts on sustainable energy and created a Voki in his likeness, speaking the exact words that he had said!

Students are fine tuning the wikis so they can be presented to Mr. Crosson for judging. The top three groups chosen will present at the PAECT Student Technology Showcase in Harrisburg in May.

▶ IVMS Media Club

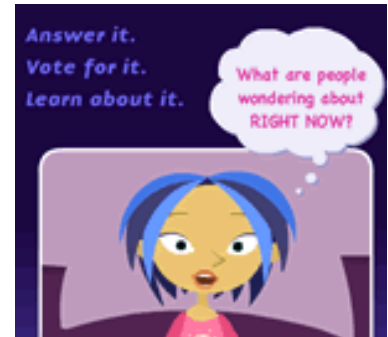
IVMS students under the direction of Steve White have formed a Media Club. The club of about 25 6th, 7th, and 8th graders meet with Mr. White during homeroom and study halls. He has turned the closet in his computer lab into a make-shift media room. Students record segments, edit video and perform other tasks in the room. The students are writing articles, creating stories, developing web pages, and producing short movies. They are responsible for the entire process. Different students perform different jobs. There are script or story writers, editors, on-air personalities, directors, technicians, camera operators, web designers, and producers. The students have completed several video segments which will be shown over the TV network within the school. They have developed a web page, which will be linked from the IVMS website. They are going to be responsible for editing and airing the student council candidate videos.

The Media Club is also considering organizing a talent show for the school. The students would tape individual student performances. The performances would be shown on our TV network. The students and staff would vote for their favorite and then the best would perform at our prize assembly at the end of the year. Mr. White encourages the students to develop ideas for projects and he supervises them as they work toward a final product. The website is not yet live but can soon be found on the IVMS website. <http://www.mcsdk12.org/ivms>



Cool Sites!

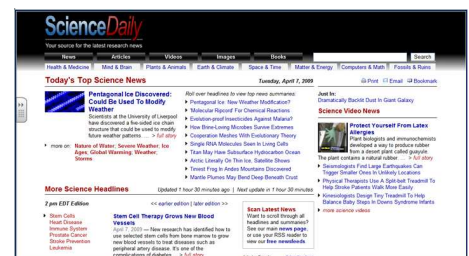
▶ **ASK IT!**, from the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), is a moderated forum and free online resource designed to model the scientific process. Students are invited to identify, formulate, or expand on a scientific question. They can also vote for the questions they would like to see answered by an expert in the field, and scientists from around the country will post responses to selected questions. This new interactive feature is part of a project developed to encourage young people to pursue an interest in science. <http://www.iwaswondering.org>



▶ **FactCheck** is a nonpartisan, nonprofit “consumer advocate” website whose goal is to reduce the level of deception and confusion in U.S. politics. They monitor the factual accuracy of what is said by major political players in the form of TV ads, debates, speeches, interviews and news releases and apply the best practices of both journalism and scholarship to increase public knowledge and understanding. They accept no funding from business corporations, labor unions, political parties, lobbying organizations or individuals. <http://www.factcheck.org>



▶ **Science Daily** is a massive site of breaking news about the latest scientific discoveries in the world. With over 65,000 research articles, 15,000 images, 2,500 encyclopedia entries, 1,500 book reviews and hundreds of educational videos, there is something for everyone on every science topic imaginable – from astrophysics to zoology. It is updated several times daily and covers discoveries in all fields of physical, biological, earth and applied sciences. A custom search function makes the huge site searchable. <http://www.sciencedaily.com>



▶ **Spelling City** is a free online spelling site that allows you to create interactive games with your spelling words. Automatically build printable spelling games and online games with your lists, including Word Search, Unscramble, Hang Mouse, Complete The Word, and more! The word lists you create can be saved and posted. There are many lists of words already created such as content area words, SAT words, Dolch site words and more. <http://www.spellingcity.com/>



► Regional High School Computer Fair

The fourth annual Regional High School Computer Fair was held at the Tuscarora Intermediate Unit 11 on Tuesday, March 3. Indian Valley High School participated in the event. The winning students will compete in the State High School Computer Fair at Dickinson College on May 19, 2009. <http://www.pacomputerfair.org>

Chris Arnold and Zach Hughes competed and won in the Programming category. Kris Wagner, Ashley Harkleroad and Andrew Lightner also participated in Programming. Cody Ritter and Kira Shaw won in Curriculum Based Web Design. Dustin Stein competed in Information Based Web Design. Vinny Brown and Nate Robb competed and won in Digital Movie. Garrett Snook and Dustin Joden won for Animation and Dylan Guthridge competed in Computer Fair Logo and Graphic Design. Their advisors are Peggy Fisher and Richard Pennepacker.

► Economics Pennsylvania Economics Challenge

On March 26, 2009, fifteen IVHS students competed in the Economics Pennsylvania Economics Challenge in Northumberland, PA. Students competed in micro economics, macro economics, and international economics. The team of Jared Vento, Chris Arnold, Joshua Maben and Glenn Brown placed seventh out of the thirty-five teams. Additionally, Glenn Brown had the highest score out of 131 students in Macro Economics and Christopher Arnold earned the third highest score in Micro Economics. Their teacher is Dawn Renninger.

► PAECT Student Technology Showcase

The Pennsylvania Association for Communications and Technology (PAECT) 19th annual Student Technology Showcase will be held at the State Capitol on Monday, May 18, 2009. Students from Buchanan Elementary School and Indian Valley Middle School will be attending.

IVMS students will present their renewable energy resource wikis. Researched from internet sources and embedded with uploaded and/or linked pictures, student movies, and talking avatars, these presentations are designed to highlight the importance of renewable energy in our schools. Their advisor is Edna Snook.

Students in Mrs. Whisler's Buchanan third grade will share their Native American Projects. They researched different Native American tribes. Using VoiceThread, students inserted Native American pictures and then recorded information about the lives of the Native American tribes. Their video and more information about the project can be viewed at http://www.mcsdk12.org/curr/Buchanan_VT.htm

These groups will have the opportunity to share their projects with Pennsylvania legislators. The showcase will also be broadcasting live and all of the students will be able to share their projects on camera via a live webcast during the showcase.

Find more about PAECT at <http://www.paect.org>.

