

Log-on



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Mifflin County School District Technology Department

Volume 8 Issue 1

Technology News

This was a busy summer for the Technology Department. About 1600 computers were reimaged with security updates, Microsoft Office 2007, Internet Explorer 7, Fast Stone Image Viewer and Photo Resizer and Photo Story3. 166 new computers and 15 Smart Boards were installed across the district. Server software packages were updated (SASI, Integrate Pro, Parent Connect). New security measures to protect our network from the outside world were put in place and the district partnered with Nittany Media to install a fiber connection to Armagh Elementary School.

With the roll out of Microsoft Office 2007, training has become a high priority. This summer administrators and office personnel were trained and most of the teachers received an introductory training during the August 25th In Service day. Microsoft Office training and other computer training classes have been set up for the 2008-2009 school year. These classes are held at centrally located schools and teachers receive Act 48 credits. The list of classes can be found on line at http://www.mcsdk12.org/curr/Computer_Classes/Computer_Classes_0809.htm or downloaded as a pdf file at http://www.mcsdk12.org/curr/Computer_Classes/CClasses_Schedule_0809pdf.pdf

A one credit Microsoft Word and Excel 2007 for Classroom Use class is also being offered at Highland Park. It will be held in six 2.5 hour sessions. The cost of the class is \$100 and you can be reimbursed by the district. Register online through TIU11: <http://www.solutionwhere.com/tiu11/cw/main.asp> or <http://www.solutionwhere.com/tiu11/cw/showcourse.asp?1681>
Contact Persons: Karen Galbraith (gkg26@mcsdk12.org) or Connie Flaherty or LaTisha Hockensmith (814-542-2501)

There is a Microsoft Office 2007 website available on the MCSD intranet. This site includes links to Office tutorials and online lessons and FAQs. There are also print tutorials that can be downloaded. It will be continuously updated. You will be prompted to log in your user id and password because the site is on the Intranet.
<https://intranet.mcsdk12.org/training/gkg26/>

There are still Office 2007 copies available from the Technology Department for home use. The request form pdf is attached to this Log-on email and can also be found at https://intranet.mcsdk12.org/fac/forms/MS_WAH_jan08.pdf.

There have been a few computers that were missed during the Office 2007 rollout so if your computer does not have Microsoft Office 2007, please do a track-it and it will be loaded quickly.

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**



This year's Presidential Election offers us a great opportunity to teach citizenship, values, and how our government works.

Vote in a Mock Election This mock election site has been around since 1980. The mock election takes place on October 30. Real time results will be displayed on a Google Map. Click on the Curriculum link to access a whole election curriculum with games, a Brainpop quiz and movie, a toolkit for educators and more.

<http://www.nationalmockelection.org/>

C-Span Classroom is organized in six areas: principals of government, US Constitution, legislative, executive and judicial branches and political participation. It contains hundreds of video clips and classroom materials developed by a team of social studies teachers. The site is free although it does require you to set up a member login.

<http://www.c-spanclassroom.org/>

Google Election Tools for Teachers contains many maps including electoral college and primary results maps, continuously updated news articles, and candidate information.

http://www.google.com/educators/elections_tools.html#target

Scholastic News Election 2008 is a comprehensive site containing lesson plans, interactive games, campaign news, articles about the candidates and their families and more. Students can vote in a mock election on this site.

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/scholasticnews/indepth/election2008.htm>

Scholastic Electing a President Cyber Hunt for Kids Discover a wealth of fascinating facts about presidential elections as you explore these great Web sites.

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/lessonrepro/reproducibles/instructor/crossword/0010/index.htm>

Meet the Candidates includes candidate biographies and links to related articles. It is part of the America.gov website on the 2008 elections.

<http://uspolitics.america.gov/uspolitics/elections/candidates.html>

Find more resources on the MCS D website:

http://www.mcsdk12.org/curr/Election_2008.htm





A Walk Through Mifflin County History

Brown Elementary fifth grade students were the special guests of the Mifflin County Historical Society at their fall banquet, Thursday, September 18. They shared the project, *A Walk Through Mifflin County History*, that they completed last year. The project was a collaborative effort between the fourth and fifth grade students at Brown Elementary School, LAHS Media students and the Mifflin County Historical Society. The Brown students researched famous people and events from Mifflin County history, reenacted those events and filmed them “on location” in Mifflin County. Students from Lewistown High School Multimedia classes then created a movie of the students’ reenactments.



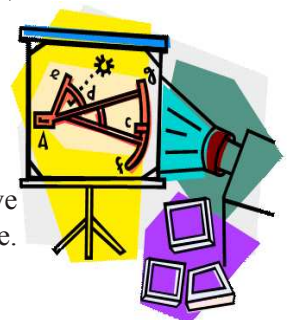
Forest Fisher introduced the program and made the connection between the mission of the historical society and the objectives of the project. He explained that the historical society’s goal of preserving the past for the future was realized for the students involved in the production. The students were introduced individually and the historical figure each portrayed was highlighted.

Nancy Ressler shared a presentation showing all the steps of the process from research to costumes and practice to filming the event. The audience viewed the movie *A Walk Through Mifflin County History* and the students, who attended the banquet in their costumes, shared information about their famous person with the people in attendance.

“It was a memorable night for those students. We had 23 out of 27 students and 30 parents in attendance. The next day many told me it was the greatest thing that happened to them in their life so far! It was a great experience for me too,” stated Forest Fisher.

Video cameras and equipment, purchased by the Best Buy Teach Award were used in the filming of the project. Paddles, donated by Lowe’s, were used by the students to identify themselves and their importance to Mifflin County history during the banquet.

We are trying hard to make LCD projectors available in classrooms and labs. If you do not have one readily available to you, there are four that can be lent out for limited amounts of time. Contact Karen Galbraith (gkg26@mcsdk12.org or 248-6480) to borrow one of them.



Quick Tips

Microsoft Word 2007 SmartArt

Have you taken a look at Smart Art? It is one of the coolest new graphic tools in Word 2007. It is designed to create diagrams and lists that graphically present your information and look really impressive at the same time.

Find it on the **Insert** Tab in the **Illustrations** Group. Move the mouse over the different illustrations to view a description of each diagram. Click OK to create the diagram.

As soon as the diagram appears in your document, an **On Demand Tab** also appears on the **Ribbon**. (On Demand tabs appear on an as needed basis. If the graphic is not highlighted, the tab is not available. Click on the graphic and the tab will appear.)

Add text to the diagram by typing in the text box displayed. The text will automatically resize according to your needs. Adding text using the **Text Pane** is the preferred method. The **Text Pane** should appear to the right of your graphic and it is an outline of your text. If it doesn't appear, click **Text Pane** on the **SmartArt Tools Design tab**.

Adding text is easy. Just type and enter to move to the next item. To create subentries, click tab and then type your entry. You can also promote and demote entries by clicking promote and demote on the **SmartArt Tools Design tab**. Shapes can be added by choosing **Add Shape** and all shapes can be moved by clicking on them and dragging them as you would a graphic.

When your text is completed, have some fun modifying your diagram. On the **SmartArt Tools Design tab** move your mouse over different layouts to preview your graphic in a different format. On the **SmartArt Tools Format tab** point to different **Shape Styles** and preview their effect. Click the **Shape Fill**, **Shape Outline** and **Shape Effects** buttons to modify the fill color, the outline color and style or add special effects such as a shadow or a glow. Point to the different **WordArt Styles** to see how the text in the shape is affected. Use the **Size** command to resize the graphic as a whole or click on a shape to resize it individually.

Graphics can be added to the shapes. Add a picture to any shape containing a circle by clicking on the circle and navigating to the location of your stored picture. To add clip art, right click on the shape, choose **Format shape** and choose **Picture or texture** under the **Fill** command. Click the Clip art box and type in the keyword for your clip art search. Click the desired picture, click OK and the picture will be inserted into the shape.

It is easy to produce a professional looking graphic in very little time with this tool. Take some time to try it out.

