

Log-on



May/June 2007

Mifflin County School District Technology Department

Issue 27

Technology News

As the school year comes to an end, the technology department is gearing up for a busy summer. We are asking for some help from the teachers and administration. It would help us immensely if you could take a short period of time to look at the files stored in your folders on the network and delete any that you do not need any more. We are not asking you to trash everything.... just the files that are really old or that you are not going to use again.

We would also like the computer teachers to take some time addressing this issue with the students. Most students have information stored on the network that does not pertain to school or old school projects they may never look at again. Please discuss this with your students and give them some time to clean off their files. This is a big help when we promote the students to a new school and it gives the student a good start for saving information the following year.

One of the biggest projects the technology department will be working on this summer will be an archiving solution to meet the requirements of the federal law that passed last year. We will be archiving email and all files on the network. We will be informing everyone of the guidelines for data retention next year.

Don't forget to reorganize and clean up your emails or files that no longer have any value to you. Have a nice summer.

▶ **Keystone Technology Integrators**

For the last two years, our district has participated in the Keystone Technology Integrators Program. This is a state program that “recognizes those teachers across the Commonwealth who are “successfully infusing technology into their instructional practices for the purpose of improving student learning.” Last year, Edna Snook, IVMS, Suzanne LaMarca, LES and Lanielle Reese, SMES/SMMS were nominated. This year, Nancy Ressler, Armagh/Brown/Union/East Derry, and Pat Cassner, LAHS, were nominated by their principals as Keystone Integrators. Nancy Ressler has been chosen to attend the five-day Keystone Summit this summer.



Access the Keystone Technology Integrators at:
http://www.pde.state.pa.us/ed_tech/cwp/view.asp?q=102826

▶ **New face in the Technology Department**

We would like to welcome Jon Dobson as our new Network Administrator. Jon is originally from Lewistown and attended Lewistown High School. Jon is a Microsoft Certified Systems Administrator. He was previously employed as the Network Administrator at Vectron International. His responsibilities as our network administrator will include maintaining and improving the network infrastructure which includes Active Directory, file and application servers, management of the wide area network and security and data backups.

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**

► Computer Nights at SMES and HPAE

More than 325 first grade parents, students and teachers at Highland Park and Strodes Mills Elementary Schools attended Mrs. Moon's Computer Nights. The first grade students invited their parents to a special evening to "show off" their presentations.

First grade teachers at both schools read stories from the *If you Give a Mouse a Cookie* series by Laura Joffe Numeroff. The student authors, with the help of their classroom teachers, created their own stories using the same format.

After the stories were written, the students turned them into slide shows using Microsoft PowerPoint. They typed the stories into PowerPoint and then changed the colors, fonts and sizes of the text. They added background colors, clipart pictures, slide transitions and animated the words and pictures.

Then the students invited their parents to an evening viewing of their slide shows. They proudly presented their projects to their amazed and impressed parents and teachers.

Mrs. Moon remarked, "I have never been more proud of these kids and what they were able to do. Their original stories were very inventive and they worked hard to create presentations that were equally creative."



The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century is Thomas L. Friedman's account of the great changes taking place in our time, as lightning-swift advances in technology and communications put people all over the globe in touch as never before-creating an explosion of wealth in India and China, and challenging the rest of us to run even faster just to stay in place.

This updated and expanded edition features more than a hundred pages of fresh reporting and commentary, drawn from Friedman's travels around the world and across the American heartland-from anyplace where the flattening of the world is being felt. <http://www.thomasfriedman.com/>

▶ PAECT Student Technology Showcase

The Pennsylvania Association for Communications and Technology (PAECT) held their annual Student Technology Showcase in the East Rotunda of the PA State Capitol on Monday, May 21, 2007. More than 260 students and advisors from 31 school districts participated.

Pennsylvania Secretary of Education, Dr. Gerald L. Zahorchak, welcomed the students and gave the opening remarks. Governor Edward Rendell attended the showcase and spent a great deal of time visiting with students and viewing their projects.

Third Grade students from Buchanan Elementary School shared the informational PowerPoint projects that they created about famous inventors, body systems and nutrition. The following students attended: Ryan Paladino, Kahlyl Carrington, Dylan Pandel, Daisy Swartz, Rachel Glenny, Koty Bowes, Jaelin Benner, Keith Geise, Damian Heltman-Gray, Abigail Knepp, Mackenzie Roush and Joselyn Walters. Their teachers are Bonnie Whisler and Debra McMullen.

Both Representative Adam Harris and Senator Jake Corman viewed their projects and Senator Corman invited the students into his office and arranged a tour for them that included the House of Representatives, Senate, Supreme Court and the main Rotunda. <http://www.paect.org>



▶ Pennsylvania High School Computer Fair

The Pennsylvania High School Computer Fair was held on Tuesday, May 22, at Dickinson College in Carlisle. Over 500 students, advisors, teachers and parents attended the event. Students who won first place in the Regional Computer Fair at the TIU Intermediate Unit were invited to compete.

The Mifflin County School District was represented by Indian Valley High School student Charity Weaver who competed in the Computer Fair Logo division and Nicole Harshbarger, Trevor Shoemaker and Derek Kepner, competing in the Curriculum Based Web Page division. Their advisors are Peggy Fisher and Richard Penepacker.

Lewistown Area High School students Katie Stimely and Zachary Long won first place in Information Based Web Page Design in the regional competition but they were unable to attend the state computer fair. Their advisor is Alan Streisel. <http://www.pacomputerfair.org/>



Nicole, Derek and Trevor's webpage describes the many contributions Apple has made to the computer industry.



Charity's logo design



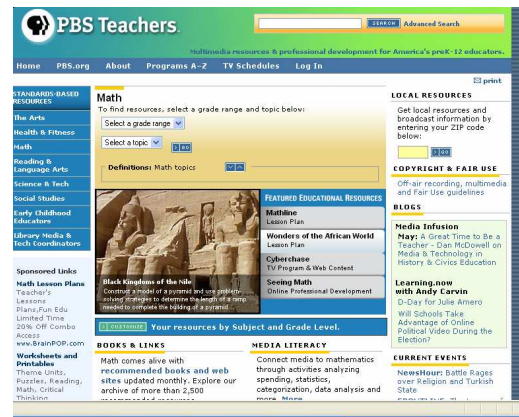
The team views the awards assembly.

Cool Sites!

► PBS Teachers

PBS has launched a comprehensive new web site for K-12 educators. The site is the portal to all educational resources that PBS offers, including thousands of free lesson plans, teacher professional development opportunities, videos, blogs, and more. It also provides information about effective ways to use media and technology in school or home-based learning environments.

Among the site's features are a new blog, called "Media Infusion," that will showcase ideas for using media and technology in the classroom; activities, and interactive resources, organized by subject, grade level, and curriculum topic; hundreds of curriculum resources from local PBS stations; dedicated areas for early childhood educators, library media specialists, and technology coordinators; on-demand streaming video from selected PBS programs; and online professional development opportunities. <http://www.pbs.org/teachers>



► Thinkfinity

MarcoPolo has merged with the Verizon Literacy Network to become *Thinkfinity*. *Thinkfinity* contains more than 47,000 educational resources, such as lesson plans and interactive student activities. Offered in partnership with eight educational organizations, *Thinkfinity* is commercial free and accessible from any internet-connected computer at no cost. <http://www.thinkfinity.org/home.aspx>

The content partners have produced standards-based Web sites geared primarily toward K-12 teachers and students. They are:

- **ARTSEdge:** John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
- **EconEDLink:** National Council on Economic Education
- **EDSITEment:** National Endowment for the Humanities
- **Illuminations:** National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
- **Read•Write•Think:** International Reading Association and the National Council of Teachers of English
- **Science NetLinks:** American Association for the Advancement of Science
- **Xpeditions:** National Geographic Society
- **Smithsonian:** National Museum of American History

