

Log-on



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Mifflin County School District Technology Department

Volume 8 Issue 3

Technology News

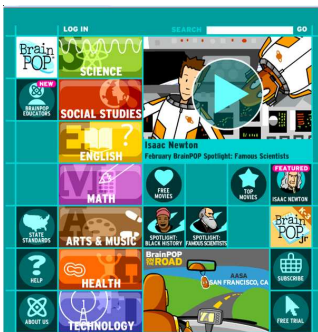
► Enhancing Education Through Technology Grant

The Mifflin County School District was awarded the Enhancing Education Through Technology Grant for grades K-8. The grant was primarily written by Dawn Hayes, Federal Programs Coordinator. The goal of the grant is to identify and promote educational strategies that integrate technology effectively into curriculum and instruction and to ensure that students with the greatest needs have access to technology.

The grant will allow us to purchase a certain amount of Instructional Equipment (SMART Boards, Document Cameras, LCD Projectors, and Personal Response Units). We will also be acquiring K-8 licenses for BrainPOP, VoiceThread, AIMSweb Math and Dibels 3D Reading software. The grant also includes professional development for SMART Board, LETRS and AIMSweb training. You will be hearing more about these initiatives in the next few weeks. <http://www.ed.gov/programs/edtech/index.html>



BrainPOP



The Enhancing Education Through Technology Grant funds have allowed us to purchase a K-8 subscription to BrainPOP. BrainPOP is web-based software that includes animated curriculum based movies in Science, Social Studies, English, Math, Health, Music, Arts and Technology. All content is aligned to state standards and easily searchable. The **Featured Content** changes according to the date and includes related movies, activities, experiments, quizzes and timelines.

The **BrainPOP for Educators** section includes video tutorials created for and by teachers on various subjects. Some of the other sections under the Educator section require you to create a user name and password to access them but they are free. The **Professional Development** section includes short tutorial overviews of the BrainPOP site.

You have received an email from your principal regarding user names and passwords for each school. These are for all students and teachers. There is a separate user name for teachers for home use. You will be getting more information about BrainPOP training in the next few weeks. Start using it and see what you think.

<http://www.brainpop.com/>

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**

► Internet Safety in the Middle Schools

This year we are working with the middle school students in our internet safety program. Along with Daniel Berger, Director for Technology Services, and Justine Kobeski, Instructional Technology Specialist, both from the Tuscarora Intermediate Unit, we have been surveying the middle school students about their internet use. In the next few months we will be meeting with all students in grades 6, 7 and 8, at each middle school.

The students are asked approximately 30 questions regarding their internet use, the use of email and chat rooms, FaceBook and MySpace, and online experiences. Students use personal response units to answer the questions. The students' responses are anonymous. As soon as the students submit their answers, they are tabulated and shown on the screen so they get immediate feedback. There is usually some time to discuss the questions or focus on some aspect of internet safety during the survey session. In some cases, students have worked in groups for a few minutes and we have asked them to share one fact they learned from the session.

At the Open Houses in September, we will meet briefly with the parents and they will take part in the same survey responding to the questions according to how they think their child would answer. They will also use the clickers so we will have immediate feedback. After the parents responses are shown, we will show the student's responses to the same questions. It should prove very interesting to the parents to see how their answers correlate with those of their children.

After all of the data is tabulated, we are planning a district parent meeting. At this time, we will present the parents with their own online social network that will be maintained, monitored and will include resources, videos, tips and tricks. We hope that this will become a meeting place for parents to share their experiences and questions. Rather than feeling alone and intimidated by the technology, this resource will allow the parents to feel comfortable using a social network and get immediate feedback to their questions and concerns.

This data from each session will also be presented to teachers at each school. Although we have an internet safety lessons included in the computer curriculum at the middle school level, it will be helpful to all teachers to see the results of the survey and maybe include some internet safety resources into their lessons.



► Destiny Library Manager

Our library management software will soon be changed from Athena to a new program named Destiny. Our plans are to have this conversion completed by the first week of March. During February there will be times when Athena is unavailable to you and your students, as data is transferred to the Destiny Library Manager application. When the conversion is complete, the Athena shortcut on your desktop will be replaced by a Destiny shortcut. Just like Athena, you will have the ability to browse for books with the new system.

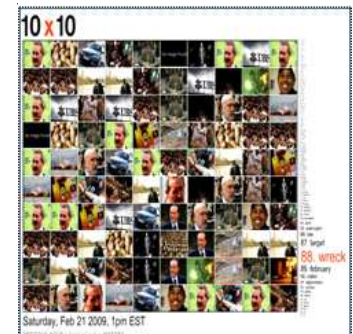
Cool Sites!

► **iKnowthat.** This website is full of online interactive learning games for grades PreK- 6. The subjects include math, science, social studies, language arts and the arts. Practice vowels, place the states on the map or dive underwater into a coral reef. This is a really great site for interactive online practice and discovery. It also includes a Teacher Center, Thinking Games and a Quiz Center. The site is free but you can subscribe for a fee to get more options. <http://www.iknowthat.com>



► **Crickweb** is another interactive learning site for the elementary and middle grades. It includes learning activities for math, science, language arts, technology, geography and even French and Spanish. It's also a good SMART Board resource. <http://www.crickweb.co.uk/index.html>

► **10x10** is a great site for news and current events. Every hour, 10x10 collects the 100 words and pictures that matter most on a global scale and presents them as a single image that represents that moment in time. Click on a single picture to view the related headlines and article. "10x10 runs with no human intervention, autonomously observing what a handful of leading international news sources are saying and showing. It simply shows what it finds." <http://www.tenbyten.org/10x10.html>



► **Newseum** is an interactive online news museum that also really exists in Washington D.C. One of the coolest parts of the site is the section with 740 front pages from 67 countries around the world. <http://www.newseum.org>

► **Glogster** is an appealing web tool with lots of educational applications. It allows students to create free, protected webpage-like 'posters' by selecting a background, inserting and formatting text, inserting graphics, photos, video and sound. Glogster Educational is a safe environment that allows you to choose who views your documents. <http://www.glogster.com>; <http://www.glogster.com/edu>



► **Wordle** generates "word clouds" from text that you provide. This, in itself, is pretty interesting but it also provides a graphical analysis of your text. It takes the words that are used the most and makes them the biggest so you can immediately "see" what words are used the most frequently. This is a great way for students to see what words they use the most often and revise and edit their writing accordingly. Or copy and paste an important speech or written passage and see the cloud it generates. The "word clouds" are also really beautiful. They can be tweaked with different fonts, layouts, and colors and they can be printed or saved. Try this one right now! <http://www.wordle.net>



► Spring and Summer Graduate Classes Announced

Wilkes University 3 Credit Spring and Summer Classes

● ED519 Issues, Laws and Trends in Education	May 12 -June 18	Tues, Thurs 5:00 - 8:30	HPAE Library
● ED520 Using Assessment to Guide Instruction	July 13 - July 20	M-F, M 8:00 - 4:00	LAHS Library
● ED526 Internet Literacy for Educators	May 13 - June 10	Wednesday 4:30 - 7:30	
	June 22- 26	M-F 9:00 -3:00	HPAE Lab
● ED585 Integrating Technology	July 26 - August 3	M-F, M 8:00 - 4:00	HPAE Lab
● ED592 Administrative Internship Part B	May 11- first date	Monday 4:30 - 7:30	LAHS Library

Register online at <http://www.wilkes.edu> or contact Renee Kotz (kotzra@wilkes.edu, 570-408-4674) or Karen Galbraith (gkg26@mcsdk12.org, 717-248-6480)

● ED 558 Learning to Read	June 17,18,19,22,23	W-F, M,T 8:00 - 5:00	HPAE Library
● ED 555 BASIC*	July 15,16,17,20,21	W-F, M,T 8:00 - 5:00	HPAE Library
● Classroom Management	July 23,24,27,28,29	Th, F, M-W 8:00 - 5:00	HPAE Library

Contact Lauren Grego (lgrego@plsweb.com) for more information about Performance Learning Systems.

*Behavioral, Academic and Social Interventions for the Classroom

PDE 1 Credit course offered by TIU11

Using Microsoft Word and Excel 2007	June 15 - June 18	M-Th 9:00 AM - 12:00	HPAE Lab
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Register online at www.solutionwhere.com/tiu11 or contact LaTisha Hockenbrock (814-542-2501) or Karen Galbraith (gkg26@mcsdk12.org, 717-248-6480)

► PDE Webinars

The Pennsylvania Department of Education is offering some excellent webinars and many teachers are interested in viewing them with their classes. Follow these steps to view the webinars.

1. Submit a track-it with the black number of the computer you plan to use.
2. Include your name, room number and the name of the webinar you wish to view.
3. Submit the Track-It at least one week before the webinar.
4. If you need to use a projector, include that request in the Track-It.

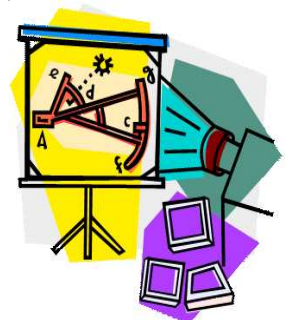
View the list of PDE webinars

http://www.pdewebinars.org/index_static.html

► LCD Projectors

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.



► Office 2007 Work at Home

There are still Office 2007 copies available from the Technology Department for home use.

https://intranet.mcsdk12.org/fac/forms/MS_WAH_sept08.pdf