

# Log-on



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Mifflin County School District Technology Department

Issue 20

## Technology Update

by Hunter French  
Network Administrator

### Imagine a World without Technology

How many times a day do you use computing technology? From the time you wake up until you get in bed computing technology plays a large role in our day to day activities. If you are like most people, you woke up this morning and turned on a light. The light draws power from our electric grid, a complex network of power plants and high voltage power lines that distribute power around the county. This “grid” is maintained by complex computer systems and when they have problems we lose power on a grand scale. We learned this on August 14, 2003, when a large portion of the Northeast United States lost power which, according to some experts, was caused by a computer system failure (for more information see [http://www.globalsecurity.org/eye/blackout\\_2003.htm](http://www.globalsecurity.org/eye/blackout_2003.htm)).

For most of us, the remainder of our morning routine uses “hidden” computing technology from the electronic timer in your coffee maker to the computer that controls the operation of your car (check out <http://electronics.howstuffworks.com/car-computer.htm> for more information on how the computers in your car work). On the way to work, if you stop to purchase gasoline, as you swipe your VISA card at the pump, you access one of the world’s largest computer databases. This database, run by VISA, processes more transactions per hour than all of the world’s stock markets process in a day. Once at school we are further surrounded by technology: taking attendance (ClassXP), issuing report cards (SasiXP), checking email (OWA), and the Business Office printing paychecks (CSIU Payroll) all depend on computing technology. With all of the ways

that we use technology throughout the day, can you imagine life without it?

On April 20, 2005, students and teachers around the nation will be participating in “National Imagine a Technology Blackout Day.” Coordinated by the State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA), the National Imagine a Technology Blackout Day hopes to “highlight the vast power, potential and necessity of effective technology use in America’s public schools.” The SETDA has created a website that contains further information about the program including free age appropriate lesson plans.

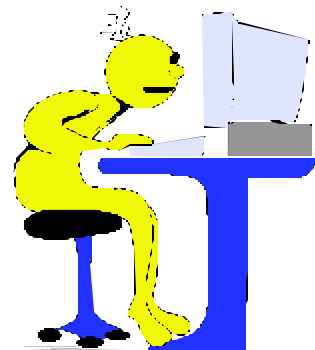
<http://www.technologyblackoutday.com>

According to a news release from PDE Deputy Secretary L. Michael Golden, “**by imagining one full day without technology**, participants will begin to realize the vast potential that technology offers in the field of education and the absolute need for our nation’s students to leave high school with strong technology literacy skills no matter their career choice!”

### InteGrade Pro

The start of the fourth marking period begins the final phase of the InteGrade Pro (IGPro) deployment. If you are a high school or middle school faculty member and are interested in using the District’s electronic grade book program, please let your principal know. The fourth marking period will bring the de-

ployment of the web version of IGPro for IVHS, LAHS, LMS, and SMMS. The web version is a scaled-down version of the program allowing faculty to enter grades from anywhere you can access the Internet.



## Future Problem Solving Teams Move on to the State Affiliate Bowl

by Jack R. Anderson

Gifted Support Program Coordinator

For the last six months, as part of the Future Problem Solving Program, Mifflin County students have been reading, researching and writing about some of the most likely future problems that will be facing our world. Each year FPS team members tackle real world issues.

This year, we examined the topics, Entertainment, Terrorism/Security, and Agriculture in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. For each topic there was a separate competition. In order to be selected to compete in the FPS Affiliate Bowl, our teams must do well in what is known as the Qualifying Problem. Our teams did very well in the first two problems and the Qualifying Problem and they were selected to compete in the State Bowl.

The State Bowl topic is the Depletion of Oceanic Species. The students will be preparing for the State Bowl by reading articles on the topic and improving on their critical thinking and writing skills. For additional information see [www.fpsp.org](http://www.fpsp.org) and [www.vafpsp.org](http://www.vafpsp.org).

Future problem solving requires the students to do extensive computer investigation to locate research articles and to examine the possible problems that may appear in the future. In this situation, students investigated futuristic technologies as they applied to agriculture in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We examined several FPS State links such as [www.fpsp.org](http://www.fpsp.org) [www.vafpsp.org](http://www.vafpsp.org). The students had to locate websites on the use of nanotechnology. Using [www.google.com](http://www.google.com), we were able to locate the site *How Stuff Works* (<http://www.howstuffworks.com>). This site helped the students understand how the use of nano-robots will be used in the future to manipulate molecules to reconstruct matter. This is all on the cutting edge of technology present and future.

To prepare for the FPS State Bowl, students are examining websites such as the *Oceans in Peril* ([http://seawifs.gsfc.nasa.gov/OCEAN\\_PLANET/HTML/ocean\\_planet\\_oceans\\_in\\_peril.html](http://seawifs.gsfc.nasa.gov/OCEAN_PLANET/HTML/ocean_planet_oceans_in_peril.html)). This site has links to dozen of others that examine the issues surrounding the topic Depletion of Oceanic Species. Students will be examining how the oceans are observed from space. The data that is being collected is helping us to reexamine the thought that our oceans are in peril and it causes our students to examine what might be done to change our present course. To look for solutions it is important to examine what we know and brainstorm solutions that may help us change our course.

This year two Junior Division teams and one Intermediate team have earned the right to compete in the FPS Affiliate Bowl in Harrisburg April 18-19. These students are: Junior Team #1: Samantha Snook - IVMS, Ben Fowler - Brown, Selina-Roman White and Jiten Suthar - HP AE;



Junior Team #2: Suruchi Sheth, Morgan Peachey, Allison Rhodes - HP AE, Jared Lynch - SMES;

Intermediate Team: Samantha Wheeler - LAHS, Megha Pai - IVMS, Lauren Valdivia, Max Wilson - LMS.

## Philadelphia Hosts National Technology Conference

### Spark a Revolution in Learning



**NECC is coming to town.** The city of Philadelphia will host The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE®) 26th Annual National Educational Computing Conference (NECC) from **June 27 through 30, 2005**, at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. This is the biggest and best Ed TECH conference around. More than 18,000 teachers, teacher educators, technology coordinators, library media specialists, administrators, university professors, policy makers, industry representatives, and exhibitors from around the globe are expected to attend. Visit the website at [www.iste.org/necc](http://www.iste.org/necc) to register for the conference and learn all about it.

Plan your schedule with an eye toward connecting with the ideas you need professionally. Look to see who is speaking at the sessions. Check out the hands-on workshops. A

conference Planner with dynamic links to the database of NECC sessions and events will be available online in early April. Presenter materials and handouts will go up on the Website throughout April, May and June. Webcasting of keynotes and selected sessions will be available online about two weeks after NECC 2005 and will remain live throughout the rest of the calendar year.

Volunteers are needed! Volunteer online at <http://www.mciu.org/mciu23/necc2005.html>. This is a great way to be a part of the conference and an effective way to network.

### ► Spring and Summer Technology Classes Scheduled

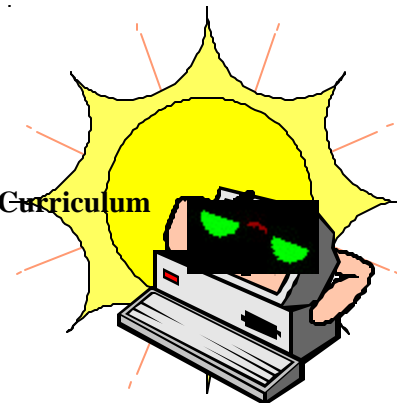
The following 3 credit graduate classes have been scheduled for this spring and summer.

#### *Wilkes University*

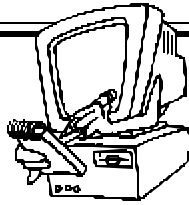
- **ED 580 Introduction to Educational Computing**  
May 10 - June 14, 2005    4:30 - 8:00    IVHS Room 155  
Tuesday and Thursday

#### *Millersville University*

- **EDW 548 Integrating Technology Standards Across the Elementary Curriculum**  
July 11 - July 15, 2005    8:00 - 6:30    LHS
- **EDW 694 Advanced PowerPoint**  
August 1 - August 5, 2005    8:00 - 6:30    LHS



# Tips & Hints



**Q: What is a Flash Drive and how is it used?**

**A:** A flash drive, also known as a jump drive, pen drive or thumb drive, is a small device about the size of a stick of gum that stores mass quantities of data. It is similar to a floppy disk or a CD because it can be transported from one computer to another. The first flash drives held 8MB but the most common size now is 256MB. This is approximately the size of 175 inch floppy disks. There are some available with up to 2GB (about 2,000MB) of storage.



One of the best things about a flash drive is that it does not need a disk drive or any additional hardware or software. It plugs into any USB port and the computer instantly recognizes it. It appears in the list of drives in "My Computer". It will appear on the desktop of a MAC. No battery or external power is needed. Flash drives get their power from the computer through the USB port.

Files can be copied to it and from it just like any other drive. The speed with which information is copied depends on the type of USB port on the computer.

Machines running Windows 98, will need to install a driver before the computer will recognize the drive. Flash drives are not compatible with Windows 95 or earlier.

## 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 kkg26@mcsdk12.org**



*Two new sites meet teacher and student needs for education and entertainment*

▶ At **Top Teaching Resources.com**, a site created by Merit Software, teachers can access a wealth of technology based learning materials, including discounted teaching supplies, lesson plans, reference manuals, dictionaries and links to the latest educational news and web sites. The information is organized by grade level from elementary teaching aids to high school lesson plans. There is also a separate library of supplementary materials aligned with state standards, including resources for teachers of English as a second language. It also maintains a list of links to various school supply websites.  
<http://www.topteachingresources.com>

▶ **MEDropolis** is a webspace containing the latest health information that will educate and entertain kids and adults alike. Take a fascinating look inside all the many coordinated parts of the human body in this online exhibit. Interactive features let students control their online journey, learning more about key features as their interest dictates. Discover the other popular features such as Health Calculators, Kids Health, and the Breast Cancer Guide in addition to the Virtual Body. The exhibit is also available in Spanish.  
<http://www.medropolis.com/default.aspx>