

SPRING IS FINALLY HERE!

We know the weather is breaking and it's getting nice, however we are still here! You may have a project you want to work on. We are available on Wednesdays from 3:30-7PM for extra help. This is the one time that the content is controlled by you. You can tell us what you need to work on.

We are available to help you each week. We have great pro-

jects that have been developed with teachers throughout the year.

You don't have to stay the entire time. If you let us know you are coming, someone can be there by 3:30. The students at Gibbons are dismissed at 3:15, so we start after they leave.

It's also a good time to start planning a summer project if

you are coming to summer training.

You should have received the flyer for summer training which is:

- August 11-13 Session 1
- August 17-18 For those maintaining building web pages
- August 19-21 Session 2
- First priority to Middle School and High School teachers

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A COUPLE HIP HOP TEACHING TOOLS

The first one isn't free (but there are free things on there) Flocabulary is a new provider of music based educational resources.

<http://flocabulary.com/>

The Week in Rap is a website that contains two minute teen friendly music

videos summarizing the major news events of the week. (Maybe this will give you an idea for class projects?)

[Wwww.theweekinrap.com](http://www.theweekinrap.com)

MUSIC SITES

We are keeping on track to get all the subject areas covered by the end of the year. Here are some of the music sites we found. No, not Limewire type sites but instructional sites for music teachers.

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

Welcome to Musipedia! Inspired by, but not affiliated with [Wikipedia](#), we are building a searchable, editable, and expandable collection of tunes, melodies, and musical themes.

<http://www.teachingmusic.org.uk/> Teaching Music is an innovative new portal to help you reflect and improve your knowledge, understanding and skills in music education.

It is your space to access information, reflect on your practice, connect with others and contribute your own resources. Teaching Music is available to all those involved in music education: teachers, community musicians, senior management and policy makers.

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

A resource for students and parents as well as a communication tool to enhance music classroom learning. (This site has tons of sites this music teacher put together. Scroll down to the Music Classroom Links)

<http://pbskids.org/music/>

Great music resources for younger students

<http://www.musick8.com/welcome.php>

Link to the magazine and past articles and resources

http://www.freshpond.net/uploads/users/5/User_5961/MyFiles/index.html

A music teachers resources

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

Free music resources on classical music, opera, jazz, rock, and more.

<http://www.musiceducationmadness.com/kids.shtml>

Welcome to the Kids' Korner! Drop in, play some games, do some learning, meet some friends.....something new each month!!!!!! Teachers and parents....this is a safe zone for your kids, monitored by a music teacher

<http://www.ababasoft.com/music/index.html>

Great online games

MIDDLE SCHOOL LANGUAGE ARTS

Perfect sites! Two that have lists of 100s of sites for you to visit!

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

One of my "if you only have time to go to one site go here" sites.

<http://www.sldirectory.com/teachf/languagegeteach.html>

True to mantra "do not reinvent the wheel," this site has hot links to 100s of sites for Middle School Language Arts Teachers.



The Prose of Blogging (and a Few Cons, Too)

by Rama Ramaswami

http://www.thejournal.com/articles/23562_3

If there is ever to be total integration of social networking technology into the K-12 curriculum, there must be better communication between teachers and IT administrators, in the view of Kevin Honeycutt, a veteran K-12 teacher who is now a technology integration specialist at the Educational Services and Staff Development Association of Central Kansas (ESSDACK). "The people who are so smart making machines work and the people who are so smart making education work don't always speak the same language," Honeycutt says. "We need to talk with the tech guys. Try things out, prototype a new thing." He cites Google Labs, which displays ideas and concepts that its maker is playing around with and invites users to comment. "We don't have a lot of time for prototyping, but if Google can do it, why can't schools?"

Blogs-- and their close Web 2.0 companion, wikis-- might seem daunting to some teachers, Honeycutt says, but it's critical to experiment with these and other technologies. "Every school district should try new things, kick the tires and bring that knowledge back to technology and the curriculum. If you keep early adopters from experimenting, you don't have access to a lot of new things. I almost wish there were some kind of hypothetical school where we could test our thinking."

Honeycutt believes that social networks such as Plurk and Twitter perform that role to some extent. Through these sites, he's connected with a group of 276 educators who share best practices and resources. "You can 'shoplift' from this group and once in a while put something on the shelf," he says. "You become braver and you try new things." For example, he says, a self-taught blogger could use his new skills to earn professional credits and thereby move up a notch on the teacher salary scale. ESSDACK has recently launched online professional development courses that offer credit for such self-directed learning.

In fact, educators say, blogs and wikis are perfect for experimentation because the software is readily available and often free. Unlike free website templates, which can be tricky to use and offer minimal functionality, a free blog or wiki offers a range of features and can be up and running in minutes. That's an irresistible draw for time- and resource-strapped teachers. "I've mostly used free programs for blogs and also for web pages," says Catherine Tannahill, associate professor of educational technology at Eastern Connecticut State University. "I don't have a lot of time and I like the premade templates as opposed to having to devise every bit of [the blog or web page] myself."

While the improved writing skills were encouraging, they weren't entirely unexpected. The unanticipated results were even more striking: The third-graders transferred knowledge learned during blogging to other academic and social aspects of the classroom, such as building models of Native American villages during recess. Also noteworthy, the students developed their technology skills even though they didn't receive formal technology-related instruction during the project. The preservice teachers reported that the third-graders became more proficient at keyboarding, formatting, conducting internet searches, toggling between several open programs, and cutting and pasting content from the blogs to their presentations.

CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ALBANY



Community Technology Initiative

ELEMENTARY LANGUAGE ARTS

There are 1000s of sites for elementary language arts. This is a brief list that has links to 100s of sites you can use. A great rainy Saturday activity!

<http://jc-schools.net/tutorials/interact-LA.htm>

If you would like to contact us:

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Put together by a school district in Tennessee.

<http://www.apples4theteacher.com/langarts.html>

Great printables

<http://www.mrsgoldclass.com/LanguageArts.htm>

Jim Lovett
337-7818
jlovett@albany.k12.ny.us

Put together by a teacher

http://www.internet4classrooms.com/lang_elem.htm

A huge list of hot links to other sites.

Sometimes we get caught up in the everyday things we have to take care of and lose our sense of humor. I saw this while I was writing and loved it. Just an aside, we are here to help you help our students. Feel free to write or call us if you have questions or hear things you don't have any idea what they mean. Happy Spring!

