

Technology Newsletter

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& Marion Wood, Division
Instructional Technologists



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Upcoming Events

- ◆ UVA Technology Class at ACHS, See page 5
- ◆ The Technology portion of ACPS web site has a new URL, go to <http://www.appomattox.k12.va.us/acpstech/>

Director's News

Ever wonder what it takes to produce a Jelly Belly jellybean, a pair of denim jeans, 1994 Ford Mustang, or a Harley Davidson motorcycle?

Visitors become manufacturing experts at this site:

<http://manufacturing.stanford.edu>

Check out this online resource for interesting facts, details on careers, and recommended readings.

As we continue our focus on internet safety, there are FIVE things staff, students, and parents should be reminded:

1. Post only items online that you are comfortable having others see today AND next year.
2. Do not divulge info to strangers that could put you in jeopardy.
3. Computers should be in a public area at home and parents should communicate with students about their

online information and activities.

4. Report to authorities or Internet service providers (ISP) any suspicious activities.
5. Watch what is stated online about friends and family. Not only can it hurt feelings but others may be gleaning info from it to use for identity theft or for other illegal activity.

I am excited about the many changes happening this spring with our division. I will continue to work closely with the newly hired Director of Technology and technology staff. Thank you for the work you have done to put our school division above all others when it comes to technology.

If nothing ever changed, there'd be no butterflies. ~Author Unknown

Martha Eagle

Check Out SmartBoard's Lesson Activity Toolkit By Marion Wood

It is new! It is free! It is an amazing tool for creating your own interactive activities for use with the SmartBoard. It is an add-on to the Notebook software.

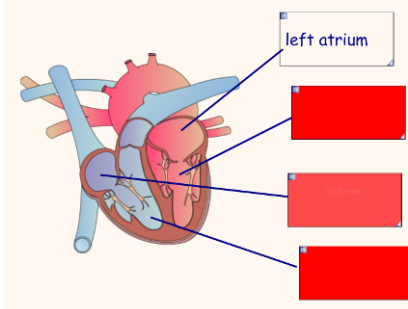
Download a copy of this toolkit at <http://education.smarttech.com/st/en-US/Ed+Resource/Software+Resources/toolkit/>

It helps you easily create:

- Engaging word games
- Quizzes
- Sorting Tables
- Adobe flash hide and reveal
- Adobe flash drag and drop

There are templates and tools that are easily customized.

Structure of the heart



With this tool, you can create professional looking interactive activities, like the one above, for use on the SmartBoard. By clicking on the red rectangle, the word is displayed.

Try out this piece of software. You will not be disappointed. Have Gerald or April install it for you.

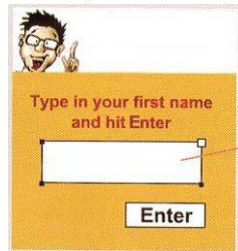


If you are interested in using this software, please see Susie, Marion or Danny to set up a workshop.

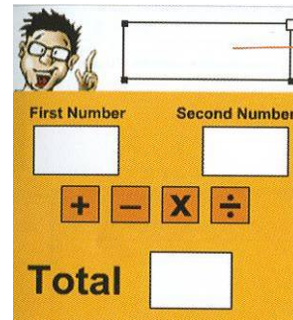
Web Design Class *By Joyce Leslie*

Interested in Web Design? Then Dreamweaver, Fireworks, and Flash are for you! Dreamweaver expertly designs the web site, Fireworks enhances the graphics and photos to be used in a web site, and finally Flash adds the animation and pizzazz to objects. Flash adds fun and excitement to your web page and turns an ordinary web site into an action-filled site that keeps people coming back for more.

Here is an example the students in Mrs. Leslie's Web Design class are working on. The example below was taken from the class textbook. This Flash product has animated buttons, movie clips symbols, and ActionScript to move the action from one scene to another and have captions appear and change all at the same time. It can be tricky, but fun!



Key your name, press the "enter" key. The second screen appears, "Hello, your name."



Enter 20 as the "first number," enter 10 as the "second number," click the "minus" button (or any other button), and the TOTAL appears. This is just a sample of how easy it is to create a Flash activity that students are working on this year. We are learning how to do wonderful and exciting activities while only in the beginning stages. Imagine what we can do with more practice!

That is how simple it is to create an animated button symbol using flash.

Podcasting! *By Danny Richardson*

SpotPods Offer Primary School Web 2.0 Learning Tools

Students at APS have been taking part in online radio shows known as podcasts. Utilizing the name of the APS mascot, these podcasts have been dubbed "SpotPods." As of today, there are three episodes to the podcast which began in mid November of 2007. They offer a glimpse of life at APS as well as giving the students a chance to hone their organization and speaking skills. The typical episode last about three minutes and have been downloaded all over the world. For more information about starting your own podcast, see Danny Richardson, Susie Fisher, or Marion Wood.

We have posted 3 episodes so far.

Episode Description

Clover Hill Historic Village

Mon, 17 Dec 2007 14:34:00 -0500
File: third podcast first grade fieldtrip.mp3
Size: 3.12 MB

Episode Description

Five Fat Turkeys

Mon, 17 Dec 2007 14:33:00 -0500
File: second podcast etr 11 20 07.mp3
Size: 2.57 MB

Episode Description

SpotPod 1 Learn about our school

Mon, 17 Dec 2007 14:21:00 -0500
File: first podcast jamerson 11 12 07.mp3
Size: 3.1 MB



To view the APS Spotpod page, go to <http://apsspotpods.podshowcreator.com/podcasts.aspx>

The Technology Grinch *By Tracy Mace*



Yes, I have to confess. For all these years, I have been a technology Grinch. I didn't begrudge *other* teachers their technology; in fact, I was sure that technology had an important place in math, science, and social studies classes. But in reading? Hello, Mr. Grinch! My children needed practice *reading*; they didn't need to fiddle with high-falutin' technology. Accelerated Reading and certain computerized reading programs was as far as this Grinch would go.



So imagine my dismay when I realized I was going to have to TSIP for recertification! So I had to find ways to utilize technologies after all, if only to get the little checkmark beside my name. There was a new laptop in the deal, so I guessed I could Grinch my way through it. Even accepting my fate didn't mean I felt it was educationally justified for my particular instruction. But I would at least try.

My first exploration was with United Streaming. I'd been exposed to it before, and like all other technologies, it didn't appear to have many applications for teaching reading, but I began searching. Much to my surprise, within minutes I found an interesting clip teaching dictionary skills, using MUMMIES, of all things. Hey, even my dictionary-resistant kids would love to learn a little about mummies!! Next I was surprised to find a cartoon clip designed to teach about nouns. Nouns?? On the internet? Wow! Then my next task was to create something from scratch. Even I could figure out how to use smart board with a power point game to review our boring grammar concepts. Except my kids didn't seem to think it was too boring after all!

Could it be that even a reading teacher could find legitimate uses of technology in her instruction? Let's just say that I think my techie heart grew two sizes that day.

Technology at APS *By Natasha St. John*

Has technology become a vital component for the success of education at APS? The complex answer to this question can be found in many busy classrooms. Many teachers, as well as students, are taking advantage of the availability of the technological resources that exist in house.

One extraordinary example was demonstrated by a group of students from Ms. St. John's second grade and Mr. Richardson's second grade reading classes. The students designed, created, wrote, edited, and produced a newspaper, entitled "The Spot Gazette," describing some of the happenings at APS. Many aspects of technology were used. One very important component that helped to make this task a success was the use of Backpackit.com. By using this collaborative communication avenue

each student was able to type his/her article in one place which allowed for easy access, less confusion, and saving time.

Each student had to pick a topic, research, and write an article about the topic. After writing and editing the rough draft, the students had to type their article using the wireless lab. A lot of hard work and effort went into publishing this newspaper but with the help of technology it was all made possible in such a short length of time. Now you have the evidence that using technology helps students develop learning skills, such as thinking and problem-solving skills, information and communication skills, and interpersonal and self-directional skills. At APS we are definitely on our way to producing and creating very effective individualized learning environments.



Go to <http://www.backpackit.com/> and sign up for a free account.

It is a tool for organizing and sharing calendars, to-do lists, notes and ideas.

Graphic Support for Literacy

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Graphics in the form of symbols, photographs, pictures or clipart can provide visual information to assist with receptive or expressive language and literacy skills. Graphics can help students to make meaning from text and promote independence. They can also represent words or sentences, concepts or ideas, and enhance expressive communication.

Symbol sets, pictures and graphics

Commercially available symbol sets/picture libraries include:

PCS Symbols by Mayer-Johnson. Available with Boardmaker

Rebus Symbols by Widgit. Available with Writing with Symbols 2000 and Communicate: in Print

Softpics

Makation Symbols and signs

Some software programs offer their own picture libraries

Clicker 5

Inspiration and Kidspiration

Overlay Maker

Intellikeys Classroom Suite

Free to Download - symbols and graphics available online

Do2learn <http://www.dotolearn.com/>

EnglishRescue <http://englishrescue.com/> picture gallery

Literacy Support Pictures <http://www.slatersoftware.com/PixLibrary.html> Searchable picture library by Slater Software

Pics4Learning <http://pics.tech4learning.com/> Copyright free pictures and images

Sclera Be <http://www.sclera.be/English/index.htm> black and white pictographs

School Discovery <http://school.discovery.com/clipart/> clipart including animations

Graphic/Symbol based teaching resources

[Askability](#) Symbol supported website containing a range of topical material for children and young people including news and sports from the UK, jokes, stories and films & music reviews, and contributions from readers.

[Do2learn](#) Symbol based products and activities to purchase and some are free to download.

[Learning Grids](#) by Crick Software. Many downloadable activities for use with Cricksoft programs - Clicker, ClozePro, Jigworks and Wordbar.

[Mayer-Johnson](#) Boardmaker boards to share. Some files will require Boardmaker to open, others are in PDF format.

[News-2-you](#) Symbol based weekly online newspaper (US based) available by subscription.

[Spectronics Symbol Activity Exchange](#) Activities to share including Boardmaker, Communicate in Print, Writing with Symbols, Clicker, Intellitools and more.

[Symbol World](#) From Widgit software

eLive: a monthly magazine for symbol users - free registration.

Learning: online learning materials in subject/topic areas.

Stories: fiction and non-fiction across age ranges.

My World: contributed by symbol users - personal writing, jokes, games etc.

[Widgit](#) Download teaching resources for use with Writing with Symbols or Boardmaker or as PDF files.

[SET BC](#) Download a wide range visual resources from the PictureSET section of this site.

Information found at <http://www.learningplace.com.au/deliver/content.asp?pid=34019>

The After School Program at AMS

By Susan Williams



Technology is alive and well in the after school program at Appomattox Middle School. The "All Star Academy" consists of five academies - Art Adventures, CSI, Digital Photography, WJAMS, and Lego Design -- and technology is being used in most of the academies.

In Art Adventures, the students are creating art work from around the world after watching a PowerPoint presentation on the English teapots, Native American Acoma pots, and Egyptian relief tiles projects. They have made Japanese origami cranes, researched the meaning of the paper cranes and will be sending their creations to Japan to add to the *1000 Cranes Project*.



WJAMS is the school's broadcasting group. Students write, perform and video the daily morning announcements and special presentations. The

production is very low-keyed, using simple digital video cameras for the video and IPOD for background and special music but they are hoping to move up with more advanced equipment and techniques.

Though they may not be a room full of Gil Grissoms, the students in the CSI Academy enjoy finding the forensic "facts." They use the digital microscope for blood analysis (it came from a kit and not their own fingers) and fingerprint investigation.

The students in the Digital Photography Academy are in the process of creating PhotoStory projects. The project will require them to use digital cameras, PhotoStory software, and PodCast. They will also be using photo editing software to morph pictures of themselves for their PhotoStory project.

Class Dates and Times:

Friday Feb 8th

4:30 - 8:00

Saturday Feb 9th

8:30 - 4:00

Friday Feb 22nd

4:30 - 8:30

Saturday Feb 23rd

8:30 - 4:00

Friday Feb 29th

4:30 - 8:30

Saturday Mar 1st

8:30 - 4:00

Thursday Mar 13th

4:30 - 8:30

4 Virtual (online chat, etc.) sessions (each one hour in length) to be scheduled between Feb 8th and March 13th

UVA Technology Class to be offered locally

EDLF 589

Educational Technology in the Classroom 2.0

3 Graduate Credits (90 points)

Instructor:

Christopher S. O'Neal, University of Virginia, Email: coneal@virginia.edu Phone: (434) 924-0858

Prerequisites: Introduction to Educational Technology, high comfort level with exploring new technologies

Course Description: This course is designed for in-service K-12 teachers. Emphasis is placed on the integration of educational technology and Web 2.0 to support effective teaching and learning with the MySpace generation. Participants will have the opportunity to explore a variety of Web 2.0 educational technologies, practice instructional strategies, and develop resources for teaching with technology in the 21st century classroom. Participants will collaborate, share resources, and reinvent course activities to meet the unique needs of their classrooms.

Location: ACHS, Lab 224

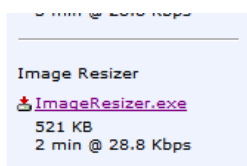
Dates/Times: This course will be offered over 3 weekend slots (Friday evening/all day Saturday), one weekday evening session, and 4 one-hour online sessions

To pre-register, please email Donna Small and let her know you are interested. There are a limited number of slots so please let Donna know by January 18.

Emailing Pictures *By Marion Wood*

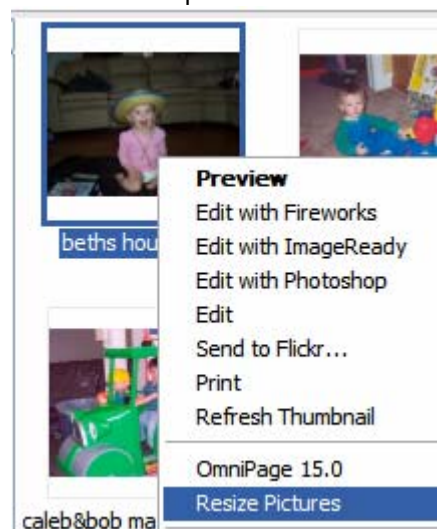
To find the Image Resizer program, go to <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/downloads/power toys/xppowertoys.msp>

Scroll down on the right of the screen until you see the following:

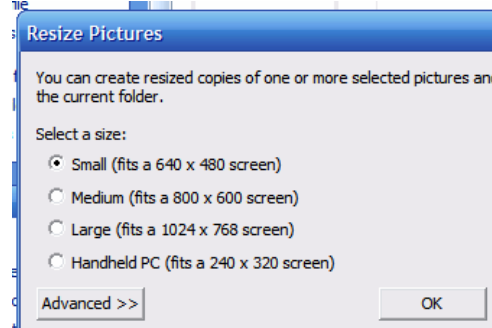


Download and install the file. You will not have a program file, but when you right-click on a picture you will have *Resize Pictures* in the Menu Popup that appears.

It is not widely known that problems are created when you attach a picture to an email. Most of today's cameras take pictures and create very large files. This is a problem for email in that it can fill up your mailbox quickly. There is a very simple answer to this problem. Get April or Gerald to download and install a Microsoft power toy called Image Resizer. After installing the image resizer, you can right-click on the image to have a menu choice open.



The following menu appears when you click on *Resize Pictures*.



Choose *Small* and click on *OK*. The image shown here went from a size of 507 kb to 33.6 kb. This is also true for putting an image on a website. Viewing on a monitor does not require a large image size.

You do not want to do this when you are sending a file that someone wants to print. You need the large file to print. If the file is over 500 kb, you might want to get the file to someone in a way other than email.

If you want to do this at home, google the Microsoft Image Resizer, download it, and install it.

Congratulations to our Technology Academy Graduates

Congratulations to our Technology Academy graduates. They are Dana Hamlett, Barbara Ansted, Valerie York, Gail Hunter, Kathy Dickerson, Felicia Pickeral, Donna Paulette, Vic Meadows, Debbie Jamerson, Jackie Johnson, Charity Torrence, Judy Johnson, Mary Marshall, and Lisa Richardson.

Two sessions are being planned for the summer!

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Going From Good to Great - One Relationship at a Time
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