

Technology Newsletter

"It's not the Technology – It's the IMPACT" *Anonymous*

March 2009

Vide Conferencing Ideas

- *Reminder- Kent Digital Academy will allow the use of 2 Mobile Videoconferencing Units in your classroom, as well as the Videoconferencing Unit at the BOE.*
- *Please email Courtney Baliman if you would like to reserve this technology for your class or if you would like to find out more information.*
- *Keep in mind- videoconferencing can be done within our district, between buildings as well.*
- *There is no charge to use the equipment from KDA. Check for pricing for other programs. Prices range from FREE to \$200+.*

The Great Race -Attention 5th grade teachers!

This program is a 5th grade social studies project that also includes standards in science, math, and language arts. The last two years over 900 5th grade students around the nation have raced to locations such as Barrow, Alaska and the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. This year's theme is the "Presidential Run". Through videoconferencing students are able to share their experience and meet the competition. This year's Great Race teams will race from the birthplace of George Washington in Westmoreland County, Virginia to Honolulu, Hawaii the birthplace of our new president Barack Obama. For more information check out the Great Race website at



<http://pd.ncoesc.org/greatrace/>
To join contact Katrina Moore
kmoore@ccesc.k12.oh.us

Guess What Town-Attention 3rd grade teachers!

The Guess What Town project introduces

students to the history and geography of the

State of Ohio by having students study their own community with the intent of becoming ambassadors to other third grade students around the state. The students will present ten clues based on the five themes of geography to see if students at the participating sites can guess where they are located. The classroom teacher will assist in the project by helping his/her students with the presentation. Each class will present 10 clues in a multi-point videoconference. During the final Guess What Town videoconference, classes will guess in what town the other classes are located. To see past Guess What Town projects please go to

<http://www.ncoesc.esu.k12.oh.us/distancelearning/guess/intro.html> To Sign Up, Please Contact Katrina Moore at kmoore@ccesc.k12 **Deadline to sign up is Monday, March 2nd.**

Ohio Math Marvels- K-12 Teachers! The focus of Ohio Math Marvels is on problem solving and communicating solutions/strategies using non-routine, higher order thinking examples.

Participating students from across Ohio will use videoconferencing technology to challenge other students with math problems that they have created or have taken from released Ohio Achievement Test (OAT) or Ohio Graduation Test (OGT) questions. Classes will be matched with other classes at the same grade level. Math Marvels can be adapted for grade K-12 students. Expectations are that the math challenge will require problem-solving strategies including drawing a picture, looking for a pattern, systematic guessing and checking, acting it out, making a table, or working backwards to solve a problem. All problems will be verified by the classroom teacher prior to the videoconference. Math Marvels will begin in February 2009. Sign up by emailing Kathy Mohr at kmohr@ncoesc.org. For more information:



<http://pd.ncoesc.org/mathmarvels>

Chapters

Teachers and students can collaboratively write chapter books that are then presented via video distance learning. This is how the Chapters Project works: 1) A title for the book is established. 2) Class A writes the first chapter. 3) Class B writes the second chapter. 4) Class C writes the third chapter.

5) All classes write their own conclusion to the chapter book based on the previous chapters. 6) Each chapter should be written based on the previous chapter(s).

The characters and plot should carry throughout the chapter book.

Each chapter must have a beginning, middle and end. The end of each chapter should provide opportunities for something new to happen in the next chapter.

All classes present their final chapter in an interactive videoconference. Classes may choose to "act out" their final chapter. The final chapter presentation should take no longer than 15 minutes for each participating class. See prior examples at:

<http://fm.ncoesc.edu.k12.oh.us/chapters/index.html> To join contact Kathy Mohr at kmohr@ncoesc.org

Other Distance Learning Opportunities

- Columbus Zoo and Aquarium www.columbuszoo.org/education > Select schools and teachers> Zoo to your classroom>distance learning
- The Cleveland Museum of Art www.clevelandart.org/dl
- Akron Zoo www.akronzoo.org
- North East Ohio Educational Service Center <http://www.ncoesc.org/distancelearning/>

Voice Thread

A VoiceThread is a collaborative, multimedia slide show that holds images, documents, and videos and allows people to leave comments in 5 ways - using voice (with a mic or phone), text, audio file, or video (via a webcam). Share a VoiceThread with friends, students, and colleagues for them to record comments too. Visit <http://voicethread.com> to learn more or try it out. Thanks to Todd Poole for finding this!

Learning Express Library

Do your students need some extra practice to do their best in school? Give them the tool to practice, do lessons, and get study help in a variety subjects and grade levels!

<http://learningexpresslibrary.com/>



If you are looking for flexible programs that will fit into a variety of lessons you teach, check out 2simple <http://www.2simpleusa.com/> Here you can review the products available for your class and try them out for 30 days. This software works very well with SMART Boards and Mimios too.



SMART Technology Sites

Thanks to Denise Tonelli for finding this website. There are numerous resources , lessons, and ideas for a variety of age levels and subjects.

<http://faculty.usiouxfalls.edu/arpeterson/smartboard.htm>



Flip Video Camera

Please let me know if you would like to use a Flip Video camera in your classroom. I received one after attending a full day session at Western Reserve Public Media and I would like to share it with you and your students. This can be used for all ages and it really easy to use!