

May Distance Learning Newsletter

Submitted by Christy Hubley & Betti Percival

May was a very busy month for us. During the month of May we completed 14 test calls, 17 video conference sessions with a variety of content providers, 3 collaborations and 4 professional development programs for staff.

Content Providers:

Pollard School:

✚ Students in Shirley Toscano's, Kara Bloom's, Sherry Bell's and Colleen Ferrante's second grade classes connected with the Discovery Center of Springfield Missouri for a program titled, "Magnificent Mexico".

Program Description: Even though Mexico is just south of the United States, the two countries couldn't be further apart in geography, history, and culture. Learn about the similarities and differences between Mexican culture in Mexico and Mexican culture in the United States.

Teacher comments:

1. *"The children loved the activities. The explanations however, were long and confusing." Shirley Toscano.*
2. *"The beginning was very lengthy for second graders and wordy. The maps and color pages were never used. Kids thoroughly enjoyed making the flowers and maracas. They also enjoyed seeing how the poor of Mexico live and go to school. The difficulty was her hearing us. We could hear her just fine." Sherry Bell*
3. *"Magnificent Mexico was a great way for students to learn about our neighbor to the south with hands-on activities that were grade appropriate. The presenter could certainly discuss Mexico's history and culture and grabbed the students' attention with always favorite, Day of the Dead". Kara Bloom*

✚ Students in Dolores Coyle-Quirk's fifth grade class participated in a video conference session with NASA Glenn Research Center located in Ohio for a program titled, 'Our Planet Earth.'

Program Description from NASA website: In this videoconference students will learn about the earth with all its varied environments, how its systems interact, and how we gather and use information about the earth from NASA satellites. What if we didn't have an atmosphere? Would we still have water? Most of our planet is water. How do the oceans affect the weather? How does climate affect the land? Come explore Earth from new perspectives!

✚ Barbara Kane and Alexis Zavaliano's fourth grade classes connected with the Discovery Center of Springfield for a program titled, "Chopstick China."

Description of Program from content providers website: Geographically China is smaller than the United States but has nearly 5 times our population. Understanding China's global influence on our world through history, art, language, and politics is becoming vital to our culture in the United States. **Grades 3-8**

Teacher Comment: "The program was fun and interactive. It was hard having two classes in the lab but it worked. The lesson was very information!" "The kids enjoyed it."

- ✚ Students had the opportunity to sign up for a program titled, “Physically Active Kids” during their school wide Health Enrichment Day on May 28th. This program was offered three separate times through out the day.

Atkinson Academy:

- ✚ Fifth grade students from Heather Rath’s, Brian Shawley’s, Rosemary Targonski’s and Erin Lozowski’s classes participated in a videoconference session with the Fort Mifflin Museum located in Philadelphia Pennsylvania for a program titled, “Revolutionary War Soldier’s Life”.

Program Description from Museum website: Students will learn how late 18th century soldiers lived prior to the war, how they were recruited, what type of training they received, what items they were issued, and what conditions were like in the field, especially at Fort Mifflin in 1777. Of particular interest will be how these men survived what historians have called, “the greatest bombardment the North American Continent has ever witnessed.”

Teacher Comment: *Excellent presentation! My class enjoyed learning about this subject. They answered many questions as well! Erin Lozowski*

- ✚ Students in Erin Lozowski’s class and Rosemary Targonski’s class also participated in a video conference with NASA Glenn Research Center located in Ohio for a program titled. “Our Planet Earth.”

Teacher Comment: *Very interesting information! The students enjoyed answering and asking questions.*

Sandown North:

- ✚ Jennifer Hodnett’s first grade class participated in a video conference session with the Lee Richardson Zoo located in Kansas for a program titled, “Awesome Amphibians”.

Program Description from the zoo website: Did you know that 2008 has been designated the Year of the Frog? Get an up close look at these awesome amphibians and learn what makes them so amazing and why they are an important indicator of healthy ecosystems. Discover many interesting features that group frogs, toads, salamanders, and newts in the same class.

Teacher Comment: *“There were some problems getting the program started. Once started, sound was very soft and picture was a little messy. The program itself was well planned and was at a perfect level for our first graders. Students really enjoyed getting to see live amphibians through the special cameras. I also appreciate the extra information and activity ideas sent by Lee Richardson Zoo.” Jenn Hodnett*

Sandown Central:




- ✚ Students in Stan Stone, Cathy Riley, Katie Gerry and Nancy Magee’ s classes also participated in a video conference connection with Fort Mifflin for the program titled, “Revolutionary War Soldier Life”.

Teacher Comments: *“Great information- The presenter appeared to be a so-so presenter, but her information and very casual style was excellent. I learned about 10 new things. The students were engaged the whole time.” Stan Stone*

Student’s comments:

1. “Their life was hard”
2. “They showed us how to load a French musket”.
3. “It was pretty cool when they were fighting- the special hunting coats”.
4. “Great-They told us they could smell the army before they were there.”
5. “Shot Cannon-Great”

6. "Awesome"

-  Fifth grade students in Stan Stone's class and Nancy Magee's class participated in a video conference session with the Mount Washington Observatory.
Description of program from the Mount Washington Observatory website: The Observatory performs hourly weather observations of "the world's worst weather" at the summit of 6,288 foot Mount Washington, the northeast's highest peak, and also supports a wide variety of scientific research at its mountain-top facility, including environmental monitoring, atmospheric research, and equipment testing. Through interactive video conferencing, your class will go live to the summit of Mount Washington and learn about climate and weather from the people who know it best: the hardy men and women living and working in the Observatory's legendary summit weather station. They'll share their first-hand knowledge and experience in an exciting, interactive format. Designed for grades 4-12.
Teacher Comments: *"Students enjoyed learning more about their own backyard. The weather information was very useful. We use some instruments in class and the students could make nice connections". Stan Stone*
-  Fourth grade students in Jan Gilman, Kami Douglas, Nicole Bailey and Carol Mortenson's classes participated in a video conference session with the Muskingum Valley Educational Center located in Ohio for a program titled, "Here Today Gone Tomorrow-Weather and Erosion."
Program Description from the content provider's website: Students will investigate weathering and erosion through exciting hands-on investigations and video clips. They will understand the difference of these earth-changing processes by watching a "Super Hero" video clip that puts it all into perspective. Post-lesson classroom activities are also included.
Teacher Comment: *"Super program! Included video clips, game format, lots of examples of erosion/weathering, speaker related great with 4th grade students."*
-  Cathy Riley, Katie Gerry, and Stan Stones fifth grade classes along with Jan Gilman's fourth grade class also connected with the NASA Glenn Research Center in Ohio for a program titled, "Our Planet Earth".
Program Description from NASA website: In this videoconference students will learn about the earth with all its varied environments, how its systems interact, and how we gather and use information about the earth from NASA satellites. What if we didn't have an atmosphere? Would we still have water? Most of our planet is water. How do the oceans affect the weather? How does climate affect the land? Come explore Earth from new perspectives!
Teacher Comments:
 1. *"It was one man with a blow up ball of planet Earth-He was able to share many pictures showing changes in Earth due to erosion and ozone depletion-temperatures. Fine but had trouble with connection." Cathy Riley*
 2. *"The presenter did not show up however, the technician who filled in was wonderful. He created a give and take format, filling in with pictures and video clips to students questions. So, even with all the disconnects, the program was worth while and much learning took place. Lots of new information for most or all students. With the connection difficulties we could have lost many students-the presenter's enthusiasm kept all engaged." Stan Stone*
 3. *"The presenter who was scheduled did not show up so the tech person at the NASA facility did a Q and A session with us. He did an awesome job on very short*

*notice and shared interesting images and info. About astronauts and shuttles.”
Katie Gerry*

Danville School:

- ✚ Fifth grade students in Nicole Osborne, Amanda Allen and Charlene Antonakos classes also participated in a video conference connection with Fort Mifflin for the program titled, “Revolutionary War Soldier Life”.

Teacher comment: *“The speaker was great. She really knew her content.” Nicole Osborne*

- ✚ Fifth grade students in Charlene Antonakos, Amanda Allen, and Nicole Osborne’s classes also connected with NASA Research Center in Ohio for the program titled, “Planet Earth”

Teacher comment: *“Very informative, speaker had students engaged, good slides/computer visuals.” Amanda Allen*

- ✚ Cindy Wood, the Enrichment teacher at Danville, organized a School wide Enrichment day on May 22. One of the Enrichment workshops that students had the opportunity to sign up for was a video conference session with the Clarian Health Center for a program titled, “Safe Stretches for Active Kids.”

Teacher Comment: *“This program gave students a chance to experience and learn about the importance of warming up, working out and stretching. It was very interactive and got our students up and moving throughout the connection.” Christy Hubley*

TRMS:

- ✚ Eighth grade students had the opportunity to sign up for three Distance Learning sessions that were scheduled for their Career Day. The three content providers that provided programs for the career day were;

1. NASA Marshall Space Flight Center - Program title, “NASA Careers.”
2. Clowes Memorial Hall of Butler University- Program title, “Careers in Art.”
3. Pro Football Hall of Fame- Program titled, “Careers in NFL.”

Student Comments: *“The NFL Distance Learning was very interesting. He had props from the NFL Hall of Fame and had videos. It showed that there were a lot of different jobs in the NFL other than players.”*

“It was very interesting to see that there are other jobs in the NFL other than being a player. I was thinking of going to college with something to do with sports and this just cleared it up.”

- ✚ Maggie Goss, sixth grade teacher and all of the sixth grade students connected with the NASA Research Center in Ohio for a program titled, “Humans in Space.”

Teacher Comment: *“It was wonderful. The presenter used a variety of diagrams and movie clips to explain ideas and concepts. He did a great job showing how muscle mass is affected in a microgravity environment. The presenter was very energetic and humorous. He focused a lot on gravity and other aspects of living in a microgravity environment. The students loved the program.”*

Sandown North:

- ✚ All third grade students participated in a video conference session with the Lee Richard Zoo for a program titled, “Home Sweet Home”.

Description of program from the Zoo website: Animals have homes just like people do, but instead of calling it a home, we call it a habitat. A habitat must contain four things in order for the animals to live happy, healthy lives. Habitats can also be very different in both size and structure and many animals are adapted to survive better in some habitats than in others. We will look at these characteristics and much more to learn what it takes to make a habitat a home.

Collaborations:

TRMS:

- ✚ Coral Hampe's eighth grade Spanish class connected with an eighth grade Spanish class at White Plains Middle School in New York for a fun game titled, "Jeopardy". All of the categories and questions were written in Spanish. When it was their turn, students from each school had to read the question in Spanish and write the answer in Spanish which was then displayed on the document camera for the opposite site to see. Students with the correct answer received the winning points for the category that was chosen.

Teacher Comment: *This was collaboration between two schools. We have talked once before in the fall so this is the second meeting. The teachers combined what the students know into categories and Judith created the program and I filled in a few of the categories. This option would not be possible without the help of the technology department. We greatly appreciate your help and making the experience flow smoothly.*

Student Comment: *"!La computadora es muy divertiday interesante! Me gusta estar hablando con los niños de Nueva York". ("The computer is very fun and interesting. I like to be talking with the kids in New York.")* -Cassie Mackinnon, grade 8

Sandown North:

- ✚ Students in Cathy Daenz and Kim Busiek's classes connected with a first grade teacher in Hawaii for collaboration. This was their last collaboration of the year. During this connection students asked some of the questions that had not been answered during the year about differences between NH and Hawaii.
- ✚ Cathy Daenz kindergarten class connected with a kindergarten class in Dallas Texas for collaboration.

Professional Development: (District Staff)

Atkinson Academy:

- ✚ District staff participated in a video conference session with presenter Dennis Embry for the second session of a three part series workshop titled, "The Good Behavior Game".
- ✚ District staff participated in a video conference session with Dr. Kimberly Tyson for a program titled, "Growing Fluent Readers".

TRHS:

- ✚ District staff connected with Paul Hieronymus from the North Ohio Research & Training Technology Hub located in Ohio for a professional development workshop titled, "Google Earth via Distance Learning".

TRMS:

- ✚ District staff attended a video conference session with the Cleveland Museum of Art for a program titled, "Introduction to Video Conferencing."

Pollard School:

- ✚ District staff attended a video conference session with Paul Hieronymus from the North Ohio Research & Training Technology Hub located in Ohio for a professional development workshop titled, “Digital Storytelling.”

Thank you staff for your interest and flexibility in scheduling programs.

Thank you tech staff for your assistance with test calls and program connections.