

The month of **November** was a short month however a busy month for distance learning connections. We provided special programs for students and staff for Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, Enrichment Day and for the Professional Development Day event. During this month we completed **14** test calls and **28** programs.

## Special Monthly Holiday Programs for Veterans Day and Thanksgiving



### Celebrating **Veterans Day:**

✚ Three of our Elementary schools connected with the LACA (Licking Area Computer Association, one of 23 Information Technology Centers in the state of Ohio that make up the Ohio Education Computer Network) for a distance learning program titled, "Remembering Our Veterans."

<http://www.laca.org/contact>

Program Description: Students are introduced to major US Wars and the effect on how we celebrate and honor our veterans. Using the book "The Wall" by Eve Bunting, students will create a classroom "Wall of Thanks" by writing their thoughts and messages to our veterans. Students create a timeline and learn about the memorials to veterans in Washington D.C. Students will understand the meaning of the word "Veteran" Students will learn how the United States honors its veterans. Students will learn the timeline of the major U.S. Wars.

Classes that participated in this special connection were:

#### Sandown Central:

- Jan Gilman's fourth grade class.
- Dave Ciarla's classes participated for an Enrichment Day Event.

#### Pollard School:

Teacher Comments: Lisa Kennedy, "The presenter was knowledgeable and enthusiastic. The presentation was interactive, which the students liked. However, the students lacked some background knowledge. As a result, they didn't understand everything that was presented."

Teacher Comments: Dolores Coyle-Quirk, "I thought it was good. A lot of questions for the kids, which got them involved. They didn't have much reference; however, I thought it gave them a nice overview of the wars that our soldiers have fought in to make this country strong, throughout our history. I thought she was going to do some of the activities during the DSL, but didn't have time. In fact, we went over, past 3:05, until they were already making dismissal announcements. (It did start a few minutes late). So the end was kind of rushed. We were able to do an activity the next day as follow up for Vet's day. (Please stop by next time to see our "Remembering our Military" wall.)"

#### Atkinson Academy:

Teacher Comment: Jen Spires, "The substitute reported that it was a great program and would recommend it. It was mostly lecture, so the timing didn't allow for students to complete the activity of making the timeline. The students were positive about the experience."

#### Student Comments:

- It was great because she showed us pictures of the important parts of the wars.
- It was cool because in WWII my two great grandfathers were in it and I never knew that before.

- *It was kind of good because I didn't know that some veterans were in a war.*
- *I liked it because it had this little movie about veterans with funny music.*

What did you learn?

- *I didn't know that the Afghanistan War happened a couple of years ago.*
- *I didn't know that Veterans Day used to be called Armistice Day.*
- *I didn't know that WWII was the biggest war.*



## Celebrating **Thanksgiving:**

Three of our Elementary schools connected with the **Mariners Museum** located in Newport News Virginia for a program titled, **“Sailing Into Thanksgiving”**.

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

Program Description: Students can take an imaginary voyage aboard the Mayflower as we discuss why the Pilgrims left their homes in Europe to settle in the New World. Students will learn about life aboard the Mayflower and in the New World, as well as learn about the native people the Pilgrims encountered. We'll also compare the Thanksgiving we celebrate today with the Thanksgiving the Pilgrims celebrated over 350 years ago. During or after the program, students will participate in a 17<sup>th</sup>-century game, learn a song about the Pilgrims and make their own “*Mayflower*” to take home.

Sandown North: Amy Difeo & Jen McDonough

Pollard School: Leslie Laudani & Sandy Ward

Atkinson Academy: Carla Wilson, Deb Bell, Jen Spires and Nadine McDougal

Teacher Comment: Deb Bell, *“We were pleased with the distance learning program from The Mariners’ Museum. The “Sailing Into Thanksgiving” program was very informative. The presenter engaged the students by asking several questions and singing a song. The backgrounds also provided nice visuals for the students. After our program the students went back to the classroom and created their own Mayflower with supplies provided by the Museum. There was very little prep work for this program and I would gladly request to participate in this program again next year. Thank you and Christi for all your efforts in providing us with such value resources!”*

Teacher Comments: Sandy Ward & Leslie Laudani, *“This was one of the best distance learning programs to date. The presenter who hosted us was very child friendly. She had an engaging personality which made it very easy for the children to “tune” into her. She asked age appropriate questions, gently prompted them in the right direction when asking questions and was overall very knowledgeable about the Pilgrims. All of the children in our classes really enjoyed it and especially liked the follow up craft which was making a mini Mayflower. Thanks for another great offering.”*

Teacher Comment: Nadine MacDougal, *“We just returned from the “Sailing into Thanksgiving” distance learning presentation. I thought it was wonderful! The presenter did a great job telling the story! He kept the children engaged throughout. He also knew just when to get them up and moving and he did it by having them act out part of the story. The children really enjoyed looking at the toys that the pilgrim children had. We also thought it was meaningful actually seeing what the food really looked like. It took away the romanticized notion that the pilgrims had a fun adventure!!! Thanks very much for making this available to us and have a nice Thanksgiving!”*

Comments from Students in Jen Spires class:

- *The program was awesome because we learned that the bottom of the boat is the hull.*
- *I didn't know that there were so many toys, like the one with the handle that you had to get the ball to land on top.*
- *We didn't know the Pilgrims had dolls, toy ducks, chalkboards and toy boats.*
- *I didn't know corn tasted different.*
- *I didn't know they had pets on the Mayflower (Two dogs and one cat-which use to be called a "mouser" because it was used to catch mice.)*
- *I never knew a Pilgrim fell off the Mayflower.*

✚ Atkinson Academy Fifth grade students in Nicole Evans, Rosemary Targonski, Erin Camire, and Brian Shawley's classes connected with the ***New York State Historical Association and the Farmers' Museum*** for a program titled, "A Visit to the More House."

<http://distance.nysha.org/>

Program Description: What was Thanksgiving like 150 years ago and how was the food prepared? In this engaging program students will visit The More family kitchen at The Farmers' Museum in Cooperstown, New York, and speak with Mrs. More as she cooks over an open hearth fire using cranes and trammels, and tools from the 19th century. Students will learn about where food came from, how it was prepared, and how harvest celebrations developed into the Thanksgiving celebration we experience today.

- 1.This program will begin with an introduction to the More house kitchen
- 2.Students will be introduce to the dish we will be making
- 3.Through discussion students will participate in the making the dish
- 4.Time is left for questions and answers.

Teacher Comments: Rosemary Targonski, *"It was very informative! The students loved interacting with the presenter. They learned quite a few interesting facts and were interested and focused throughout the presentation."*

**NH/Texas Collaboration - Fifth grade boys save the morning!**



On November 10<sup>th</sup>, a first grade teacher at Danville was scheduled to connect with a kindergarten teacher in Texas. Their classes have been collaborating successfully for three years. This first grade teacher has been trained on how to successfully connect a call and is familiar with the distance learning remotes and document camera. Normally when there is a scheduled connection in a building, the building technician makes sure everything is all set for the scheduled connection. On this particular morning Betti was out sick, so Christy went to Danville to connect the teacher's laptop to be used with the distance learning equipment. Christy had to leave for connections at the Sandown Central School. The teacher was told if she had any problems Betti or Christy could be reached by cell phones or she could call on the assistance of a couple of fifth grade students, who have been trained on the use of the equipment.

Prior to accepting the call from Texas, the teacher showed her students a self snapshot view to show them what the opposite site would see when they were connected. The teacher had a slight problem switching back to the main camera prior to the call so she called on two fifth graders to check out the problem. Michael and Connor saved the

day! They knew exactly what needed to be done to help this class get connected. The teacher was able to connect with the Texas site for a successful connection.

## **Professional Development Day: Distance Learning Programs for District Staff**

1. Program title, **“Don’t Feed the Bully”** Tips for teachers, educators and others to help create a safe school. **Author Brad Tassell**. Brad is located in Bowling Green Kentucky. Program description: Brad Tassell's award winning novel for teens and preteens **Don't Feed the Bully** is read in hundreds of schools and helps students learn empathy, move the bully target, and instill a love of reading. Now, we upgrade our thinking to the instructor level to bring inventive and common sense teacher tips to helping stop bullying and create a classroom and school that deals with problems head on, uses compassion and tolerance, and gets everybody onboard to bring about change.  
Staff Comments:  
**Corinne A.** *“I enjoyed it. He was very entertaining. Think we could have gotten more out of it if we were able to witness the entire presentation. None of it being his fault. We were running late. A comment from the audience regarding the law ate way too much time and he had to leave early. However, I would probably sign up again to try to catch the whole presentation. He was very well read and spoke well also.”*  
**Roxanne O.** *“The information provided was good but I am embarrassed we had to cut this gentleman so short. I also have little tolerance for people who attend for their own agenda and waste all of our times!”*  
**Bill M.** *“Better scheduling! Give the guy the entire amount of time he needs to do his thing the way he does his thing! Use two class periods if needed - that’s what they did for the suicide prevention. His book is awesome! I intended to just begin it the day I picked it up and then could not put it down! I read the entire thing that evening!”*
2. Program title, **“Building Learning Communities”** **Howie DiBlasi** from Georgetown Texas.
3. Program title, **“21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills- What are they? Will Our Students be Ready?”** **Howie DiBlasi**  
Program description: How much of our curriculum is centered on authentic problem-solving, teamwork and information literacy? Administrators and educational leaders need to rethink our K-12 education using 21st Century Skills to help students be successful in the global economy. We will assist you to integrate and implement the use of Digital Tools to:  
Collect, Retrieve, Interpret, Present, Organize and Manage information  
Evaluate the quality, relevance, and usefulness of information  
Generate accurate information through the use of existing resources  
Develop Information, Communication, Thinking and Problem-solving skills  
Create Interpersonal and self-directional skills  
Use Digital Age Literacy to promote Inventive Thinking, Effective Communication and High Productivity.
4. Program title, **“Learn, Laugh, and Get Acquainted with Microsoft Office 2007”** **with Sean Beavers Technical Consultant with SOITA.** (Southwestern Ohio

Instructional Technology Association) Empowering Students and Educators with 21st Century Skills! [www.SOITA.org](http://www.SOITA.org)

Staff Comments:

**Colleen F.** *"I thought it went pretty well. I would have liked more time on Excel—maybe a made up document to work on while he demonstrated."*

**Kristina C.** *"I found Sean Beaver's presentation very informative. He explained things very clearly and had a good sense of humor. Although the hour was only enough to get a small taste of what Windows 2007 has to offer the hand outs are a great resource to dig a bit deeper."*

**Helen B.** *"I thought it was a good workshop, some parts were more advanced than I am—for example what's new with power point—I have never used it. But I was glad we went through the steps of creating one and learning the different things you can do. The word part would have been enough for me. "*

**Stacy M.** *"The MS Office 2007 workshop that was presented on Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> was awesome. The presenter was great. He was easy to follow and described in detail the many new functions in MS office 2007. I left feeling comfortable in my knowledge of MS Office 2007 and would love to do another workshop with that presenter."*

**Stephanie M.** *"I attended a wonderful technology workshop that included information on Microsoft 2007 word, power point, and excel. I was a bit intimidated taking the workshop but quickly learned that I was more than capable to tackle this new information. The presenter was knowledgeable yet not intimidating with the information he had to share. The most exciting part for me was learning how easy it is to put together a power point presentation. I am already planning on using what I learned to create a power point for a workshop that I will be giving later this year. Thank you for offering this opportunity to learn a new skill."*

**Anne L.** *"I had trial version of Microsoft Office on my new laptop earlier this year and stopped using it because I couldn't figure out where things were or how to use it efficiently. After participating in the PD day training, I feel I can use Word, Excel and PowerPoint without getting impatient or frustrated!"*

**Danville:**

👤 Kindergarten students from Stephanie Mezquita's class connected with the **Center for Puppetry Arts** during one of their health/tech classes with Marcia Quigley, for a distance learning program titled, *"Making Healthy Choices: Starring Little Noodle."* <http://www.puppet.org/>

Program Description: Little Noodle, star of the Center's original stage production *Adventures of Little Noodle*, joins the Distance Learning Team as co-host for our program about healthy living, Making Healthy Choices. Little Noodle gets students movin' and groovin' through recorded segments that encourage movement, healthy decision making practices, and hands-on puppet building. Students will identify active vs. non-active play and participate in physical activities as they learn about the food pyramid and basic nutrition. Students made their very own Dazzle Dragonfly rod puppet just like Little Noodle!

Teacher Comment: Jonna Grenier, *"The healthy choices distance learning program was a wonderful activity for our students. It was age appropriate using fun characters to learn about the food pyramid. The program explained why eating healthy and making good food choices is so important. Throughout the program the students were asked to move and shake their bodies. This helped little bodies stay focused, alert and have fun! It also helped them understand why moving is so important for a healthy lifestyle. At the end of the presentation we were led through an interactive dragonfly craft activity that later would remind us of the fun we had learning about healthy*

*choices. A great take home gift we could play with to move our bodies and explore our world. The students delighted in their dragonflies! These came completed prepped from the program and made the day super easy for the teachers. Overall I would rate this program with two thumbs up!*

- ✚ Fifth grade students in Kerry Momnie's class participated in a distance learning session with the **Ohio Historical Society** for a program titled, "**Show Me, Tell Me About When Cultures Meet: The Impact Europeans Had On American Indians.**" [http://www.ohiohistoryteachers.org/05/Program Description](http://www.ohiohistoryteachers.org/05/Program%20Description): This presentation will introduce participants to the prehistoric Indian way of life of the Eastern Woodland Indians before contact with European settlers and how the Indian way of life was impacted by that contact. Discover how the Europeans changed the way the American Indians lived, how metal was introduced, and how furs were traded. Over the course of the presentation, students will learn about the difference between prehistory and history and will also look at historic trade items including clothing, cast iron pots, jewelry, tools, artifacts, and more.

Teacher Comment: Kerry Momnie, "*My class enjoyed this program. They liked seeing the actual artifacts, and the woman did a good job of including the students in the discussion. I think all of my students had the opportunity to speak with her at least once. It was fun and interactive. Thanks!*"

#### Atkinson Academy:

- ✚ Fourth grade students in Melissa Guy, Suzi Schultheis and Marie Vanderhoof's classes connected with the **Northern Central Ohio Educational Service Center (Learnco)** for a program titled, "**Erosion**".

<http://www.ncoesc.org/distancelearning/learnnco.htm>

Program Description: What causes valleys to form? Why do streams and lakes get muddy after a rain storm? Why are the rocks at the bottom of a river usually round? The answer to all these questions is EROSION! Water, wind, ice, and waves are the agents of erosion that wear away at the surface of the earth. Erosion! Examine the overall effect of breaking down and weathering the land.

Using several hands on activities students learn erosion is an easy topic to understand. Concepts explored include weathering, denudation, sediments, wind, wave, and water erosion, fluid flow, mass wasting, and deposition.

Teacher Comments: Melissa Guy. "*Mr. Campbell is distance learning's version of Bill Nye the Science Guy. This is my second year participating in a session with Andy and again, I am pleased with the presentation. He interacts well with the students, engaging them in discussions and experiments. His energy keeps the class focused.*"

Teacher Comment: Maria Vanderhoof, "*The presenter engaged the children with his science experiments and knowledge. He explained the concepts in a kid friendly manner. The kids enjoyed the interactive piece of it a lot.*"

#### Sandown Central: Enrichment Day Event

- ✚ Fourth and fifth grade classes participated in a program titled, "**Civil War Physician**" hosted by the **Virent Broadcasting Company** in Reynoldsburg Ohio.

<http://www.virent.net/>

Program Description: Richard Best, a.k.a. Dr. John Dale was not just interested in medicine of the 1860's, it was an obsession. Reading physician manuals of that period was a good start, but he also attended two autopsies. He conferred many times with a

physician, a gastroenterologist, a gynecologist, several surgeons, a nurse and several pharmacists. He also received a lot of encouragement and help from Mr. Jim Edmonson, the curator of the Dittrick Museum of Medical History.

Program Format: 1. Introduction of Dr. John Dale by Richard Best.

2. Interacting with students about his early medical studies and practices, and through the events that lead to him becoming a Physician in the Civil War.

3. Questions from the students during, and after the presentation.

Program objectives:

The participant will:

- explore the changing role of the Physician between the 1800's and today.

- compare the advantages of today's physicians to those 150 years ago.

- engage in a discussion about sanitation then and now.

- develop an appreciation for medical sciences of today.

- list the three kinds of injuries that can be treated today, but not in the 1800's.

- ✚ Fourth and fifth grade students participated in a program titled, "Window Through Time" hosted by the Ward Melville Heritage Organization located in Stony Brook New York.

<http://www.wmho.org/WMHOElectronicFieldTrips.asp>

Program Description: Learn about America's first successful spy ring by utilizing two-way videoconferencing, our instructor dressed in period costume of Anna Smith Strong (a spy ring member), interacts with the students while presenting material on the actual workings of this top-secret spy ring.

Students will learn about the methods and motivations of spies on Long Island and in New York City during the American Revolution as they create their Spy Design--an espionage plan that they will develop as a team from the pre-activity kit sent to the classroom teacher. The instructor will engage students by using a variety of maps, photographs and documents to illustrate how the Setauket spy ring functioned.

Invisible writing, mask letters and codes will be demonstrated as methods of communication among the spy ring members and each team of students will have time for presentation of their Spy Design.

- ✚ Fourth grade students in Carol Mortenson's class connected with the **Baseball Hall of Fame** for a program titled, "**Geography: Baseball Coast to Coast**". <http://baseballhall.org/>

Program Description: Since the days of players traveling by train to get from stadium to stadium, geography has always played an important role in professional baseball.

Where are baseball teams established and why? How do people and the physical environment influence the game? In this unit, students will explore these questions and more through map work, research, and creative activities. They will work both independently and collaboratively to learn about geographical concepts such as location, population, and culture.

### TRMS:

- ✚ Sixth grade students in Ann Days Language Arts classes connected with the **Amon Carter Museum of American Art** for a program titled, "**Say It Like You See It**". <http://www.cartermuseum.org/>

Program Description: Since descriptive writing is the art of writing to describe, why not give your students an experience with fine art to enliven your creative writing program? Using paintings from the collection of American art at the Amon Carter Museum, students will practice the art of "showing" the reader the object-describing

it in such a way as to paint it with words. Through writing and sharing activities, students will practice describing objects, people, places and events using vivid, active vocabulary. The labels that accompany works of art will be cited as examples of strong descriptive writing, as well as an example of a practical application of this form of writing.

Teacher Comment: Ann Day, *“Thank you for all your help with Distance Learning. It was wonderful to visit the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth, Texas.*

*“Say It Like You See It,” offered a wonderful connection between art and writing; providing students with the opportunity to “paint with words.”*

**Reminder:**

Staff, when you are requesting programs for particular times and dates, and once we send you the options for availability, please responds back to us ASAP. Some content providers will hold dates and times for us for a short period. If we don't respond back to the content provider in a sufficient amount of time we loose the time slots and have to begin searching for new dates and times. Also if we are asked to cancel a program at the last minute the provider may charge us the full cost of the program. Please keep this in mind when choosing your dates. Make sure to check with your school front offices that there are no other special activities planned on that date and time. Thank you for your cooperation. 😊

**Thank you**

We would like to thank all the teachers who participated in programs this month for your classes.

We also want to thank the building technicians for their assistance in completing the test calls for each program and for their continued support in making the connections a success.

Please continue to email us with your program topic requests and we will do our best to research for programs to enhance your curriculum.

[trsd.distancelearning@timberlane.net](mailto:trsd.distancelearning@timberlane.net)

Betti Percival & Christy Hubley