

January Distance Learning News Letter

Submitted by Christy Hubley and Betti Percival

This month we had the pleasure of speaking with staff at the Pollard School and the Sandown Central School, during one of their scheduled staff meetings, to inform them of our plan to offer Distance Learning opportunities to staff and students at each of the schools. We completed several videoconference test calls and testing of the equipment in each of the schools during this month in preparation for videoconferences that will be taking place during the month of February.

Videconference Collaborations:

- ✚ Nicole Osborne's fifth grade class at Danville connected with their collaboration class in New Richmond Ohio. Nicole had the opportunity to teach a lesson to the students in Ohio, which also included her students to be apart of it as well.

Content Provider Programs:

Danville School:

- ✚ Laurie Newman's second grade class and Becky Racz's second grade class participated in a videoconference session titled, The Gingerbread Boy offered by the Puppetry Center in Georgia. Students witnessed the classic tale of *The Gingerbread Boy* come to life with brilliantly colored shadow puppets. The story is narrated and performed during the first part of the program. Led by the program presenter, students make their very own Gingerbread Boy Shadow Puppet during the second half of the program. They also participated in a learning activity about gingerbread's ingredients and history. This was a great holiday program.



- ✚ Marcia Quigley's fifth grade class participated in a videoconference program titled, Operation Africa presented by the Cleveland Metro Zoo. This program was the first of three segments, which explores such life science topics as an African endangered species, careers in animal care and veterinary science. The distance-learning program is one facet of the overall education offerings relating to the new Sarah Allison Steffee Center for Zoological Medicine, located in the African savanna exhibit. Online activities supplement class content.



TRMS:

- ✚ Sandy O'Neils 8th grade enrichment class participated in a videoconference session titled, Nanotechnology offered by Granite State Distance Learning Network. Thirty three students signed up for this conference. Glen Miller, Associate Director of the Center for High-rate Nanomanufacturing, and Professor of Chemistry and Material Science at UNH presented an introduction/overview video conference presentation of Nanotechnology. The following information was presented:
 - ✚ What is Nanotechnology?
 - ✚ Why is Nanotechnology an important field of study and research?
 - ✚ What new Medical, Electronic, and Homeland Security applications are possible?
 - ✚ How will these products impact our lives?
 - ✚ What are the societal- including environmental - impacts of Nanotechnology?
 - ✚ Are there ethical issues associated with new Nanotechnologies?

- ✚ When will the first Nanotechnology products hit the market?

Sandown North:

- ✚ First grade students in Kathy Low's class, Amy Difeo's class, Maura Brown's class, Kim Dovey's class and Kim Busick's class participated in a program titled, "Critters in The Cold", which was offered by the Ann Arbor Museum in Michigan. Students discovered how animals survive and thrive when it's cold outside. The students participated in a few experiments with insulation and they took a virtual trip to Antarctica to act out the life story of an Emperor Penguin. The students learned how this amazing animal has adapted to living in the coldest place on Earth.



Interesting videoconferencing opportunities:

To access these links, hold down the ***Ctrl*** key on your keyboard and click on the link or copy and paste the link into your browser.

Videoconferencing being used by farmers:

http://www.e-agriculture.org/19.html?tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=468

Videoconferencing being used by physicians:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/12/071217162528.htm>

Videoconference programs offered in April:

The following programs are free and offered by Tandberg in April. If you see a program title that you are interested in, please let us know ASAP as these programs are time sensitive. If you need additional information let us know and we'll send you more information. We will do our best to book the program for you. Please keep in mind if we can't get the free program, we have the opportunity to book directly with the content provider for specific dates and times that will fit your schedule.

Butterflies 04/02/08 11:00AM

April 02, 2008 11:00AM (This program opens for registration on 2/20/2008)

Presented by Center for Puppetry Arts

Each student will construct a Butterfly Marionette while participating in learning activities about the lifecycle of the butterfly, what makes a butterfly an insect, and coloring and camouflage. Video clips and photographs of the different stages in the life of a butterfly are included. This is a great arts and science lesson all in one! [... \(more\)](#)

Tropical Rainforests 04/02/08 11:30AM

April 02, 2008 11:30AM (This program opens for registration on 2/20/2008)

Presented by Camden Children's Garden

Tropical Rainforests are the most diverse ecosystem on Earth. The students will explore the definition of "tropics" and what is a tropical rainforest. They will also explore the layers of the forest and the organisms that live in each of them. This lesson is also available in Spanish. [... \(more\)](#)

Rock and Roll Reactions: Records, Radio and the Birth of Teenage Culture in 1950s America 04/07/08 10:00AM

April 07, 2008 10:00AM (This program opens for registration on 2/25/2008)

Presented by Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum

In the mid-1950s the rise of rock and roll prompted a range of reactions in American society. Teenagers fell in love with the music, listening to it on transistor radios and buying it in record stores on 45rpm records. Among their parents, however, many believed that this music was simply noise that had a negative influence on impressionable teens. No matter your position, it soon became clear that rock and roll was here to stay, bringing with it important changes. Young white and black audiences started to mix as they sought out the latest rock and roll bands. Teenagers openly rejected the values associated with their parents' generation. In this class students will study the

changes that took place in this remarkable era as they watch and listen to vintage performances by Hall of Fame Inductees such as Chuck Berry, Nat King Cole, Elvis Presley, Little Richard, and Hank Williams. [... \(more\)](#)

Global Warming: Good or Bad? 04/08/08 1:00PM

April 08, 2008 1:00PM (This program opens for registration on 2/26/2008)

Presented by LEARNco

Many people are concerned about the possibility that the earth is getting warmer and the effects this change might have on the earth's environment. This program includes demonstrations to help students understand global warming and its possible effects on human beings. [... \(more\)](#)

Tessellation Exploration 04/08/08 11:00AM

April 08, 2008 11:00AM (This program opens for registration on 2/26/2008)

Presented by Cleveland Museum of Art

Treat your class to an art-filled math experience using museum objects and patterned surfaces to explore different math concepts about tessellations and polygons. Students are introduced to a mummy case, an Islamic prayer niche, an Escher print and other works while learning to identify various tessellations using a viewing guide which accompanies the videoconference. [... \(more\)](#)

The Fine Art of Persuasion: Television and Advertising 04/08/08 10:00AM

April 08, 2008 10:00AM (This program opens for registration on 2/26/2008)

Presented by The Paley Center for Media

What is advertising and what are its methods? Through careful analysis, students discover how advertising has developed certain tools and techniques that capture viewer attention to promote a product, a person, or an idea. [... \(more\)](#)

1849: On The California Trail 04/08/08 1:00PM

April 08, 2008 1:00PM (This program opens for registration on 2/26/2008)

Presented by Hank Fincken: A National Theatre Company of One

It 1849, J. Goldsborough Bruff led a company of men from Washington D.C. to California to look for gold. He will assume that the audience is planning a similar trip and will tell of his adventures and question the would-be travelers to make sure they are ready for the difficulties ahead. [... \(more\)](#)

Iwo Jima and the War in the Pacific 04/10/08 10:00AM

April 10, 2008 10:00AM (This program opens for registration on 2/28/2008)

Presented by The National WWII Museum

The National WWII Museum takes your students on a virtual tour of the Museum's Pacific exhibit, concentrating on artifacts, oral histories, and maps. The island-hopping campaign leads them to Iwo Jima, where they learn about the campaign and explore one soldier's background and experiences. [... \(more\)](#)

Titanic: Fortune and Fate 04/14/08 1:00PM

April 14, 2008 1:00PM (This program opens for registration on 3/3/2008)

Presented by The Mariners' Museum

The moving stories of the *Titanic's* passengers and crew are told using visual images and reproduction items. Students will examine the ill-fated ship and the lives of the people on board her, and the events surrounding her 1912 sinking. [... \(more\)](#)

Reduced Gravity: Effects on the Human Body 04/14/08 1:00PM

April 14, 2008 1:00PM (This program opens for registration on 3/3/2008)

Presented by NASA's Digital Learning Network (Johnson Space Center)

Students will learn about the effects of long-term exposure to a reduced gravity environment on the human body? [... \(more\)](#)

Jump into Japan 04/15/08 10:00AM

April 15, 2008 10:00AM (This program opens for registration on 3/4/2008)

Presented by Discovery Center of Springfield

Learn how geography and topography influences population distribution, economics, and the culture of Japan. Through geographic principles we will explore the diversity of the country and the misconceptions of a culture so different from our own. [... \(more\)](#)

Eyes and Optics 04/15/08 10:00AM

April 15, 2008 10:00AM (This program opens for registration on 3/4/2008)

Presented by Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum

Investigate how your eyes work. We will first take a look at and create a series of optical illusions to see how our eyes and brains work together to bring us visual messages from our world. Then students will dissect cow eyeballs to connect the functions they observed with the structures within the eye. [... \(more\)](#)

Meet Eleanor White Dare of Roanoke Island 04/15/08 1:00PM

April 15, 2008 1:00PM (This program opens for registration on 3/4/2008)

Presented by The History Studio

It is 1587. Eleanor White Dare is the daughter of John White, governor of the English colony on Roanoke Island. She is a part of the famous Lost Colony of Roanoke, and mother to Virginia Dare, the first English child to be born in America. Her story is one of hardship, hope, and, in the end, mystery. Meet Dare in the final days before the disappearance of the Roanoke colonists, and form your own hypothesis about what happened to the mysterious Lost Colony. [... \(more\)](#)

Young America 04/16/08 10:00AM

April 16, 2008 10:00AM (This program opens for registration on 3/5/2008)

Presented by Smithsonian American Art Museum

Students trace the transformation of the thirteen colonies into an independent nation. A combination of portraits, landscapes, genre paintings, furniture, and sculpture tells the story of growing national ambitions, territorial expansion, and the beginning of industry. [... \(more\)](#)

Cotton -- Plant of Many Uses 04/16/08 9:30AM

April 16, 2008 9:30AM (This program opens for registration on 3/5/2008)

Presented by Stamford High School

An instructional unit targeted to 3rd - 5th grade students covering the science of cotton plants, the history of the cotton gin and how cotton affected the economics of the South during the Civil War. High School students have done all the research, prepared content and conduct the live presentation themselves. Hands-on activities are provided and interactivity between high school student presenters and elementary school learners is maximized. [... \(more\)](#)

Coral Reefs 04/17/08 11:00AM

April 17, 2008 11:00AM (This program opens for registration on 3/6/2008)

Presented by Mote Marine Laboratory

Why are coral reefs important? Discover the value of coral reefs to wildlife and how important they are to people too. [... \(more\)](#)

Search for Life Beyond Earth 04/21/08 11:00AM

April 21, 2008 11:00AM (This program opens for registration on 3/10/2008)

Presented by New York Hall of Science

Does life exist in the galaxy? What does life need to exist? Explore and investigate how recently discovered clues on our planet given science new understanding about the kinds of life we might find as we look beyond Earth. [... \(more\)](#)

Wolf Tales 04/25/08 1:30PM

April 25, 2008 1:30PM (This program opens for registration on 3/14/2008)

Presented by International Wolf Center

Who's afraid of the "big, bad wolf"? In this interactive program, students explore the influential role that literature plays forming our views and attitudes towards wildlife. We compare and contrast two folk stories in which the wolf is a main character, then compare literary portrayals of wolves with the real thing! All programs feature real-time observations of the International Wolf Center's resident ambassador wolves. [... \(more\)](#)

Up Close and Palaeo 04/25/08 11:00AM

April 25, 2008 11:00AM (This program opens for registration on 3/14/2008)

Presented by Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology (Canada)

Discover the science of palaeontology by interacting with a Museum scientist and educator in this 45-minute videoconferencing program. Students will generate questions based on a provided set of division topics. Our staff will deliver the session using animations, video clips, images and fossils (via a document camera) to enhance the delivery of this curriculum-fit program. [... \(more\)](#)

Meet Eleanor White Dare of Roanoke Island 04/29/08 1:00PM

April 29, 2008 1:00PM (This program opens for registration on 3/18/2008)

Presented by The History Studio

It is 1587. Eleanor White Dare is the daughter of John White, governor of the English colony on Roanoke Island. She is a part of the famous Lost Colony of Roanoke, and mother to Virginia Dare, the first English child to be born in America. Her story is one of hardship, hope, and, in the end, mystery. Meet Dare in the final days before the disappearance of the Roanoke colonists, and form your own hypothesis about what happened to the mysterious Lost Colony. [... \(more\)](#)