

March Distance Learning News Letter

Submitted by Christy Hubley & Betti Percival

During the month of March we had all seven schools participating in at least one videoconference session. It has been one of the busiest months for us. We completed 17 test calls for programs scheduled for March and early April, along with providing tech support and coverage for each of the programs scheduled this month.

Videoconference Collaborations:

Pollard:

- ✚ Ms. Coyle-Quirk's second grade class participated in a video conference session with a connection to Londonderry Middle School. Students at the Londonderry Middle School read stories to Ms Coyle-Quirk's class as a Read across America event. Ms. Coyle-Quirk's class was a great audience, the students were very good listeners, very polite and enjoyed their first videoconference session.

TRMS:

- ✚ Mrs. Sherman's enrichment students participated in a videoconference session by reading stories to Ms. Felders preschool class at Pollard Elementary School. This was a Read across America event within the district. Ms. Felders preschool class was a great audience and enjoyed their first videoconference session.



Content Provider Programs:

Sandown Central:

- ✚ Ms. Riley's fourth grade class participated in a videoconference session with the National Baseball Hall of Fame, located in Cooperstown NY for a program titled, "Before You Say Jackie Robinson- a Civil Rights lesson. We have included the description of this videoconference session from the Baseball Hall of Fame website and the teacher's reflection comment for this program.
Want to motivate your students to learn about segregation and the importance of cultural diversity? Here is a colorful unit, designed for grades four through eight, that illustrates how baseball reflected and led critical social shifts in American history from the Civil War to the modern-day Civil Rights movement. Beginning with the origin of the [Negro leagues](#) to [Jackie Robinson's](#) integration of Major League Baseball in 1947, untold stories of honor, courage, and perseverance are brought to life through interactive multicultural lessons spanning several subject areas.

Teachers Comment: "I think the program went beyond the Jackie Robinson topic and reviewed segregation/discrimination during the time period of 1880-1960 through baseball. The presenter was very well prepared and talked to our students at their level, making them comfortable and reviewing the vocabulary involved with such a topic."

- ✚ Ms. Bourdelais fifth grade class, Mr. Stone's fifth grade class and Ms. Mortenson's fourth grade class participated in a videoconference program titled, "African Masks" provided by the Cleveland Museum of Art located in Cleveland Ohio. During this videoconference session students learn why African artists use animals as points of reference in mask making and how masks are used in

ceremonies. Students compare the differences and similarities between African and American masks in terms of materials, and roles in life and seasonal cycles

Danville:

- ✚ Mrs. Quigley's fifth grade class participated in the last of a three part videoconference series with the Cleveland Metro Park Zoo. The program titled, "Operation Africa", consisted of three sessions, the first session informed the students of endangered species in Africa, and the second session shared with the students what is involved in caring for animals in a zoo and the last session focused on veterinary science.
- ✚ Mrs. Charmanski's first grade class took a virtual field trip to the Cleveland Museum of Art for a program titled, "A is for Apple, and A is for Art, GradesK-1 This highly interactive twenty-five minute lesson introduces kindergartners to three celebrated artists: Renoir, Picasso and Matisse. Using colorful paintings from the CMAs permanent collection, students find apples or other fruit in each painting. They then discover how artists use a variety of colors to convey the apples appearance. After examining a real apple under different lighting conditions students begin to see how light affects the apples form

Family Nights:

Atkinson Academy:

- ✚ We hosted a videoconference family night for students in grades K-2 and their families on March 10th. Since there were a large number of families who were interested and signed up for this event, we reached the maximum number of people that we could accommodate in the videoconference room; therefore we hosted a second family night for grades K-2 on March 12th. We connected live with the St. Louis Zoo in St. Louis Missouri for a program titled, "Zoo Clues", where families solved puzzles to learn more about big cats, birds, and other animals in this interactive class. They also learned about the clues the zoo veterinarians use to keep their animals healthy.
- ✚ We hosted a third videoconference family night for students and their families in grades 3-5 on March 31st. We connected with NASA Glenn Research Center, for a program, titled Humans in Space". Here is NASA's description of this videoconference.

In this videoconference, the presenter will get students thinking about the basics of living in space. Along the way, he will help them develop a concept of space through asking questions and using models, movies and pictures to answer student questions. The presenter will ask questions like the following. First he will ask the question, then listen to student answers, and build on their preconceptions to help them to rethink and extend their ideas to be accurate.

What is outer space? Why is it black? Why isn't it blue? (Show image of earth in space, point out atmosphere, use basketball in a pillowcase analogy)

How do you get there? (Use shuttle model)

How far away is it? (20 questions format, earth analogy of driving for an hour - that's 60 miles away)

How long does it take to get there?

What is it like to live in space? (Reduced gravity's effect on people, movie of water balloons, making and drinking orange juice)

What do you think it is like to come back into gravity? (Who has been sick in bed for a week? What does it feel like when you get up?)

The students and parents asked a lot of great questions and everyone really enjoyed this event.

Distance Learning Workshop:

Danville:

- ✚ We held a Distance Learning workshop for the Elementary Health/Tech-Ed staff. This workshop included information about the videoconference equipment at each of the buildings, troubleshooting basic technical issues, and how to research for educational content offered by content providers.

Professional Development:

Sandown North:

- ✚ Mrs. McLaughlin, librarian, participated in a video conference collaboration arranged by Glen Warren of the McPherson Magnet School in Orange, California. This first video conference session included teachers and librarians from California, Arizona, Kentucky and NH. The goal is to "establish a national community of practice that will support their peers, share best practices, and explore strategies that will raise awareness of the vital role Teacher Librarians play in teaching 21st century skills" This group hopes to continue meeting once a month to discuss such issues as information literacy and cyber safety.

TRHS:

- ✚ Students from Mr. Rugoletti, Mr. Cerniglia and Mr. Edmiston science classes worked with NASA engineers creating a science experiment project. Mr. Rugoletti, Mr. Cerniglia and Mr. Edmiston visited the NASA team where they tested the student's project. The team of teachers hosted a videoconference session with the students at TRHS to discuss and share the results of the testing of their project.

