

February Distance Learning Newsletter Submitted by Christy Hubley & Betti Percival

February was a busy month; we accomplished a lot considering we were only in schools for three weeks prior to February vacation. We completed **9** test calls in preparation for programs and collaborations that were completed during this month and for programs scheduled for March. All seven schools participated in a least one videoconference session this month.

Video Conference Programs:

Sandown Central School:

- Fifth grade students in Katie Gerry, Cathy Riley, Nancy Magee and Stan Stone's classes all participated in a NASA video conference connection for a program titled, "Planet Hopping: Exploring the Solar System with Mathematics" with the NASA Glen Research Center in Ohio. This program had the students use their knowledge and information provided by NASA to solve math problems about traveling to the planets in our Solar System.



Sandown North School:

- Amy Difeo's and Jennifer Hodnett's classes participated in a video conference session with the NASA Glen Research Center in Cleveland Ohio for a program titled, "The Moon".
- Kathy Low's and Maura Brown's first grade class also participated in a video conference session with the NASA Glen Research Center in Cleveland Ohio for a program titled, "The Moon".



Teacher Comment: "Although there were technical difficulties, once it got going the content was excellent. It was very appropriate for our level. It was a great supplement to our unit of study on the moon." (Kathy Low.)

Student quote: "We learned why the moon changes and that it is light on the other side when we see it dark. There are craters all over the moon from things falling on the moon too. It was fun." 1st grade student at Sandown North (Natasha Hubley)

- Justin Bentley-Melle's Enrichment classes participated in a couple of video conference sessions with the Cleveland Metro parks Zoo for a program titled, "Wonderful World of Wolves."

Pollard School:

- Students in Sandy Ward's first grade class and Leslie Laudani's first grade class participated in a video conference with the NASA Glen Research Center in Cleveland Ohio for a program titled, "The Moon".

Teacher Comment: "Many first grade students had a chance in January and February to connect with NASA to learn about the moon. This program used digital animation to demonstrate how the moon and the earth move around each other and the sun. As the moon changed the students discussed the names for the phases of the moon. They learned that even though the moon may be dark on one side it is light on the side that faces the sun. NASA used two students, one for the moon and one for the

earth, to demonstrate how the earth never sees the moon back. The students also watched short clips of astronauts walking on the moon and discussed gravity on the moon. This interactive program helped to enhance their moon unit.” (Christy Hubley)

- Students in Lisa Kennedy and Jessica Winters fifth grade classes also participated in a NASA program titled, “Planet Hopping: Exploring the Solar System with Mathematics” with the Langley Research Center in Virginia.

Atkinson Academy:

- All first grade classes participated in a video conference program titled, “The Moon” with the NASA Research Center in Cleveland Ohio.
- Fifth grade students in Heather Rath, Brian Shawly, Rosemary Targonski and Erin Lozowski’s classes participated in a session with the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory located in California for a program titled, “ Planet Hopping: Exploring the Solar System with Mathematics”.



Danville School:

- During the month of February the Danville Elementary 4th grade classes connected three times with South Central Kansas Education Service Center to learn more about China. The first program **Welcome to China** introduced the Chinese teacher from the Education Service center to our students. She then shared with the students about China and the amount of time it took her to travel from China to the United States. She also shared information about her hometown, Wuhan. The teacher talked about Chinese education, and taught the kids some simple Chinese words and greetings. At the end students had a chance for question and answer.

During session 2 students learned about the **Lunar New Year** through stories and Traditions. Students were introduced to different Chinese foods, the names for the foods and learned how to use chopsticks. The program ended with question and answer time.

The last session 3 helped the classes learn about the **Mid-Autumn festival** and how it is related to the moon and harvests. Students listened to legends and the different ways the Mid-Autumn Festival is celebrated. They also had a chance to learn a Chinese poem and how to make a lantern.

Teacher Feedback: *“Because of the language barrier, it was tough to understand the woman at times. I did like all the useful information that was presented in all three programs. I think that my students learned a lot about the Chinese culture. In the previews they had us prepare Chinese lanterns; however, they were not used in the program. We used a lot of paper to make these lanterns. The songs and Chinese words that we learned were great.” (Meghan Pearson)*

Teacher Feedback: *“The content was interesting and our students enjoyed it. The instructor made it interesting for the students. She was a bit difficult to understand with her heavy accent. We took time to be prepared on each occasion, but some of the activities weren’t done during the videoconference stated in the outline of the program. We were asked to bring scissors and glue, but didn’t make the lanterns. We had taken time to decorate them prior to the program, but didn’t use them, so we had to take additional time to complete the activity. We were also told we were going to use chopsticks and some were sent, but not enough for all three classes. We never*

used them during the program. During the first two programs, there wasn't time given for the kids to ask questions even though there were five minutes still left to the program time. Overall, the information was great and was what we wanted. The presenter was pleasant and enjoyable to listen to. However, we were just disappointed that we took time to prepare for each lesson and the activities weren't done and we had to use additional time to complete them. It would be a great program with a few changes made to it or if there was more time given to them to be able to follow and complete all activities listed. We would like to do this program again and would recommend it to others if a few changes are made to it and if Asia is still part of our social studies curriculum next year." (Donna Richard)

- Students in Charlene Antonakos fifth grade class connected with the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California for a program titled, "Planet Hopping: Exploring the Solar System with Mathematics".
- Third grade students in Dave Ciarla's class participated in a video conference session during their art class with art teacher Jen Rice. They connected to the Philadelphia Museum of Art for a program titled, "African American Art Class".
- Second grade students in Sally DeCost, Kathleen Cox and Nikki DeSantis classes participated in a video conference titled, "Slime Time & States of Matter" with the Ann Arbor Hands-on Museum located in Ann Arbor Michigan. Students explored the three states of matter by making two types of slime.

Teacher Feedback: *"I loved the program. I think they did a great job giving directions and also giving the kids a good amount of time to do the experiment."* (Nikki DeSantis)

Teacher Feedback: *"I liked it! The children seemed to enjoy themselves (motivation), the content directly correlated to our science curriculum and it was very organized. I wish it was a little louder."* (Kathleen Cox)

Teacher Feedback: *"The children were given a nice overview/ review of the 3 states of matter. Having a group that needs to move, I really appreciated the part of the lesson where they moved like solids, liquids, and gasses. (I'll remember that activity in the future!) The children loved making the slime, and learned a lot!"* (Sally DeCost)

- Students in Amanda Allen and Nicole Osborne's fifth grade classes also participated in a NASA program titled, "Planet Hopping: Exploring the Solar System with Mathematics" with the Langley Research Center in Virginia.

TRMS:

- Sue Sherman's seventh grade science classes connected with the Life Science Education Center at Marian College in Indianapolis Indiana for a program titled, "Forensics. **During Forensic Life Science students discussed what** forensics really means. The program exposed students to different lab techniques that are helping solve many mysteries; from anthropologists looking for clues to the past, to entomologists studying insects in order to better understand decomposition of tissue. The program could have been enhanced by more hands on artifacts.

<http://www.lifescienceed.org/index.asp?p=39#behind>

Teacher Comment: *"This program needed to be more interactive. It was too much talking and not enough action."* (Sue Sherman)

- Sue Sherman's seventh grade science classes participated in two separate video conference sessions with the Life Science Education Center at Marian College in Indianapolis Indiana for a program titled, "Behind the Story". **DNA-Behind the Story** is a unique program for the study of genetics. Using fairytales students explored such topics as DNA, Mendelian genetics, and genetic modification. This informative program will leave students with a fresh perspective of the tales of their youth! <http://www.lifescienceed.org/index.asp?p=39#behind> .
- Danielle Latte's sixth grade students from the *6A Diamonds Team* connected with the NASA Johnson Space Center in Cleveland Ohio for a program titled, "Return to Moon Challenge Part 2". The students interacted with a NASA Education Specialist who answered the questions the students had sent to him.

TRHS:

- Jeff Shaw's accelerated sophomore English class learned about Langston Hughes, a significant figure in poetry, drama, and music during this program which explores his sincere portrayal of black life in America as well as his stylistic influence on the literary and performing arts.
***Teacher Comment:** The students really enjoyed the program. The host was knowledgeable and entertaining. The mix of direct instruction with videotaped performances was great. (Jeff Shaw)*

Other Connections:

Conference:

- Christy presented at the 11th Annual Educational Technology Conference in Ohio via distance learning from the Sandown North School. Christy shared with the conference attendee's information on how we are using distance learning in our district.
- Kelly Killen presented a lecture series relating to Professional Learning Communities to staff at all five elementary schools via an MCU connection.
- Christy and I along with John Holland had the opportunity to welcome two gentlemen from Vermont to visit our district to show them how we are using distance learning to enhance our student's curriculum. They were both very impressed with their visit to our school district. They are only in the beginning stages of receiving and setting up their equipment.

Thank you

We would like to continue to thank the tech staff for assisting us with test calls and programs. We also want to thank teachers for their involvement with these programs and for your feedback once a program is completed. Your feedback is very important to us as we will use this information to determine whether or not we will offer this program in the future.