

April Distance Learning News Letter

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During the month of April we completed five video conference test calls along with providing coverage for videoconference collaborations, connections for educational content programs and Professional Development opportunities.

Videoconference Collaborations:

Sandown North:

Cathy Daenz' kindergarten class and Kim Busiek's first grade class participated in video conference collaboration with a first grade class in Hawaii. Using the document camera, Kim's students were able to show the Hawaii children their spring pictures that they created for them. The Hawaii children were surprised to learn that we still had snow, while they were enjoying warmer climate.



Pollard:


Toniann Hamilton's kindergarten class participated in video conference collaboration with their kindergarten friends in Texas. They used the document camera to show off their butterflies, the students sang a butterfly song and they shared a document that they created on the life cycle of a butterfly.


Danville:

Lisa Furman's kindergarten class participated in collaboration with their partner kindergarten classroom in Texas. Both classes made an edible butterfly snack. Using the document camera to demonstrate the creation of this snack, the students took a piece of celery and put cream cheese in the middle, this represented the body. They added a couple of pretzels extending out from the cream cheese on the body which represented its wings. They used carrot sticks for the antennas and raisins for the eyes. The Danville children sang a Caterpillar song, "What do Caterpillars Do- They chew chew chew. The students in Texas presented a play on butterfly migration to the Danville students.

Content Provider Programs:

TRMS:

-  LeeAnne Lock's eighth grade students participated in a videoconference with the World War II Museum in New Orleans, LA.

-  Sandy O'Neill's eighth grade class participated in a video conference session with the LEARN-NCO Company in Tiffin, Ohio. The title of the program was, "Global Warming". The program description: Many people are concerned with the possibility that the earth's atmosphere is getting warmer and what effects this change may have on our environment. This program uses demonstrations and student/instructor interaction to help students understand climate change by exploring the definition, causes, and possible repercussions of global warming in regard to the planet's ecosystems.

- ✚ Maryann Jenne's entire sixth grade team of students participated in two video conference sessions with the Paley Center for Media located in New York, NY for a program titled, "The Fine Art of Persuasion". The program began with a discussion about advertising and more specifically its role in television. The content of the class consists of viewing and analyzing a series of television commercials from various time periods in order to understand the persuasive techniques advertisers use to speak to us. Tools and techniques discussed include humor, suspense, target audience, slogans, jingles, celebrity endorsements, emotional appeal, and the use of music, lighting, and characters.

Danville:

- ✚ Dale Blais and Jen Rice third grade classes participated in a video conference session with the Cleveland Metro Parks Zoo located in Cleveland Ohio for a program titled, "Don't Koala Me! I'll Koala You!"
During this session, students learned the following about Koalas.
 - Characteristics and Adaptations of Koalas.
 - Koalas vs. Bears/Classification
 - Where Koalas Live
 - What Koalas Eat (How that compares to the human diet.)
 - Question and Answer period
- ✚ Kerry George's and Kathy Charmanski's class participated in a video conference session with the Cleveland Museum of Art in Cleveland Ohio. The title of their program was "A is for Apple, A is for Art."
- ✚ Grade 4 students participated in a video conference session with the Hank Fincken National Theatre Company of One located in Indianapolis Indiana for a program titled, "1849 California Trail". Hank Fincken has covered much of The California Trail three times, always carrying the diary of J.G. Bruff. Bruff was a strict leader, which earned him some enemies, but also an artist and a great humanitarian. Only one member of his company died. Bruff has insights about the journey that may relate to our life journey today. He shared these thoughts and some of his drawings in this presentation.

Professional Development:

TRHS:

- ✚ District staff participated in a video conference session with Granite State Distance Learning Network for a program titled, "Promoting Membership, Participation, and Learning for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders in the General Education Classroom".
Description of the program:
Presuming students' competence, collaborative teaming, and creative instruction and supports are the keys to successful inclusion of students with autism spectrum disorders. This workshop will define and illustrate these best practices and provide numerous examples of elementary, middle, and high school students.
- ✚ **Sandown North & Atkinson Academy:**
Howard Muscott and Leigh Rohde, two NH RESPONDS staff members, presented a "*Professional Development for Excellence in Education*" presentation to staff at Sandown North Elementary School and Atkinson Academy.

DISTANCE LEARNING PLANNING:

We know it may seem too soon to start planning for next year but we have learned that many of the providers of Distance Learning Programs book during June and throughout the summer for the following school year. In order for us to book programs for the fall we need to begin in June. If you have a specific topic you will be teaching and would like a video conference program or would like to collaborate with another class next year please let us know. We will email the information about the programs or collaborations we find. Please send us your name, school name, grade level, topic and time of year you would like the program.

Examples: Colonial America-All of Grade 5 -Danville Elementary Fall
Mexico-All of 6th Grade-Middle School-Time of year

Examples of additional ways that videoconferencing is being used outside the educational realm:

[http://www.emsresponder.com/web/online/Top-EMS-News/Tucson-to-Launch-Ambulance-to-Hospital-Video-Conferencing/1\\$5561](http://www.emsresponder.com/web/online/Top-EMS-News/Tucson-to-Launch-Ambulance-to-Hospital-Video-Conferencing/1$5561) (Ambulance)

<http://www.seacoastonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070425/NEWS/704250339/-1/NEWS01> (Court room)

http://www.hablamosjuntos.org/newsletters/2006/October/pdf/VMI_CHCF_Article_2006.pdf (Hospital)

Videoconferencing being used by farmers:

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

Videoconferencing being used by physicians:

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