

# April Distance Learning Newsletter

Submitted by Christy Hubley & Betti Percival

During the month of April we connected with several content providers providing our students and staff with **10** video conferencing programs and collaborations. We offered **3** programs for Professional Development for district staff. We also completed **16** test calls during the month.

## Video Conference Programs:

### Danville School:

- First grade students in Lisa Furman's class connected with their kindergarten friends in Dallas Texas for a collaboration session. Lisa's students shared facts about the NH state tree – white birch, state flower – purple lilac, and the maple tree – maple syrup. The Texas kindergarten students sang a poem about Texas to Lisa's children. They also shared information about the pecan tree, the blue bonnet flowers and friendship with Lisa's class. The students in Lisa's class made a class book about the maple tree and the sap – syrup process and then mailed their book, along with some real syrup, a birch tree (they painted) and some lilacs (they made with tissue paper) to their Texas friends.
- Laurie Newman's afternoon kindergarten class connected with seventh grade students at Londonderry Middle School. Seventh grade students performed a skit based on a well known fairy tale.
- Nikki DeSantis second grade students also connected with Londonderry Middle School. Seventh grade students performed a couple of skits based on fairy tales.  
Teacher Comment: *"It was put on by students at Londonderry Middle School and it was a free program. I liked that the kids were completely in charge of the program; however I was disappointed that they did not write the plays themselves as I had hoped. They took care of the connection and all of that went very well. My class did enjoy it. It was very timely and appropriate for our grade level and integrated with the curriculum very nicely."*
- Lisa Furman's and Kathy Charmanski's first grade classes participated in a video conference session with the Life Science Education Center in Indianapolis Indiana for a program titled, "If I Were a Goldfish".  
Program Description from the Life Science Education Center: Living creatures are found in almost every corner of the Earth, from the deepest oceans to the hottest deserts. Find out how each has adapted to survive the unique environment in which it is found.



### Pollard School:

- Dolores Coyle-Quirks fifth grade class connected with the NASA Langley Research Center in Cleveland Ohio for a program titled, "Planet Hopping: Exploring the Solar System with Mathematics."  
Teacher comment: *"The Kids enjoyed, it was good to get them moving and incorporate math-but felt could have spent more time on the planet info."*



- Elizabeth Felder’s preschool class, Cheryl King’s preschool class and Cathleen Foss’s preschool class participated in a musical videoconference program Titled, “Singing with Shane”. The classes enjoyed singing preschool songs with favorite characters.
- Enrichment day event; Some students participated in a video conference with the Ocean Institute located in Dana Port, California for a program titled, Amazing Octopus as part of an Enrichment session.  
Program Description: “What underwater creature can change its color and texture, eat with a beak, and disappear in a cloud of ink? Find out as students develop their skills in observation and comparison exploring the amazing anatomy and adaptations of octopus and squid.

### Sandown Central:

- Stan Stones fifth grade class also connected with Mount Washington Observatory. Students learned facts about the observatory and had a chance to connect with staff at the summit of Mount Washington.

### Sandown North:

- First grade students in Kim Busiek, Maura Brown, Kathy Low, Amy Difeo and Jennifer Hodnett’s classes also participated in a video conference session with the Life Science Education Center in Indianapolis Indiana for a program titled, “If I Were a Goldfish”.

Teacher Comment: “*The program was very well planned and related well to the first grade curriculum. The presenter was very willing to answer student questions and worked well with the children. Students were engaged and had many opportunities to participate.*”

### Atkinson Academy:

- Fifth grade students in Heather Buswell-Rath, Brian Shawley, Rosemary Targonski and Erin Lozowski’s classes were very fortunate to be involved in a special video conference session along with a ribbon cutting ceremony for a Distance Learning Kickoff event with the Mount Washington Observatory on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

The program consisted of the following:

- A welcome message and an overview of Mount Washington Observatory Distance Learning program by Executive Director Scot Henley.
- A message and remarks by U.S. Congressman Paul Hodes.
- A message and remarks by Matt Leahy of U.S. Senator Judd Gregg’s office.
- A ribbon cutting with Congressman Hodes, Matt Leahy and Atkinson Academy fifth grade students.
- A live, interactive video conference session with meteorologist Stacey Kawecky at the Mount Washington Observatory.
- Presentation of Thank you gifts by Mount Washington Observatory and Atkinson Academy.



Description for Mount Washington Observatory’s Distance Learning Program: The tallest point in the northern United States and strategically located at the convergence of three major storm tracks, the summit of Mount Washington is battered year-round by some of the most extreme conditions on the planet. Nowhere else on Earth is

found such a consistent combination of sub-zero temperatures, hurricane-force winds, freezing fog and driving snow.

**Professional Development:** (District Staff)

- A video conference connection with the NASA Langley Research Center for a program titled, “Modeling Matters: What is Inquiry?” was offered to district staff for a Professional Development opportunity on April 8<sup>th</sup> at Atkinson Academy.  
Program Description: Exploratorium Institute for Inquiry (1996) developed the following definition: “Inquiry is an approach to learning that involves a process of exploring the natural or material world that leads to asking questions and making discoveries in the search for new understandings.” Inquiry learning is a powerful tool to instruct students in any content area. Part 1 of this 4 part professional development series highlights the inquiry process; the educational philosophies that helped define it, and clears up commonly held misconceptions of this teaching theory. Participants will be engaged through group discussion, activities, and self-evaluation as they begin the road of their transformation from the traditional classroom to the inquiry-based classroom.
- District staff participated in one of a three series video conference session with Dr. Dennis Embry for a Professional Development workshop titled, “The Good Behavior Game” at Atkinson and Danville.  
Description of workshop: *These simple classroom strategies can greatly improve learning, reduce classroom disruptions, and teach valuable self regulations skills to youth that can help prevent risky behaviors over the course of their lifetime. The Strategies can nicely compliment of our existing PBIS or RTI interventions, with concrete universal interventions. Dennis Embry will teach a series of three 90 min Distance Learning workshops to fully orient staff to the Good Behavior Game (GBG).*
- District staff participated in a video conference session at the Danville School for a Program titled, “The Emerging Technology Game presented by Paul Hieronymus from the North 2H-Northern Ohio Research & Training Hub located in Elyria, OH.  
Program Description: *The Emerging Technology Game is a fun and highly interactive look at some of the cutting edge technologies making their push into our classrooms. In this game show format; educators will be competing in an exciting game of Hollywood Squares with some of the internet’s top characters as they take a closer look at different technologies. Each topic will include an overview of the technology its applications and uses for multiple grade levels and subject matters.*

Thank you tech staff and teachers for your assistance and interest.