

May/June Distance Learning Newsletter

Submitted by Christy Hubley & Betti Percival

During the months of May and June we completed 17 test calls, along with providing coverage for videoconference collaborations, and connections for educational content programs. This is the last distance learning newsletter for the school year. We want to thank everyone who took an interest and participated in video conference programs this year. We will continue working during the summer for preparation for September and hope to offer more opportunities with connections to court rooms, hospitals and additional schools for collaborations.

Video Conference Collaborations:

Each of the seven schools in the district participated in a collaboration:

Sandown North:

- ✚ Cathy Daenz kindergarten class participated in their fourth and last video conference session with their partner school in Dallas Texas. They completed their project on Butterfly Migration.
- ✚ Cathy Daenz kindergarten class and Kim Busiek's first grade class connected with a first grade class in Hawaii.

TRMS:

- ✚ Patty Cole's sixth grade Spanish class collaborated with Melissa Tunis sixth grade Spanish class at the South Port Academy located in Indianapolis, IN. The students began their session with a brief "meet and greet" speaking in English since this was their first connection. The second part of the session, students from each school introduced themselves speaking in Spanish. The third part of the session included a game, where Ms. Cole mentioned a word or phrase in English and the students from both schools had to give the answer in Spanish. The first student to respond with the correct answer received a point for their school. The students really enjoyed this session, they were very interested in each other's schools and they learned a lot about each other in a short period of time. The students at both schools wanted to connect again, however the last day of school for students at South Port was the end of May.

Sandown Central/Sandown North:

- ✚ Classes from grade 3 and grade 4 at Sandown North and Sandown Central participated in a video conference "Move-Up Day" on Friday May 23, 2008. The third graders got a chance to ask the fourth grade students questions about Sandown Central School and what was expected of them in grade 4.

Danville School, Atkinson Academy, Sandown Central School and Pollard School:

- ✚ Fifth grade students from each of the elementary schools participated in a "Move-Up Day" video conference collaboration with the sixth grade students at the Middle School. Fifth grade students had an opportunity to ask the sixth grade students questions about the Middle School prior to their field trip to the Middle School in June. Questions ranged from topics regarding classes, team assignments, lunch, homework, lockers, friends and sports.

Pollard/Sandown North:

- ✚ Mady Allen's second grade class at Sandown North and Dolores Coyle Quirk's second grade class at Pollard participated in a video conference collaboration which included the student's reflections of their second grade school year. Students shared information about their class and their school.

TRHS:

- ✚ Students in David Morissette's History class at Berlin High School in Berlin, New Hampshire, viewed the Timberlane documentary production "Echoes of the Past: The 2007 Lumberjack Festival and Competition – Berlin, New Hampshire" as a part of his Berlin History Class. Today, several teachers and students from Timberlane participated in a video conference with Mr. Morissette's class to talk about the documentary, its history, how it was made, and possible documentary collaborations for next year. The conference lasted about a half hour and went very well with plans being made to do more for the next school year. (Submitted by Scott Strainge)

Video Conference Content programs:

TRMS:

- ✚ Sandy O'Neill's eighth grade class participated in a video conference session titled, "Solar Energy" with NASA. Program description: Travel through time as we see how solar energy was used in the past, how it is used today, and how it can be used in the future. Learn about the various forms of energy and how they are being used by NASA in space and here on Earth. See first hand how solar cells work and how they are used to power the International Space Station and the rovers on Mars. All the energy stored in Earth's reserves of coal, oil, and natural gas is matched by the energy from just 20 days of sunshine. This free and inexhaustible resource is already being harnessed by the solar arrays to power the International Space Station. Learn how solar energy will impact our future in space and here on Earth.
- ✚ LeeAnne Locke's eighth grade class participated in a video conference session titled, "Civil War Spies" with the Early Works Museum Complex in Huntsville Alabama. UNIT OBJECTIVES for this program:
 - To develop an understanding of espionage and the impact on the Civil War
 - To develop an understanding of how women served their country during the Civil War
 - To explore the impact of the Civil War on the social, economic, and political life in the United States
 - To develop an understanding of how private citizens influenced the events of the war
 - To enhance literacy by incorporating vocabulary and literature from the 1860's

Danville:

- ✚ Jen Bordis and Linda Braffitt' first grade classes participated in a video conference session titled, "A is for Apple" with the Cleveland Museum of Art. This video conference session complimented their lessons taught in their art class by art teacher Rebecca Garone.
- ✚ Students at Danville participated in three separate video conference sessions with the Akron Zoo located in Ohio as part of their Enrichment Day. The first session was titled, "Living Things". The second session was titled, "How We Grow". The third session was about "Endangered Species". Students also had the opportunity to connect with the Alaska Sea Life Center in Alaska for a program titled, "Eat or Be Eaten" for their Enrichment Day activities.

Pollard:

- ✚ Lisa Kennedy's class will participate in a video conference session titled, Young America with the Smithsonian Museum on June 19th.

Sandown Central:

- ✚ Cathy Riley's fifth grade will also participate in the Young America video conference with the Smithsonian on June 19th.

Workshops:

- ✚ Christy and Betti were presenters at a Distance Learning workshop that was held at SERESC on May 7th.

We hope you have a fun and restful summer vacation. During the summer if you think of an idea for a distance learning program or a school that you would like to collaborate with in September, please e-mail us and we would be happy to set something up for you. Many providers are also booking for next year.