



September & October Distance Learning Newsletter Submitted by Christy Hublely & Betti Percival



September:

Welcome back, we are looking forward to providing to the administration, staff, students, families and community members another exciting year for many new and exciting video conference opportunities.

September is a busy month for us as we begin to organize, plan and provide testing for programs being offered in the months ahead. We will continue do our best to work with your schedules when we need to schedule and provide test calls for all booked programs that have been requested.

During the month of September we completed ***16 test calls*** for the few programs that were offered in September and for the programs that were offered in October.

We had the pleasure of speaking with staff members during staff meetings that took place in September and October at all of the schools. We informed staff members of new programs that are being offered by new content providers, shared requests from teachers who wish to collaborate with other teachers and classrooms across the country, and spoke about the procedure for requesting a video conference program to support grade level curriculum.

Video Conference Programs and Collaborations:

- Lisa Furman, a first grade teacher at Danville collaborated with Patty Booth, a kindergarten teacher in Dallas Texas to plan for monthly videoconference collaboration sessions between their classes for this year. This is the second year that these two teachers have decided to continue their yearlong collaboration efforts.
- Fifth grade students in Heather Rath's class, Brian Shawley's class, Rosemary Targonski's class and Erin Lozowski's class at Atkinson Academy connected with the President Benjamin Harrison Home, located in Indianapolis, IN for a video conference titled, "The Constitution and You". The students learned about President Benjamin Harrison and his family. After that the presenter and the students discussed the differences between The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Students learned why we live in a Democratic Republic. At that point the students broke into three groups and began role-playing to learn the importance of voting. During the process, students discussed issues and volunteers spoke in front of the class about the issues their group discussed. Then every student had a chance to vote for the candidates.
- Cathy Riley's fifth grade class at Sandown Central participated in a video conference session titled, "Meet Anne Burras of Jamestown" with the History Studio located in Williamsburg Virginia. **Program Description:** It is 1609. Anne Burras is one of the two first Englishwomen to arrive at Jamestown. She is the servant to Mistress Forrest, wife of one

of the original settlers there. As the only single Englishwoman in the Virginia colony, she has a unique perspective on the Jamestown experience. Discuss with Anne the Atlantic crossing of 1608, the conditions she found at Jamestown, and her interactions with the native people of Virginia.

- Nicole Osborne's fifth grade class at Danville and Jessica Winters fifth grade class at Pollard connected with the Ward Melville Heritage Organization and the National Grid Foundation in New York. This educational program was made possible through a grant from the **National Grid Foundation** and it was offered to our schools, through an invitation, free of charge. The title of the program was "Explorers of the Extreme".

The goal for this program was to give students the opportunity to learn about these worldwide expeditions, explore extreme environments and to compare and contrast habitats. Each of these presentations enabled students to examine and explore an environment that may be unknown to them and that would otherwise be unavailable. It was expected that the students would gain an awareness of the importance of ecological preservation through their involvement in this educational program.

The Explorer who spoke with Nicole's students was Dr. John Loret.

The Explorer who spoke with Jessica's class was Mr. Richard Wiese, an explorer to Mt. Kilimanjaro. Students had a chance to meet with Mr. Wiese and ask him questions about his adventures. He shared pictures of his adventures and explained how exploring helps the world discover many new things. Examples: undiscovered creatures or plants. He also had trivia facts for each of the schools that were connected and why he enjoyed their area of the world.



(New this year!) Collaboration and Program Feedback Forms:

✓ If you are participating in a collaboration, you will be sent a form to complete requesting what equipment you plan to use during your presentation. Example: If you plan to use the document camera to display items, show a DVD, show a VHS tape or Power Point please check the appropriate boxes. This information will be included on the test form document to make sure all the equipment requested will be setup prior to your collaboration session.

✓ Once you have completed a program or collaboration, you will be sent via e-mail a feedback form, please take a few minutes to provide us your feedback regarding your program or collaboration. We would like to include your comments in the newsletters for others to consider or not to consider. This will also help us determine whether or not we book that program again.

✓ You may contact both of us via the new e-mail address which is;

TRSD.distancelearning@timberlane.net

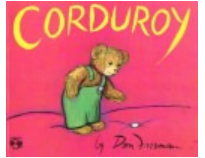
October:

During the month of October again we completed **16 test calls** for the programs that we offered in October and for programs and collaborations scheduled for November.

We were grateful and appreciated the opportunity to speak with the Professional Development committee to discuss the possibility of offering Professional Development Video Conference opportunities to district staff.

Collaborations:

- Nikki DeSantis' second grade class at Danville participated in the 3rd Annual "Louisiana Read for the Record Event" Last year more than 9,000 students participated in Louisiana's Jumpstart Read for the Record Event, This year the goal was to break the record for the number of children being read the same book in a single day on October 2nd. Book readings were offered in Spanish, French, German and Russian. Louisiana High school and Middle School students read to students across America. We were very fortunate to have a student from the McKinley Middle School located in Louisiana read the book "Corduroy" to Nikki DeSantis second grade class. Nikki's class wanted to be part of the collaboration because they were reading a class book with a main character that was trying to break a record.
- Lisa Furman's first grade class at Danville participated in a video conference session with a kindergarten class in Texas. Patty Booth's kindergarten class showed the Danville students a slide show that included the student's favorite things about Kindergarten. This slide show included photos of their class pet, a guinea pig named "Hot Chocolate", photos of their painting center, their playground, a computer lab, some photos of their field trips, a butterfly house and their 32' python snake of course made out of construction paper rings. Lisa's students shared a friendship song and using the document camera displayed their class bear that travels home with the students each week.
- Cathy Daenz kindergarten class at the Sandown North School participated in a video conference connection with Cheryl Terrell's kindergarten class from Texas. These two teachers have also continued with their collaborations from last year. Students shared pictures and got to know each other with their first connection.



Content Provider Programs:

- Mrs. Robichaud's and Mrs. Winter's fifth grade classes at the Pollard School connected with the Conner Prairie Museum in Ohio. This video conference is done once a year when Native American tribe members visit the museum to share about their tribe's culture and history. The presenters shared about their clothing, where they were from and where the tribes were moved to by the American government. The students learned how to say hello, thank you and your welcome in the Native American tongue. Students also had a chance to listen to songs sung by two of the presenters. The students learned that there is no music written down and that tribe members learn how to play and sing the songs by attending the tribal parties.
- Mrs. Coyle-Quirk's class at Pollard School connected to the Mariners Museum located in Virginia for a program titled, "Age of the Explorers". The students went on a journey through time. The Museum teachers discussed the economic and cultural

life of the Old World. Students learned about important explorers and what they brought back from their explorations. While students were introduced to the spices of the time they had a chance to examine these spices up close with samples that the museum sent to us. Students learned that at one time in history people could pay their taxes with pepper because it was as valuable as gold. The students shared the knowledge they had about explorers and had their questions answered by the museum expert.

- Mrs. Robichaud's class, Ms. Winters class, Mrs. Kennedy's class and Ms. Tardiff's classes were also going to be participating in the same program; however their program has been postponed to November 7th.

Other Video conference sessions:

- Kelly Killen, Director of Elementary Education presented a workshop to district staff connecting via an MCU videoconference connection with the Pollard School, Danville School and the Middle School.
- Family Night Event: On October 28th and 29th, we held our first family nights at Sandown North. We connected with Steve Biles from the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory located in Pasadena, California. Students and parents learned about humans in space and some of the problems they face while they are in space. Steve did several experiments with the group and shared future space travel vehicles and types of habitats they hope to try on the moon. Click on the link provided to view a story submitted by the Eagle Tribune regarding this event.



http://www.eagletribune.com/punewsnh/local_story_304011247.html

Thank you

- We would like to thank all district technicians for their assistance in helping us complete test calls and being available during programs as we have been busy covering test calls and programs that were scheduled back to back through out the district.
- We also want to thank the staff for switching lab times and dates to accommodate scheduled programs. We really appreciate it.