



November Distance Learning Newsletter

Submitted by Christy Hubley & Betti Percival

During the month of November, **14** test calls were completed in preparation for programs that were completed during this month and scheduled in the months ahead. We want to thank all the technicians who have assisted us with test calls and connections.

Christy and I visited each school to finish setting up video conferencing equipment and checking to make sure the equipment is working properly at each school.

Christy met with staff in the Language Arts department and the staff in the Art department at the high school to inform them of the distance learning opportunities that are available for them and their students. Christy presented a distance learning workshop for a few high school staff members demonstrating to them how the equipment is used and she showed them how to search for content programs.

Collaborations:



Sandown Schools:

✚ Every year, students at Sandown North are read 10 different Ladybug award nominated books from 10 people in the school community. The students at Sandown Central were disappointed that they would no longer be participating in Ladybug as they are only allowed to vote through 3rd grade. In an effort to include the students at SC, several readers from each 4th grade class read to the students at Sandown North via a video conferencing session.

Teacher Comment: *“This was a GREAT collaboration between Sandown North and Sandown Central schools. The students at Sandown Central were so excited to be able to be a part of Ladybug book award (it typically ends at 3rd grade) and the students at Sandown North were excited to hear a book in this format. I thought it was a great use of the technology. I also heard lots of positive feedback from the staff that participated. I really appreciate Christy’s organization and coordination of the students at Central.” (Laura Mclaughlin)*

[Click here to read information regarding this connection that was published in the Tri-Town News.](#)

Danville School:

✚ Lisa Furman’s first grade class connected with Patty Booths kindergarten class in Texas. Lisa Furman’s children began the collaboration by singing a song about black bears, porcupines, gray squirrels and the common loon. The theme of the song was from the book titled, “Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See?” The students were then placed in four groups, the Black Bears, Gray Squirrels, Porcupines and the Loon group and each student shared a fact about their animal. Patty Booth’s students were in groups of three, each student presented a clue about an animal “they were thinking of”. Lisa Furman’s students had to guess the correct animal with the three clues that were given to them. Through this “guessing” game they learned facts about Bats, A Mocking Bird, an Armadillo and the Texas Longhorn from their Texas friends.

Programs provided by Content Providers:

Pollard School:

✚ Jo-Ann Robichaud’s class and Julie Tardif’s fifth grade classes connected with the NASA Langley Research Center in Virginia for a program titled, Planet Hopping;

Exploring the solar system with mathematics. Program Description: How high can you jump on Mars? Which planet was discovered in the twentieth century? In this highly interactive session students use mathematics to explore and learn characteristics of planets in our solar system.

Teacher Comment: *The program was great. The information related to our curriculum and the kids enjoyed it!* (Jo-Ann Robichaud)



- ✚ Elizabeth LaRosa's kindergarten class and Elizabeth Felder's preschool class connected with the Marnier's Museum for a program titled, "Sailing into Thanksgiving".

Program Description: Students learned what it was like for the Pilgrims to leave England and sail on the Mayflower ship for the New World. They learned about the Pilgrims and their life in America, and what inspired the Pilgrims to celebrate the first Thanksgiving.



Danville:

- ✚ Donna Richard's class, Jen Robinson's class and Meghan Pearson's fourth grade class participated in three separate video conference sessions with the Bronx Zoo for a program titled, "Food Webs".

Program Description: Students learned that each individual species needs energy for survival. Students learned about the role of producers, consumers, herbivores, carnivores and omnivores. These skills were reinforced through a game when they created an actual food web made from a ball of yarn.

Teacher Comment: *We loved it! It was a nice combination of talking, questions and activities (games). The presenter was excellent. She was knowledgeable and spoke in a way that the students could understand. My students were interested and on task.* (Donna Richard)

- ✚ Dave Ciarla's, Jen Perreault's, Jen Bordis', and Dale Blais' third grade classes participated in a video conference session with the Marnier's Museum in Virginia for a program titled, "Riding in a Log Canoe". Students saw artifacts and gallery exhibits, to help them learn about the world of the Powhatans. Students discussed their methods of travel, trade, hunting, and fishing, and learned about the daily lives of men, women, and children in Powhatan society.

Sandown North School:

- ✚ Linda Janvrin's, Sandy McKeen's, Lisa Palidino's and Jessica Skelton's third grade classes also participated in a video conference session with the Mariner's Museum for the program titled, "Riding in a Log Canoe". Teacher comment: *"This distance learning presentation was very good. I found it informative and the children were really engaged. It was nice for the children to connect what they previously learned about Native Americans with the information presented. The presenter was wonderful and was age-appropriate. I would definitely do this again."* (Jessica Skelton)

- ✚ Maura Brown's class and Kathy Low's first grade classes connected with the Mariner's Museum for a program titled, "Sailing into Thanksgiving". Teacher Comment: The program was good considering the children had been sitting for two hours prior at an off site evacuation it still kept their attention. The song and movement piece at the end was great. Maybe doing movement earlier would have been

helpful to provide the children a movement break. She was cheery, knowledgeable and excited about her work. (Kathy Low)

Sandown Central School:

- ✚ Students in Stan Stone's, Nancy Magee's, Cathy Riley's and Katie Gerry's fifth grade classes participated in a video conference program with the Muskingum Valley Educational Service Center located in Ohio for a program titled, "Coming to America".

Teacher Comments: 1. *"I did enjoy the topic as it was timely but it was so simplistic it was really a review or introduction to basic material instead of exposing the student to deeper knowledge and understanding."* (Cathy Riley)

2. *My students liked the program. Some parts were a little slow, but I heard no complaints when I got back, and most seemed to like the program. It was good for me also, in that I can watch another educator present a 'class' that is presented to schools all over the states and see how well they do.* (Stan Stone)

- ✚ Nicole Bailey's class and Kami Douglas fourth grade class connected with the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium for a program titled, "Circle of Life."

Teacher Comment: *"The children were engaged the entire time with the age appropriate activities which were well structured and easily planned. The children were thrilled with the pictorial and video collections of the creatures featured in the food web activity. We all thoroughly enjoyed and learned a lot from this activity and want to do it again!"* (Kami Douglas)

Atkinson Academy:

- ✚ Nicole Mone's and Erin Camire's morning and afternoon kindergarten classes participated in a video conference session with the Mariner's Museum for a program titled, "Sailing into Thanksgiving."

Teacher Comment: *"I thought the content was informative and appropriate. I thought it was a long lecture (40minutes) the kids could have used a break in between.* (Mrs. Camire)

TRMS:

- ✚ One of Tereza Monterio's Spanish classes participated in a video conference session titled, "Mexican Fiesta- Day of the Dead".

Teacher Comment: *This experience was extremely worthwhile. Its content and presentation reached various learning styles. The students were actively engaged throughout. The presenter built on students' previous knowledge, so that they were able to make some valuable connections. I learned some new information, which I will be able to incorporate into future lessons.*
(Tereza Monterio)

TRSD Administration:

SAU:

- ✚ Kelli Killen, Director of Elementary Education, presented a second workshop titled, "Professional Learning Communities" to elementary staff during a Professional

Development Day. The video conference session included all five elementary schools.

- ✚ Chuck Coker, Director of Secondary Education, connected via a video conference with SERESC for an administration meeting. Chuck has provided us with his thoughts regarding this video conference session. *“The video link to SERESC provided a unique opportunity for several district administrators to hear first hand without leaving the district the information the Commissioner had for superintendents. Prior to the return of Timberlane’s Superintendent, Richard LaSalle, several of us were able to gather our thoughts around what was heard. This allowed us to actively engage in conversations about what actions the District needed to pursue based on the Commissioner’s comments. Even one building administrator was able to hear directly some of the conversations at the meeting which allowed her to be prepared for future events or decisions. Video conferencing is an excellent way to be a part of different types of professional development yet still be available in the District if needed. Already I have seen our students, teachers and administrators be a part of conversations from as far away as Hawai’i. The possibilities are unlimited especially in these days of tighter budgets.*

Thank you

We would like to give a huge thank you to our teachers for answering all our emails and being flexible with your schedules. We appreciate the time it takes to respond to our emails, filling out feedback forms and collaboration forms quickly.

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

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