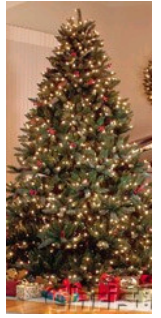


# December Distance Learning Newsletter

*Submitted by Christy Hubley & Betti Percival*



The month of December has certainly proven to be a snowy month with an early dismissal, a delayed opening and two snow days. During this month we were presented with a challenge to complete already booked videoconference test calls, scheduled programs and reschedule programs that were cancelled due to the snow days. In the event of snow days and or delayed school openings we need to contact the content providers to cancel our programs, and it is at this time that we try to reschedule all video conference programs which often depend on the availability of the content provider's schedule.

## Video Conference Collaborations:

**TRMS:** Gena Thissell's team of sixth grade students and staff collaborated with the Mecatina School in La Tabatiere, which is located in northern Canada for Social Studies video conference collaboration. Unfortunately, due to the time zone difference and the school day hours for each of the schools, the two sessions were short and not all the TRMS students' questions could be asked. The students were surprised to learn that the student population in the Mecatina school district was approximately 45 students from K-12. Their classroom consisted of ten students which were in grades 4, 5, and 6. Students didn't take buses to school however they rode snowmobiles to school. The students were surprised at some of the similar interests that they shared from sports, music, to playing musical instruments.

**Sandown North:** Cathy Daenz afternoon kindergarten class collaborated with a first grade class in Hawaii. Cathy's class presented a slide show to the Hawaii students displaying photos of their classroom, their high school buddies who were helping them with a writing project, their playground, and recent photos of the snowstorms. The students in Hawaii got a chance to see some snow when the camera was focused outside and also focused on a table where some snow was brought in and a small snowman was created. High school students, who were visiting and helping the kindergarten students in the classroom with a writing project, attended the videoconference and helped the kindergarten children share their project with the Hawaii students.



**Danville:** Lisa Furman's kindergarten class collaborated for a second videoconference session with their partner kindergarten class at St. John's Episcopal School in Dallas, Texas. The students at both schools began the videoconference session by greeting each other and singing Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer song together. Both classes participated in the reindeer hokey pokey dance together. Lisa showed a slideshow of photos of the recent snowstorms. Lisa's class and the students in Texas made a Reindeer ornament together. Using the document camera, Lisa was able to show



her students and the Texas students what they needed to do by placing the materials on the document camera one piece at a time until the ornament was complete. All the students were proud to show off their new reindeer ornament. This was truly an interactive videoconference enjoyed by both schools. Their next videoconference is scheduled for February for a Read across America session with the possibility of a visit from the Cat in the Hat.

### **Video Conference Programs provided by Content Providers:**

- ✚ Milwaukee Museum presented a program titled, “Christmas Tree Ship Story Time” to Kathy Low’s first grade class and Maura Brown’s second grade class at Sandown North. The student’s listened to the reading of Jeanette Winters' book, "The Christmas Tree Ship." Each class made a Christmas tree ornament to help remind them how to retell the Christmas story. Amy Difeo’s class was scheduled on December 20<sup>th</sup>, which was a snow day, so it could not be rescheduled.



- ✚ Milwaukee Museum presented a program titled, “Christmas Tree Ship Series: The Art of Storytelling” to Amanda Allen’s and Marcia Quigley’s fifth grade class and Donna Richard’s fourth grade class at Danville. The students heard the story of the famous "Christmas Tree Ship" through song in this program by singer, songwriter, and storyteller, Lee Murdock. Participants then became the storyteller through a windowpane storyboard of their own! A story telling videoconference session for Nicole Osborne’s class was scheduled on December 20<sup>th</sup> which was a snow day, so it couldn’t be rescheduled.

- ✚ The Discovery Center of Springfield in Missouri presented a program, “Chop Stick China” to Charlene Antonakos, Jen Pelletier and Donna Richards, 4th grade classes at Danville School. Geographically China is smaller than the United States but has nearly 5 times our population. Understanding China's global influence on our world through history, art, language, and politics is becoming vital to our culture in the United States.



- ✚ The Seacoast Science Center presented to Sue Sherman’s 7<sup>th</sup> grade class at the Middle school a program titled, “Horseshoe Crabs”. The horseshoe crab is a living "fossil"—it has not changed in over 200 million years! In this program students learned that this fascinating creature is not a crab, has blood, and is used in medical research. Students saw images of horseshoe crabs mating, eggs and newly hatched young.



- ✚ The St Louis Zoo presented a program titled, “Penguins and Puffins” to Toniann Hamilton’s kindergarten class at Pollard School. While penguins and puffins are excellent swimmers, most penguins can dive deeper and stay underwater longer than puffins. Penguins are flightless. Puffins may not be the world's greatest divers or fliers, but they can do both fairly well. On land puffins can walk nimbly on their toes. Taking flight is a bit of a trick, however, and they may use a running start or a dive from the cliffs in order to become airborne.



- ✚ ID Solutions located in Indianapolis Zoo in Indiana presented a program titled, “A Visit with St. Nicholas” to Linda Wright’s morning and afternoon kindergarten classes at Sandown North, Cathy Daenz afternoon kindergarten class at Sandown North School and Nikki DeSantis second grade class at Danville School.



- ✚ NASA presented a program to a high school class

### **Up Coming Events for January:**

- ✚ We look forward to meeting with staff at the Pollard School staff meeting and the Sandown Central staff meeting in January to inform them of distance learning opportunities available this year.
- ✚ We are looking forward to assisting Toni Ann Hamilton's kindergarten class and Cathy Daenz kindergarten class when they connect with their kindergarten partner school in Texas. (They are involved in four videoconference sessions this year.)
- ✚ We look forward to rescheduling a couple of in district video collaborations between Cathy Riley's class and Linda Wright's class that were cancelled because of the snow day on December 20<sup>th</sup> and we couldn't reschedule before the Christmas break.

### **Video Conference Training Workshop:**

We plan to offer a videoconferencing training workshop after school in February. The date is TBD. If you are interested in learning more about how to use the equipment, please contact Christy and Betti and we will get back to you once we set a date.

### **Videoconference Programs:**

The following programs are offered by Tandberg in February and March. If you see a program that you would be interested in, please let us know ASAP as these programs are time sensitive and we will do our best to book the program for you. Keep in mind sometimes we can get the program for a different date than what is listed.

#### **Master of Suspense: Hitchcock on the Box 02/05/08 10:00AM**

**February 05, 2008 10:00AM**

*Presented by The Paley Center for Media*

Alfred Hitchcock enlivened the suspense genre with tongue-in-cheek introductions, macabre humor, and twist endings. Students analyze Hitchcock's use of the ordinary to create exciting, even frightening, television drama. ... (more)

#### **The Uneven Triangle: Trade with the New World 02/06/08 11:00AM**

**February 06, 2008 11:00AM**

*Presented by Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal*

Caribbean sugar and molasses, New England rum and West African slaves made up the three corners of one of the most durable economic models of the last 500 years. This session explores the three separate endpoints of the Triangle, and how individuals and societies were impacted. ... (more)

#### **Beating the Odds: African American Women Artists 02/07/08 10:00AM**

**February 07, 2008 10:00AM**

*Presented by Smithsonian American Art Museum*

Learn stories of how eight African American women represented in the Smithsonian American Art Museum's collection "beat the odds" to become recognized and respected in the mostly male-dominated art world. ... (more)

**Stars & Stripes - The Story of the American Flag 02/11/08 10:00AM**

**February 11, 2008 10:00AM** (This program opens for registration on 12/31/2007)

*Presented by Fort Mifflin on the Delaware*

Did Betsy Ross really make the first American flag? What does the red, white and blue in our flag symbolize? Did you know the American flag went through over 30 distinctive designs before deciding on the flag you see today? Come find out about the American flag at Fort Mifflin. ... (more)

**Ambassador to the Orchestra: The Arranger in Rock and Roll 02/11/08 10:00AM**

**February 11, 2008 10:00AM** (This program opens for registration on 12/31/2007)

*Presented by Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum*

It often seems that the worlds of popular music and classical music are miles apart, drawing on different histories, different musical practices, and different instrumentation. But the classical orchestra has played an important part in rock and roll culture. Classically trained musicians such as Arif Mardin, George Martin, Van Dyke Parks, and Willie Mitchell became some of the most successful producers and arrangers in popular music, helping to bring the sounds of the orchestra into rock and roll. In this class, students will listen to and examine the music of The Beatles, Pink Floyd, Al Green, Dusty Springfield, and U2, as well as viewing exclusive interview clips with arrangers. The class concludes with an activity in which students help to arrange a piece of music using computer music software, after which they get to hear the results of their work. ... (more)

**Harlem Renaissance 02/12/08 11:00AM**

**February 12, 2008 11:00AM** (This program opens for registration on 1/1/2008)

*Presented by Cleveland Museum of Art*

Travel back in time to bustling New York City in the 1920s and discover the art, literature and music produced by African Americans living in Harlem during this period. Students will be introduced to artists such as Romare Bearden, Jacob Lawrence, and photographer James Van Der Zee, as well as to the poetry of Langston Hughes. ... (more)

**Civil Rights: Before You Could Say Jackie Robinson 02/13/08 9:30AM**

**February 13, 2008 9:30AM** (This program opens for registration on 1/2/2008)

*Presented by National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum*

Here is a colorful unit that illustrates how baseball reflected and led critical social shifts in American history from the Civil War to the modern-day Civil Rights movement. Untold stories of honor, courage, and perseverance are brought to life through interactive multicultural lessons. ... (more)

**Langston Hughes: A Legacy of Words and Ideas 02/13/08 10:00AM**

**February 13, 2008 10:00AM** (This program opens for registration on 1/2/2008)

*Presented by Cleveland Institute of Music*

Langston Hughes is a significant figure in poetry, drama, and music. This program explores his sincere portrayal of black life in America as well as his stylistic influence on the literary and performing arts. ... (more)

**Thomas Alva Edison: Man vs Myth 02/13/08 1:00PM**

**February 13, 2008 1:00PM** (This program opens for registration on 1/2/2008)

*Presented by Hank Fincken: A National Theatre Company of One*

Thomas Edison will discuss with the audience his greatest inventions, including the phonograph, the electric light system, and the kinoscope. The audience will get to ask Mr. Edison questions and will see slides of his family and inventions and a demonstration of a 1909 cylinder phonograph. ... (more)

**Iwo Jima and the War in the Pacific 02/14/08 10:00AM**

**February 14, 2008 10:00AM** (This program opens for registration on 1/3/2008)

*Presented by The National WWII Museum*

The National WWII Museum takes students on a virtual tour of the Museum's Pacific exhibit, concentrating on artifacts, oral histories, and maps. The island-hopping campaign leads them to Iwo Jima, where they learn about the campaign and explore one soldier's background and experiences ... (more)

**Mission to Mars Expedition 02/19/08 1:00PM**

**February 19, 2008 1:00PM** (This program opens for registration on 1/8/2008)

*Presented by NASA's Digital Learning Network (Johnson Space Center)*

Travel to the Red Planet and discover what it takes to land robotic missions on the uninviting terrain of the Martian soil. ... (more)

**Wolf Tales 02/20/08 12:00PM**

**February 20, 2008 12:00PM** (This program opens for registration on 1/9/2008)

*Presented by International Wolf Center*

Who's afraid of the "big, bad wolf"? In this interactive program, students explore the influential role that literature

plays forming our views and attitudes towards wildlife. We compare and contrast two folk stories in which the wolf is a main character, then compare literary portrayals of wolves with the real thing! All programs feature real-time observations of the International Wolf Center's resident ambassador wolves. ... [\(more\)](#)

**SEA ME READ: Smiley Shark 02/20/08 2:00PM**

**February 20, 2008 2:00PM** [\(This program opens for registration on 1/9/2008\)](#)

*Presented by Mote Marine Laboratory*

Students will learn about shark diversity and the characteristics of sharks. Students will also use literacy and reading comprehension skills. Finally, students will learn why sharks are threatened and what they can do to help conserve them. (30-40 minutes) ... [\(more\)](#)

**Bon Appetit 02/25/08 10:00AM**

**February 25, 2008 10:00AM** [\(This program opens for registration on 1/14/2008\)](#)

*Presented by Discovery Center of Springfield*

Since we do not run on batteries, what do our bodies use for fuel and what do our bodies do with the food we eat? The human digestive system is the key. This program traces the digestion of carbohydrates, proteins, fats & oils from the mouth watering salivary glands to absorption by the small intestine. Students will simulate digestion of foods by enzymes and will discuss nutritious food choices. ... [\(more\)](#)

**Writing Dynamic: Essay Made Easy 02/27/08 2:00PM**

**February 27, 2008 2:00PM** [\(This program opens for registration on 1/16/2008\)](#)

*Presented by Adora Svitak*

An engaging and interactive introduction to essay writing led by child author and internationally renowned speaker Adora Svitak. Comedic and dynamically visual, this program helps students make the transition to persuasive essay writing, developing the skills they need to meet and exceed state and national writing standards. ... [\(more\)](#)

**Introduction to the Great Barrier Reef 02/28/08 7:30PM**

**February 28, 2008 7:30PM** [\(This program opens for registration on 1/17/2008\)](#)

*Presented by Reef HQ Aquarium (Australia)*

Wherever you are in the world, experience the Reef with Reef Videoconferencing. During this underwater fact-finding mission, your classroom will be transported to the Coral Reef and Predator exhibits at Reef HQ. State-of-the-art technology unlocks unique teaching and learning experiences, including information delivered by a scuba diver. Reef Videoconferences are supported by comprehensive teaching materials, and educate students about a range of marine issues. ... [\(more\)](#)

**Captive Passage 02/29/08 1:00PM**

**February 29, 2008 1:00PM** [\(This program opens for registration on 1/18/2008\)](#)

*Presented by The Mariners' Museum*

This interactive program will help students discover how the institution of black slavery shaped the history, culture, and commerce of four continents over the course of five centuries, and how its impact is still felt today. ... [\(more\)](#)

**Our Solar Neighborhood 03/03/08 1:00PM**

**March 03, 2008 1:00PM** [\(This program opens for registration on 1/21/2008\)](#)

*Presented by NASA's Digital Learning Network (Johnson Space Center)*

Students will learn the distinguishing characteristics of the planets in our solar system, the distances between them and the paths they travel. ... [\(more\)](#)

**Gods and Heroes of Greece and Rome 03/04/08 11:00AM**

**March 04, 2008 11:00AM** [\(This program opens for registration on 1/22/2008\)](#)

*Presented by Cleveland Museum of Art*

Learn why Herakles, Athena, and Dionysus populate the CMA galleries in sculpture, coins, vases and a sarcophagus. ... [\(more\)](#)

**Write to Learn: Child Labor 03/04/08 1:00PM**

**March 04, 2008 1:00PM** [\(This program opens for registration on 1/22/2008\)](#)

*Presented by Adora Svitak*

A dynamic way to engage students and create a sense of personal connection with the subject matter, the Write to Learn lesson plans teach kids how to use creative writing to process and explore social studies lessons. ... [\(more\)](#)

**Women's History: Dirt on Their Skirts 03/05/08 9:30AM**

**March 05, 2008 9:30AM** [\(This program opens for registration on 1/23/2008\)](#)

*Presented by National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum*

Rich with the history of women who broke barriers to play the National Pastime, this thematic unit covers 150 years

of striving for equity and diversity on the diamond. Meet the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League of the World War II era, as well as the young ladies of the 19th century who played the game long before they even had the right to vote. ... [\(more\)](#)

**Geometric Transformations 03/06/08 2:00PM**

**March 06, 2008 2:00PM** [\(This program opens for registration on 1/24/2008\)](#)

*Presented by Fort Worth Museum of Science and History*

Ready for a mind-bending, shape-shifting approach to making geometric transformations? Using simple materials-scissors, tape and strips of paper-your students will create three-dimensional loops, then transform them into unusual shapes. We'll even create and explore mobius loop. What a hands-on experience to introduce or reinforce geometric concepts. ... [\(more\)](#)

**Owls: A Museum Perspective 03/11/08 10:00AM**

**March 11, 2008 10:00AM** [\(This program opens for registration on 1/29/2008\)](#)

*Presented by Carnegie Museum of Natural History*

Owls have long fascinated people because of their large, forward-facing eyes and their nocturnal habits. If your students are fascinated by these mysterious birds this program will use that interest to explore science principles relating to structure and function, diversity and adaptations, and populations and ecosystems. ... [\(more\)](#)

**Careers in Music 03/12/08 10:00AM**

**March 12, 2008 10:00AM** [\(This program opens for registration on 1/30/2008\)](#)

*Presented by Cleveland Institute of Music*

Career opportunities in the music industry are surprisingly plentiful and diverse. This program provides a complete overview on what to expect and how to prepare for careers in music performance, music education, music therapy, recording engineering and arts management. ... [\(more\)](#)

**D-Day: The Turning Point in Europe 03/13/08 10:00AM**

**March 13, 2008 10:00AM** [\(This program opens for registration on 1/31/2008\)](#)

*Presented by The National WWII Museum*

The National WWII Museum takes your students on a virtual tour of the Museum's D-Day exhibit, concentrating on artifacts, oral histories, and maps. Students learn how the Allies planned and executed the most complicated military operation in history. ... [\(more\)](#)

**Mammals, Mammoths, MANATEES! 03/14/08 1:00PM**

**March 14, 2008 1:00PM** [\(This program opens for registration on 2/1/2008\)](#)

*Presented by Mote Marine Laboratory*

Do you know how to train a 3000-pound relative of the elephant? Find out how Mote cares for Hugh and Buffett, our resident West Indian manatees, and learn how big and smart they are. ... [\(more\)](#)

**Sheep to Blanket 03/18/08 10:30AM**

**March 18, 2008 10:30AM** [\(This program opens for registration on 2/5/2008\)](#)

*Presented by Conner Prairie*

Follow the wool from the sheep to becoming a blanket. Learn the basics of shearing, dyeing, spinning and weaving. ... [\(more\)](#)

**Plants 03/20/08 10:00AM**

**March 20, 2008 10:00AM** [\(This program opens for registration on 2/7/2008\)](#)

*Presented by Center for Puppetry Arts*

Students will construct a Pop-Up Plant puppet while learning about the various parts of a plant and their functions. Students will also discuss photosynthesis and plants as food. This is a great arts and science lesson all in one! ... [\(more\)](#)

**Zoo Clues 03/20/08 9:30AM**

**March 20, 2008 9:30AM** [\(This program opens for registration on 2/7/2008\)](#)

*Presented by Saint Louis Zoo*

Follow clues and solve puzzles to discover the identities of some unusual animals. Meet live animals once the mysteries have been solved. ... [\(more\)](#)

**Beating the Odds: African American Women Artists 03/25/08 10:00AM**

**March 25, 2008 10:00AM** [\(This program opens for registration on 2/12/2008\)](#)

*Presented by Smithsonian American Art Museum*

Learn stories of how eight African American women represented in the Smithsonian American Art Museum's collection "beat the odds" to become recognized and respected in the mostly male-dominated art world. ... [\(more\)](#)

To the Moon and Beyond 03/25/08 11:00AM

**March 25, 2008 11:00AM** (This program opens for registration on 2/12/2008)

*Presented by Discovery Center of Springfield*

Students will demonstrate the affect of gravity on two different masses, and the importance of gravity for planet motion. Students will use a scale model of the solar system to learn about planet properties. Students will demonstrate the relation of the sun, earth and moon to create moon phases. ... (more)

Great Moments in Rock and Roll: Popular Music Through the Decades 03/25/08 8:45AM

**March 25, 2008 8:45AM** (This program opens for registration on 2/12/2008)

*Presented by Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum*

Take a journey through the second half of the twentieth century by exploring some of the great moments in rock and roll history. Learn how Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Inductees have used music to bring about important changes in the world around them. Students will actively participate in discussions about shifting cultural values, conceptions of equality, and political activism. The class is focused on key historical moments such as: Elvis Presley's early national television appearances in 1956, the 1963 March on Washington, the 1969 Woodstock music and arts festival, the Ramones concert in London on July 4, 1976, the birth of MTV in 1981, and the fusion of rock and hip-hop in the 1986 video for "Walk This Way." ... (more)

New Literacy: Blogs 03/25/08 1:00PM

**March 25, 2008 1:00PM** (This program opens for registration on 2/12/2008)

*Presented by Adora Svitak*

This dynamic three part blogging program allows you to accomplish three goals: you can help your students meet state standards without sacrificing creative learning, you can enhance their career and educational prospects by helping them build constructive and dynamic Internet habits, and you can transform the way they view writing. ... (more)

Wolf Ecology 03/27/08 11:30AM

**March 27, 2008 11:30AM** (This program opens for registration on 2/14/2008)

*Presented by International Wolf Center*

Explore the world of the wolf! Using the wolf as a fascinating case study, students examine the important roles that predators, prey and scavengers play in the ecosystems where wolves live. Through an interactive simulation we will demonstrate the way energy and nutrients flow through an ecosystem. We'll find out what a wolf eats for dinner and watch short video clips of wolves hunting for their prey in three ecosystems. All programs feature real-time observations of the International Wolf Center's resident ambassador wolves. ... (more)

Plant Adaptations: Mediterranean Biome 03/27/08 1:00PM

**March 27, 2008 1:00PM** (This program opens for registration on 2/14/2008)

*Presented by Royal Botanical Gardens (Canada)*

Royal Botanical Gardens may be on the same latitude as the Mediterranean, but it doesn't have the same climate. Why not? We'll examine representative Mediterranean plants and the adaptations that have enabled them to survive in this unique climate and environment. How have humans impacted this ecosystem? ... (more)

Clash of Armor 03/28/08 1:00PM

**March 28, 2008 1:00PM** (This program opens for registration on 2/15/2008)

*Presented by The Mariners' Museum*

The development of ironclad ships during the American Civil War was a technological advance that would forever change the face of naval warfare. Using artifacts from the USS Monitor and the CSS Virginia, Museum teachers will introduce students to the development of ironclad ships and history's first ironclad-to-ironclad combat. ... (more)