

T.R.S.D. Distance Learning News Letter

Submitted by
Christy Hubley & Betti Percival

During September and October we have had the opportunity to speak with staff, during staff meetings, at the Middle School, Danville, and Atkinson to inform them of our plan to incorporate Distance Learning opportunities for all staff and students this year. Our plan will consist of searching for programs offered by content providers and also assist staff with collaborations with other schools to enhance curriculum studies. We plan to share with all the schools, a news letter published every two months, highlighting video conference sessions that have taken place in the schools.

District Collaboration Projects:

Kindergarten Collaboration:

Three kindergarten classes in the district are video conferencing with three Kindergarten classes in Dallas Texas. Mrs. Furman's class from Danville, Mrs. Hamilton's class from Pollard and Mrs. Daenz class from Sandown North. The name of their Project is "Monarch Migration". This was the first of a four part videoconference series planned between the two school districts.



On October 11th, Mrs. Furman's kindergarten student's participated in their first video conference collaboration with Mrs. Booth's kindergarten class in Dallas Texas. The students in Texas showed a Power Point presentation which included photos of their school, classroom and their classroom pet. They taught Mrs. Furman's students a new Spanish word. (Hola- meaning hello.) Mrs. Furman's students introduced themselves and shared photos of the Danville School and their classroom. They sang a butterfly song and ended the presentation by showing their new Friends in Texas, the butterfly finger puppets that they made for them which were mailed to Texas. This demonstrated the concept that butterflies migrate south in the fall. In the spring Mrs. Booth's class in Texas, will send butterflies north to Mrs. Furman's class to complete the migration cycle. This has truly been a wonderful educational partnership and the opportunity to meet new friends.

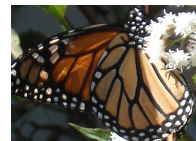


On October 17th, Mrs. Hamilton's kindergarten student's participated in their first video conference with Mrs. Case class in Texas. Mrs. Hamilton's students shared photos of the Pollard School, their classroom, foliage pictures, and colorful leaves using the document camera.

Kindergarten Collaboration cont.

Her students sang a butterfly song and showed off the beautiful butterflies that they made for their friends in Texas. The students in Texas also shared photos using a Power Point presentation. The students in Mrs. Case class were curious as to how far away the two schools were. Mrs. Hamilton responded with approximately 1,800 miles.

On October 30th, Mrs. Daenz kindergarten class at Sandown North also participated in their first video conference with Mrs. Terrel's class in Texas. Mrs. Terrel's class shared a Power Point Presentation to Mrs. Daenz class which displayed photos of their school, and classroom. Mrs. Daenz class shared a map of the United States showing the locations of NH and Texas, and photos of monarch butterflies using the document camera. Mrs. Daenz students created A book titled "Whiskers" which was also displayed on the document camera as the students read their book to the children in Texas. The students also sang a butterfly song and made butterflies to send to their friends in Texas.



Grade 5 Collaboration:

Mrs. Osborne's fifth grade class at Danville began their first collaboration with Mrs. Meyer's fifth grade class in New Richmond, Ohio. The first Session was a meet and greet session where each student asked each other about their schools, town, classrooms and their studies. The children in Ohio asked our students about the climate here in New England, did we have snow days and how many. They informed us that in the northern section of

Grade 5 Collaboration Continue:

Ohio they not only have snow days but they also have fog days which was a surprise to our students and for the adults in the room. One student in Ohio asked where Danville was located in NH. A student from Mrs. Osborne’s class mentioned that Danville was located near the Massachusetts border and near the seacoast, they thought we were lucky to be so close to the ocean. They are located close to the Ohio River. Other questions asked were regarding school colors, switching classes, reading buddies, recess activities, school mascot, and names of stores near us, spirit week, DARE, main sport, recess, homework, lockers, climate, and hours of the school day. Future videoconferences will be aligned with the literature curriculum.

Programs Provided by Content Providers:
Danville School:

The fourth grade students participated in a video conference titled, “New Hampshire and the United States Constitution”. This program was offered by Granite State Distance Learning Network (GSDLSN).

The fifth grade students participated in a video conference program titled, “The Constitution & You”, presented by the President Benjamin Harrison Home in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Mrs. Charmanski’s first grade class participated in a video conference titled, “Anasi, The spider”. It is a West African Folktale. Students witness the African folktale *Anansi* as it comes to life with brilliantly colored shadow puppets. The story is narrated and performed during the first part of the program. Following the performance, students participate in learning activities about West African food and culture. Students complete the interactive program by making their very own Anansi Shadow Puppet.

Professional Development:



On October 23, a workshop titled, “Promoting Membership, Participation, and Learning for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders in the General Education Classroom” was offered to district staff at two locations, the high school and Danville School. **Thirty four staff members attended this workshop.**

Videoconferencing guidelines for a successful experience. *(Each month we will include a couple of tips to keep in mind when setting up a video conference session.)*

- Wear conservative colored clothing such as **blue** or **black** and avoid wearing white, red, or patterns such as plaids or stripes.
- **Restrict movement** as much as possible. Excessive movements are disruptive to viewers at the far site.
- **Be polite** and turn off beepers, watch alarms and cell phones.



Reminder:

At various times we will be sending out e-mails informing staff of videoconferencing programs available for signup. If you have already received one of those emails and replied back to us that you were interested, we have you listed in our database. We will send out a reminder to you once the program is registered and confirmed.

If you are interested in a particular videoconference program or collaboration to enhance your curriculum, please complete page 3 and e-mail it back to us or send it via Interoffice mail.

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Distance Learning Slip

Teacher Name _____ Grade _____

Place an X next to the school where the program is wanted:

Danville Elementary Pollard School Atkinson Academy
 Sandown North Sandown Central TRMS TRHS

Topic Requested _____

Place an X next to the type of program(s) you are looking for on this topic:

Guest Speaker Virtual Field Trip Collaboration

Time Frame Example: Anytime in May, Four time collaboration during the year

Please print and return to Betti & Christy via inter office mail.

If you have searched for your own program and have found something you would like, please attach the copy to this sheet and send it to Christy Hubley or Betti Percival at Danville Elementary School.

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