

# Technology Newsletter

## Fall 2008

### Technology Rich Elementary Classroom

A model for technology rich elementary classrooms was created in Danville this year. The following is a commentary by the teacher in that classroom on her experience so far.

*The students and classroom are the same, but this year is different. The overhead is gone and it has been replaced with a projection system. That is just the beginning of our tech rich classroom. The children are hard at work when they hear the beep, beep, beep of the Interwrite Pad. A child eagerly takes the portable whiteboard and looks at the material on the screen. With the pad he "writes" on the board, and then passes it on to the next student. The children love this pad and are directing some of their own instruction. I love the flexibility it offers. Teaching can be done anywhere in the classroom.*

*In addition to the Interwrite Pad we have laptops this year. The children can't wait for their day to do their daily writing at their desks using the computer. The laptops are not limited to word processing. Several group activities have been done using these versatile machines. The children bring the machines to a central location. Using the software SynchronEyes, I send a website directly to their machines. I watch as they excitedly maneuver through an internet activity teaching about Jamestown.*

*The document camera has added another dimension to the class. As a start it can be used as a replacement to the overhead, but it is so much more. Picture books come to life and children can easily follow along. Students excitedly share writing, drawing, and other projects. Our recent science experiment was projected so that all the students could see the tiny bubbles explode from our "volcano".*

*In addition to all the equipment we continue to use digital resources. A video from Jamestown supports*

*our textbook and the group on-line activity. Using the internet we saw volcano eruptions from around the world to enhance our science instruction. Schoolhouse Rock helps with grammar and the constitution. This is a snapshot into a few of the new things we are using in the classroom. There is more and I'm sure new things to come.*



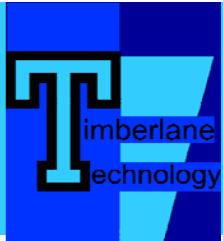
### Moodle

Would you like to have a presence on the Web with homework assignments, a class calendar and announcements that students and parents can access from home? Would you like to have a collaboration site for your PLC? Would you like to give an online quiz to students? Would you like to survey your students with immediate feedback? Would you like to have an online place for staff to sign up for what to bring to the holiday breakfast? Would you like to have your students' journal online? Would you like to have a staff or student blog? Would you like to easily do all these things? Then **Moodle** is for you! Go to [web.timberlane.net](http://web.timberlane.net) and look at our Moodle site. If you are interested in learning more about Moodle, email [linda.heuer@timberlane.net](mailto:linda.heuer@timberlane.net). We will be setting up some more workshops on Moodle in the near future.

### LIBRARIES LAUNCH NEW PROGRAM!

#### **DESTINY** HAS ARRIVED!

Faculty and students started the new school year seeing a significant change in their library's online card catalog. In August, Destiny was installed in all the school libraries in the district. Destiny is the new card catalog-database system that provides enhanced, user-friendly book searches and promotes high quality



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online resources. Because it is a district system, students and staff have access to all seven of the schools' card catalogs. The system can be accessed throughout all school buildings and from home as well.

Some of Destiny's special features include:

- **Easy access** ~ Students log in to Destiny with their computer passwords.
- **Visual searches** that are particularly useful for younger students and those with lower reading levels.
- **WebPath Express** ~ high quality, age-appropriate web sites that are continually evaluated for relevancy and validity.
- **TitlePeek** ~ "Don't judge a book by its cover!" Use title peek to view information about the book, table of contents, author notes, and summaries.
- **Destiny Quest** ~ an engaging visual search interface where patrons can find "The Top Ten Books Checked Out" and "New Arrivals" in the library. Students can create their own reading list or visually browse the library shelves.
- **Interaction** ~ Destiny encourages patrons to interact with the catalog. Students and staff can submit their own book reviews, put books on hold, or request a book from another library.
- **Access to online resources** ~ Through the Destiny Homepage, patrons have access to the school's online databases and other useful web sites that are invaluable in their homework assignments and research projects.

Library media specialists have been teaching students how to use Destiny and its many features. Workshops are planned to encourage staff to use Destiny and its technologies in their classrooms.



## Websites of Interest

### Journey North

<http://www.journenorth.org/>



Journey North engages students in a global study of wildlife migration and seasonal change. K-12 students share their own field observations with classmates across North America. They track the coming of spring through the migration patterns of monarch butterflies, robins, hummingbirds, whooping cranes, gray whales, bald eagles— and other birds and mammals; the budding of plants; changing sunlight; and other natural events. Find migration maps, pictures, standards-based lesson plans, activities and information to help students make local observations and fit them into a global context. Widely considered a best-practices model for education, Journey North is the nation's premiere "citizen science" project for children. The general public is welcome to participate.

### Teacher Tube

<http://www.teachertube.com>



Teacher Tube is a video sharing site for schools. From the Teacher Tube site "Our goal is to provide an online community for sharing instructional videos. We seek to fill a need for a more educationally focused, safe venue for teachers, schools, and home learners. It is a site to provide anytime, anywhere professional development with teachers teaching teachers. As well, it is a site where teachers can post videos designed for students to view in order to learn a concept or skill."

