



Spring 2008

OF TECHNOLOGY

for K-12 Educators

Winning Awards and Competitions

Practical Professional Development

Resources for 21st Century Skills

Worth-the-Surf Web Sites

Free and Inexpensive Finds

Fund-Your-Dream Grants

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Welcome to



OF TECHNOLOGY for K-12 Educators

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**Respond and
win a Canon
Powershot A570.**
See back cover
for details.



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Fund-Your-Dream Grants

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

◆ Teachers who want to use C-SPAN programming video in their classrooms can apply for a **C-SPAN Archives Grant**. You must be a member of **C-SPAN Classroom** to be eligible. C-SPAN Classroom is a *free* membership service offering resources to assist educators in using the C-SPAN primary sources to teach civics and U.S. government. Membership is open to K–12 teachers, college and university professors, home-school educators and district-level administrators. Membership benefits include streamed video, downloadable video clips, teaching ideas, programming updates and special offers. Classroom resources are matched to national standards and include lessons, graphic organizers, discussion questions, activity worksheets and quizzes. To apply for a C-Span Archives Grant, simply submit a one-page summary of how you intend to use the video in your classroom instruction, along with your résumé and a list of the video(s) you want (include the ID# and price from the C-SPAN Archives). See the Web site for email and postal addresses.

Deadline: Ongoing review; allow 30 days for processing

Web: <http://www.c-spanclassroom.org/Grants.aspx>

◆ **Fundraising** has probably never been easier than with this **Knowledge Adventure Affiliate program** for schools. To get started, email fundraising@adventure.com or call (310) 533-3476 to request a registration packet with all the information needed to become a part of the fundraising program. Once you submit the forms, your school's name is added to the drop-down menu, and a welcome letter is sent to your school to be duplicated and sent home with your students. There is no paperwork, no door-to-door selling and no product to deliver. Parents, teachers and friends of the school simply go to the Web site, select the school name and buy Knowledge Adventure consumer products, with more than 50 titles to choose from. Schools receive a 25 percent donation from every \$25 minimum purchase completed under the school name, and a check is mailed quarterly. A school incentive bonus gives the school a \$500 donation of Knowledge Adventure school products for every \$1,000 earned in the fundraising program.

Deadline: Ongoing program

Web: <http://www.knowledgeadventure.com/schoolfundraising/default.aspx>

Attention Web Browsers: Web site addresses do change periodically. If you have difficulty connecting, use a search engine to get an updated address. These sites are recommended by teachers and editors for educational value, but all content and associated links are the domain of the site sponsor.



◆ The **Qwest Foundation grants** focus on the effective use of technology for instruction to strengthen preK–12 education. Written proposals must be submitted with the formal grant application, which can be downloaded from the Web site. Grants are only funded for schools and districts within the 14-state service area for Qwest Communications (Oregon to Minnesota). The grant amount is usually \$500. Mail applications to Qwest Foundation, 1801 California Street, 50th Floor, Denver, CO 80202; phone: (303) 896-1266; email: Qwest.Foundation@qwest.com

Deadline: Ongoing review

Web: <http://www.qwest.com/about/company/community/foundation/investing.html>

◆ Managed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, **Grants.gov** is the online resource for finding and applying for federal government grants. Part of the E-Grants Initiative of the 2002 Fiscal Year Management Agenda to improve government services, Grants.gov is a central storehouse for more than 1,000 grant programs, with more than \$400 billion in yearly awards. The application system is converting to Adobe Reader and uses a Web Services interface for automated grant application submissions. Applicants register for *free* once at this site and can then apply for available grants from all 26 federal grant-making agencies. A single username and password allow applicants to turn in applications and check grant status. Sign up for **Grants.gov Updates** via email.

Deadlines: Vary; check individual grants for deadlines

Web: <http://grants.gov/>

OPPORTUNITIES BY DEADLINE DATES

◆ The **Sprint Ahead for Education Grant program** is made available by the **Sprint Foundation** for K–12 public school districts and individual schools that are seeking funding for a **character education program** to promote leadership, youth volunteerism, school pride and a positive school culture. Examples of programs that the Sprint Foundation will fund appear on the Web site. District-level grants are awarded for programs ranging from \$10,000 to \$25,000. School-level grants range from \$500 to \$5,000. The combined grant total for district- and school-level grants is expected to be \$600,000.

Deadline: April 15, 2008

Web: <http://www.sprint.com/citizenship/education/sprintahead/index.html>

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◆ The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is collaborating with the American Library Association (ALA) on a new initiative called **Picturing America**, with the goal of using art to promote the study of American history. K–12 schools and public libraries in the United States and its territories are eligible to apply for a set of 20 laminated posters (24" × 36") with art reproductions on each side and a teacher resource book. All applications must indicate the courses in which the Picturing America posters will be used. Applicants must also agree to use, display and retain the posters. Access detailed information about the artwork featured on the 2008 poster set from the Web site. Grant notification will be May 30, 2008, and poster sets will be mailed on or around September 4, 2008. Award recipients must submit a one-page final report to the ALA before May 29, 2009.

Deadline: April 15, 2008

Web: <http://www.neh.gov/PicturingAmerica/>

◆ Financial company ING USA's ING Unsung Heroes celebrates educators. Annually, 100 K–12 teachers are rewarded for their innovative teaching strategies that improve learning. Each educator receives \$2,000 for his or her school, and at least one winner is chosen from all 50 states. Three of the top winning teachers are selected for additional grants of \$25,000, \$10,000 and \$5,000. Visit the Web site for more details and a grant application.

Deadline: April 30, 2008

Web: <http://www.ing-usa.com/us/aboutING/communityconnections/ineducation/unsungheroes/index.htm>

◆ Project Learning Tree (PLT), the environmental program of the American Forest Foundation, awards GreenWorks! grants to PLT schools across the country for community-based environmental projects. GreenWorks! is PLT's service-learning program that engages PLT educators and students with the local community in "learning-by-doing" neighborhood improvement projects. Elementary through college-aged students will design native plant gardens, construct hiking trails, start composting projects and investigate alternative sources of energy. Grants are awarded in the spring and fall of each year in the following two funding categories: \$250 to \$1,000 (the majority of GreenWorks! funding will be awarded to project proposals in this category); \$1,001 to \$5,000 (the number of proposals funded in this category will be limited).

Deadlines: April 30, 2008 for spring cycle; October 31, 2008 for fall cycle

Web: http://www.plt.org/cms/pages/47_191_0.html

◆ **Olympus and Tool Factory** have teamed up to help educators obtain digital media resources for podcasting use in the classroom. To apply for a **Tool Factory Podcasting Grant**, simply develop and submit a lesson plan telling how you would use podcasting in your curriculum. Download a 30-day *free* trial of *Tool Factory Podcasting* and put the software to work for a podcasting project idea. Winning project ideas must incorporate all the resources included in the grant: three Olympus Digital Voice Recorders; three headsets and microphones; Clip Art Station; Worksheet Station; Web Page Station; Tool Factory's *Simple Guide to Podcasting*, book/CD set.

Deadline: April 30, 2008

Web: http://www.toolfactory.com/olympus_contest/olympus_podcasting.htm

Plus: View the *Getting Started* guide for *Tool Factory Podcasting* and download the training presentation to help teach and learn podcasting.

Web: http://www.toolfactory.com/products/accessories/display_getting_started?itemnumber=PBook

◆ The **Entergy Charitable Foundation** offers grants for programs designed to eliminate illiteracy by **boosting reading and writing skills**. Proposals featuring technology will be considered. K–12 schools in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Texas and Vermont are eligible. To apply, use the foundation's online application. For questions, call your state's contributions coordinator (names and phone numbers are available online via a Web link). Contact: Entergy Charitable Foundation, (877) 285-2006.

Deadlines: Submit applications no earlier than one month prior to the deadlines of May 1 and August 1, annually

Web: http://www.entergy.com/our_community/ECF_grant_guidelines.aspx

◆ Grants for projects that support the arts and **early reading** are available from local **Target stores**. Grants range from \$1,000 to \$3,000. Applications are available at any Target store and online.

Deadline: May 31, 2008

Web: <http://sites.target.com/sitelen/corporate/page.jsp?contentId=PRD03-004090>

Attention Web Browsers: Web site addresses do change periodically. If you have difficulty connecting, use a search engine to get an updated address. These sites are recommended by teachers and editors for educational value, but all content and associated links are the domain of the site sponsor.



◆ Rocketry and robots are among the projects favored for a **Classroom Grant** from the **American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Foundation**. K–12 teachers can apply for cash grants of up to \$200 each for demonstration kits, software, supplies for making flying objects or robots, or other materials for **science, technology and math** instruction. To apply, teachers must first become an AIAA Educator Associate; membership is *free*. Applications are reviewed quarterly. A school may receive up to \$1,000 per calendar year. Visit the foundation's Web site for complete guidelines and the online proposal form. Contact: AIAA Foundation, (800) 639-2422.

Deadlines: Quarterly; next two rounds end May 1 and August 1, 2008

Web: <http://www.aiaa.org/content.cfm?pageid=216>

◆ Retailer **Target Corp.** has **Store Grants** to help fund neighborhood efforts in education and more. Specifically, proposals involving the **arts, early reading or violence prevention** are eligible. Up to \$3,000 is available per award. Find details and an application at any store or browse Target's corporate Web site (under Community and then Store Grants in the left-side menu). Target also supports reading and cultural literacy through book festivals, family-reading nights, book clubs, black and Hispanic heritage programs and other activities. Contact: Target, Store Grants; email: Community.Relations@target.com

Deadline: Applications for 2008 Store Grants accepted until May 31, 2008

Web: <http://sites.target.com/site/en/corporate/page.jsp?contentId=PRD03-001814>

◆ Any area can be the focus of a \$5,000 **Student Achievement Grant** from **The NEA Foundation**. Proposals must engage students in **critical thinking and problem solving** to deepen their knowledge of standards-based subject matter. Educators and support professionals at preK–12 public schools are eligible; teachers with less than seven years' experience as well as support professionals are especially encouraged to apply. Grants, which are for one year, may be used for resource materials, supplies, equipment, transportation, software or scholars-in-residence. Proposals for work resulting in low-income and minority students' success with honors, advanced placement or other challenging curricula are particularly encouraged. To apply, submit an original applicant data sheet (downloadable) and a narrative and budget on school letterhead, along with five copies of your application, by postal mail. Reviews occur three times, annually. Visit the Web site for more details. Contact: The NEA Foundation, Student Achievement Grants, 1201 Sixteenth Street NW, Suite 416, Washington, DC 20036-3207; phone: (202) 822-7840.

Deadlines: June 1 and October 15, 2008 for next two reviews

Web: http://www.neafoundation.org/programs/StudentAchievement_Guidelines.htm

◆ Youth grants from the **Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation (MEAF)** focus on improving **disabled children's** and **teens' access to education, recreation and training**. Schools and districts may not apply individually, but they may partner with local nonprofit organizations to deliver a program. After reviewing the foundation's guidelines and priorities, apply by submitting a short concept paper by fax, mail or online. Full proposals must be invited. Contact: Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation, (703) 276-8240.

Deadline: Concept papers due June 1, annually

Web: <http://www.meaf.org/grants/>

◆ The goal of the **Tellabs Foundation's** grants is to develop cutting-edge curricula for **math, science, engineering and technology**. Award amounts usually start at \$10,000. Submitting a two-page (maximum) letter of inquiry (by mail) is the first step. Full proposals must be invited. Reviews are held quarterly. See the foundation's Web site for more guidelines. Contact: Tellabs Foundation, 1415 West Diehl Road, Mail Stop 10, Naperville, IL 60563.

Deadlines: Quarterly; next two rounds end June 1 and September 1, 2008

Web: <http://www.tellabs.com/about/foundation.shtml>

◆ Finding and keeping good teachers are the goals of **teacher-education grants** from the **Braitmayer Foundation**. Grants ranging up to \$35,000 are awarded in two cycles. Find more details on the foundation's Web site. Contact: Sabina Taj, Advisor, Braitmayer Foundation, (410) 480-2799.

Deadline: Spring grant cycle ends June 1, 2008

Web: <http://www.braitmayerfoundation.org/guid.htm>

◆ The **Captain Planet Foundation** funds **hands-on environmental projects** to encourage youth around the world to work individually and collectively to solve environmental problems in their neighborhoods and communities. Generally, the foundation's grants range between \$250 and \$2,500.

Deadlines: Quarterly; next two rounds end June 30 and September 30, 2008

Web: <http://www.captainplanetfdn.org/grants.html>

◆ The **Camille & Henry Dreyfus Foundation's Special Grant Program in the Chemical Sciences** focuses on a better understanding and appreciation of chemistry. Preferred topics include environmental chemistry education and programs that attract students to chemistry careers. The first step is to submit a preliminary inquiry that includes a budget. Complete proposals are invited. See the grant's Web page for details. Contact: The Camille & Henry Dreyfus Foundation; email preliminary inquiries (text only) to admin@dreyfus.org

Deadlines: Preliminary inquiries due June 15, 2008; full proposals due November 13, 2008

Web: http://www.dreyfus.org/awards/special_grant_program_chemical.shtml

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◆ **Save Our History grants** by The History Channel began in January 2008 and will culminate in June 2008. The History Channel will award a total of \$100,000, with grants of up to \$10,000 to organizations that partner with schools to help students learn about, document or preserve the history of their communities. Questions about the program can be emailed to info@saveourhistory.com

Deadline: June 6, 2008

Web: <http://www.history.com/minisites/saveourhistory/>

◆ The **Lindbergh Foundation** annually awards grants of \$10,580 each (the cost of the *Spirit of St. Louis* airplane) to men and women who apply for projects that meet Lindbergh's vision of a balance between technology growth and the human/natural environment. Visit the Web site and click on Grants to find links to previous awards and to download a PDF of the grant application.

Deadline: June 12, 2008

Web: <http://lindberghfoundation.org/>

◆ Via its **Partners for Growth** program, Curriculum Associates, Inc. (CA) promotes innovative instruction. Every quarter, up to 100 matching grants of \$300 worth of Curriculum Associates materials are awarded to educators who use the firm's research-based instructional and assessment products to improve student learning. Teachers in preK–12 public schools and nonprofit groups are eligible. Grants must be matched by other funds. See the firm's Web site for details, instructions on how to apply and a list of recent winners. Contact: Curriculum Associates, Inc., (800) 225-0248, x545; email: grants@CAinc.com

Deadlines: Quarterly, next two rounds end June 15 and September 15, 2008

Web: <http://www.curriculumassociates.com/educator-resources/grants/>

◆ The **Staples Foundation for Learning** provides funding for programs that support or provide job skills and/or education for all people, with an emphasis on disadvantaged youth. The requested amount of each grant can be up to \$25,000. Most grants awarded by the foundation are in the range of \$5,000 to \$25,000. Only 501(c)(3) organizations are eligible for the grants.

Deadline: June 16, 2008

Web: <http://www.staplesfoundation.org/foundapplication.html>

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◆ Among the projects that have received grants from **The American Legion's Child Welfare Foundation** are an injury-prevention curriculum for K–8 and a DVD promoting computer literacy for students. To be eligible for the grants, projects must have broad reach (that is, impact more than one state) and benefit children directly. Proposals must also meet one of two purposes: contribute to children's welfare by disseminating information about new organizations and/or their programs that benefit youth, or more widely distribute similar information from "well-established nonprofits." Grant amounts have ranged from \$1,500 to \$70,000 and averaged about \$32,000. The first step is to request an application by writing to the foundation. Contact: Executive Secretary, American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc., PO Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206; phone: (317) 630-1202.

Deadlines: Requests for applications due by July 1; applications due July 15, annually

Web: <http://www.legion.org/cwfd/docs/?section=grantseekers>

◆ The **Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation's Melody Program** helps K–12 school instrumental music programs that take place during the regular school day. To be eligible, schools must have an established instrumental music program (for example, concert band, marching band, jazz band and/or orchestra) that has been in existence at least three years.

Deadline: August 1, 2008

Web: <http://www.mhopus.org/teachers.asp>

◆ The **Toshiba America Foundation's K–12 math and science education grants** are world renowned. The preference is for technology-infused projects and those in partnership with other institutions, such as teacher education colleges. The Web site provides colorful, printable brochures with details for both K–6 and 7–12 grants as well as a downloadable application. Contact: Toshiba America Foundation, (212) 596-0620; email: foundation@tai.toshiba.com

Deadlines: Applications for grades 7–12 grants due August 1, annually, for amounts over \$5,000; accepted year-round for lesser amounts. Applications for K–6 grants due October 1, annually

Web: <http://www.toshiba.com/taflapply.html>

Attention Web Browsers: Web site addresses do change periodically. If you have difficulty connecting, use a search engine to get an updated address. These sites are recommended by teachers and editors for educational value, but all content and associated links are the domain of the site sponsor.



◆ The Gannett Foundation’s grants may fund a “special initiative or program” not covered by regular school budgets. This philanthropic arm of Gannett, Inc., which owns newspapers and television stations in more than 100 cities nationwide, prefers the local approach. Applicants must submit proposals (five pages maximum) to the local contact for Gannett in their communities. Each Gannett operation sets its own funding priorities and may have additional guidelines, restrictions or deadlines. Decisions are made by the foundation’s board, which meets two times a year between February and October. Local newspaper publishers or television station managers notify applicants of decisions and distribute the funds. Visit the foundation’s Web site for more details. The Grants Contacts menu item is where to find the local contact information. Contact: Gannett Foundation; email: foundation@gannett.com

Deadlines: Semiannually; next round ends August 15, 2008

Web: <http://www.gannettfoundation.org/>

◆ The NEC Foundation of America’s grants are dedicated to assistive technology for people with disabilities. Projects must demonstrate potential national “reach and impact.” Individual K–12 schools or districts may only participate as partners of an applying nonprofit organization; they may not apply themselves. The first step is to email a preliminary inquiry (100 words maximum) to the foundation. The inquiry must include the amount requested, a project summary and an explanation of how the project relates to the foundation’s interests. Find details, tips and guidelines on the foundation’s Web site. Contact: NEC Foundation of America, (631) 232-2212; email: foundation@necfoundation.org

Deadlines: Semiannually; next full proposals due September 1, 2008

Web: <http://www.necfoundation.org/toapply/toapply.htm>

◆ High schools that are members of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) are eligible for grants from The Edward E. Ford Foundation. All grants require some matching funds on at least a one-to-one basis. Most awards average less than \$50,000, although up to \$100,000 is available for projects that would “broadly benefit independent schools.” New models for better recruitment and professional development of teachers and administrators are among the priorities. An application is online at the foundation’s Web site. Contact: The Edward E. Ford Foundation, (207) 774-2346; email: info@eeford.org

Deadlines: Three times a year; next round ends September 15, 2008

Web: <http://www.eeford.org/applying/index.asp>

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SYH2K6RMT-P1 2000VA with 14 outlets	\$2944.61 CDWG 237487
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SUA750RM2U	2U	6	5-15P	1 DB9 + 1 USB + SmartSlot	17 min.	\$441.88	469103
SUA1000	—	8	5-15P	1 DB9 + 1 USB + SmartSlot	21 min.	\$458.84	323630
SUA1000RM2U	2U	6	5-15P	1 DB9 + 1 USB + SmartSlot	30 min.	\$575.55	469105
SUA1500	—	8	5-15P	1 DB9 + 1 USB + SmartSlot	24 min.	\$553.60	323633
SUA1500RM2U	2U	6	5-15P	1 DB9 + 1 USB + SmartSlot	26 min.	\$698.24	468489
SUA2200	—	10	5-20P	1 DB9 + 1 USB + SmartSlot	24 min.	\$821.93	731520
SUA2200RM2U	2U	8	5-20P	1 DB9 + 1 USB + SmartSlot	16 min.	\$997.49	510562
SUA3000	—	10	L5-30P	1 DB9 + 1 USB + SmartSlot	14 min.	\$980.53	730244
SUA3000RM2U	2U	8	L5-30P	1 DB9 + 1 USB + SmartSlot	11 min.	\$1187.02	512275
SU5000T	—	5	L6-30P	1 DB9 + SmartSlot + RJ-45	19 min.	\$2673.29	191610
SU5000R5TBX120	5U	5	L6-30P	1 DB9 + SmartSlot + RJ-45	19 min.	\$2822.92	293694



¹Runtime may vary due to load and battery condition



◆ The community grants offered by the CVS Caremark target children with disabilities. The aim is to help preK–12 public schools develop or expand programs for special needs students that integrate them into ordinary school functions. Grant awards range from \$500 to \$5,000 each. To apply, use the simple online form, which also determines eligibility.

Deadline: Applications accepted until October 31, 2008

Web: http://www.cvs.com/corplnfol/community/community_grants.html

◆ The Verizon Foundation's Literacy grants are available to organizations committed to basic literacy skills in the United States. Verizon has invested in a network of collaborative literacy partners, offering a wide variety of programs with a focus on elearning. Verizon's leadership in technology and communications provides the distribution network.

Deadline: November 2, annually

Web: <http://foundation.verizon.com/02008.shtml>

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Winning Awards and Competitions

◆ Oracle Education Foundation’s ThinkQuest challenge is an opportunity for a team of students to build an innovative and educational Web site on any topic within a broad range of educational categories to share with students throughout the world. Topic categories and ideas, along with complete rules and evaluation criteria, can be found online. Register a primary coach and then set up teams of students, who select a category topic, complete research on the topic and create an interactive Web site to submit for judging. Everyone is a winner since all Web sites go into the ThinkQuest Library.

Deadline: April 2, 2008 for early submissions

Web: <http://www.thinkquest.org>

◆ The National History Day (NHD) contest is open to students in grades 6–12. The theme for National History Day 2008 is “Conflict and Compromise in History.” Be sure to investigate the new Web site category for entries. Web site entries are restricted to 1,200 student-authored words. The word count does not include primary source materials used for illustration. Multimedia clips are limited to 45 seconds in length. The Web site entry cannot link to any external sites, except for access to required plug-ins for viewing documents and multimedia. Visit the contest Web site for specifics about entry categories and prizes.

Deadlines: See Web site for specific dates

Web: <http://www.nationalhistoryday.org>

Plus: Sign up for the NHD online forum to share ideas with the more than 40,000 teachers and school librarians who participate in National History Day each year.

Web: <http://nationalhistoryday.org/Forum.htm>

◆ The West Point Bridge Design Contest was established to encourage interest in science and engineering for students aged 13 through grade 12. To enter, a team of one or two members need to register, download the *free West Point Bridge Designer software* and design a bridge. The team should submit finished designs by uploading the bridge design file to the Team Home Page for judging and immediate feedback. Teams are then allowed to use the *West Point Bridge Designer software* to improve their design and resubmit for new judging and feedback. Designs can be submitted unlimited times, but only the team’s best design will be included in the contest standings. The names of the teams and schools with the top-30 scores for each contest zone will be posted on the contest scoreboard. At the end of the contest, the top-10 teams in each contest zone will receive a certificate of achievement.

Deadline: June 2, 2008 for bridge designs

Web: <http://bridgecontest.usma.edu/>



◆ **TeachersPayTeachers.com** is looking for lessons on climate change. Share your lesson plan for a chance to be a winner in the **2008 Climate Change Lesson Plan Contest** sponsored by **Scholastic**. Online ratings by teachers who visit the site will help a judges' panel of experts narrow entries to 10 finalists in each of three categories: K–5, 6–8 and 9–12. Each category will have first-, second- and third-place winners. The first-place prize is \$1,000 or 50,000 Scholastic Book Club bonus points; second place is \$500 or 25,000 bonus points; third place is \$200 or 10,000 bonus points. All K–12 educators who are U.S. residents are eligible to enter the contest. Visit the Web site for complete contest rules and registration.

Deadline: April 30, 2008

Web: <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/contest/>

Plus: Teachers are also encouraged to download and **rate submissions** to the Climate Change Lesson Plan Contest. An added bonus is the right to use the lesson plans in your classroom.

◆ **Lockheed Martin Space Day** has discontinued the Space Day Design Challenge competition from previous years. The archived Design Challenges, for grades 4–8, will be available for download through 2008 at <http://www.spaceday.com/conmngmt/pdf/DesignChallenges.pdf> Now students in grades 7–12 can compete in the **Team America Rocketry Challenge (TARC)** organized by the **Aerospace Industries Association (AIA)**. It's too late to register a team for this year's competition, but your students can hold a local competition and get ready for next year's contest. Contest rules and the **2008 Team Handbook** can be downloaded for your local contest. The challenge is to design and build a safe rocket flight vehicle that can lift a fragile payload (two raw chicken eggs) to an altitude of 750 feet for 45 seconds and then to return the payload to the ground without damage.

Deadline: Registration closed in December 2007, with final competition May 17, 2008; next year's contest registration will open in fall 2008

Web: <http://www.aia-aerospace.org/tarcl>

◆ Register your class to participate with more than 2 million other students in 192 countries in the **Geography Zone Challenge**. The Countries Challenge is set up as an online quiz with 10 randomly selected countries to identify. Individual scores are recorded to support the state and country for which the group is registered. Current competitions are Countries Challenge, Capitals Challenge, North American Countries Challenge, South American Countries Challenge, African Countries Challenge, Asian Countries Challenge and European Countries Challenge. Individuals or class groups may participate in any of the challenges.

Deadline: Ongoing

Web: <http://www.geographyzone.com/new/index.php>

Continued on page 18 ➔



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◆ Students in grades 7–12 can win a \$1,000 grant for their school for first place, a \$500 grant for second place and a \$250 grant for third place in the NASA and *USA TODAY* “No Boundaries” National Competition. In addition, all winners will receive VIP passes to a NASA shuttle launch and have a chance to present their project at a NASA facility. Using project-based learning to encourage student interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), the “No Boundaries” initiative culminates in a project, aligned to national standards, which promotes NASA careers to teens. Teams of four students are assigned to one of the four STEM fields and use the research links on the “No Boundaries” Web site to create a project (such as a brochure, Web site, PowerPoint presentation or newspaper). Final projects can be entered into the national competition. Find full competition details and a **project rubric** online.

Deadline: Submit proposal to NASA no later than May 16, 2008

Web: <http://www.usatoday.com/educate/NASA/>

◆ Tool Factory and Olympus have teamed up for a contest for teachers called **Digital Wish Grants**. To enter, submit a lesson plan for integrating digital technology into the curriculum. All teachers who submit a lesson are entered to win a Mobile Digital Camera Lab plus 43 different technology grants. The *free* Digital Wish Lesson Plan Library database of online lessons is rich with ideas, and it keeps growing every month with new teacher additions.

Deadlines: 28th of every month

Web: <http://www.digitalwish.com/dw/digitalwish/home>

◆ The By Kids For Kids Idea Locker is a storage area for creativity. This site for teens is a workspace for putting together ideas and entries for a variety of competitions. One current competition is the **Going Green Challenge** sponsored by The Weather Channel and its Web site, **The Weather Channel for Kids**. The contest is open to all youth aged 19 and under. Contestants are to come up with new ideas for improving how people interact with the environment. The grand prize is \$10,000. The grand-prize winner will share his or her winning idea/invention with the public in a special online feature on The Weather Channel. The grand-prize winner will also get a Connection to Reality with a 2-day/1-night trip to shadow an expert from Warner Independent Pictures’ “The 11th Hour” action site. Other competitions posted in the Idea Locker include the Digital Arts Challenge (<http://www.bkfk.com/Modules/Competition/Competition.aspx?Section=sayit>) and the Trash to Treasure Competition (http://www.bkfk.com/Modules/Competition/new_competition/trashtotreasure.htm).

Deadline: March 31, 2008 for Digital Arts Challenge and April 1, 2008 for Trash to Treasure Competition

Web: <http://www.bkfk.com/>



◆ The 2008 Education Award from the Association of Zoos & Aquariums recognizes achievement in educational program design by educators who have implemented a program that significantly influences **conservation education**. Applications must be submitted online. Follow the guidelines for completing the application, including a six-page (maximum) narrative, a two-page evaluation, up to 15 digital images and any print support curricula—all compiled into one PDF file.

Deadline: May 1, 2008

Web: <http://www.aza.org/HonorsAwards/EducationAbout/>

◆ Be a winner in the CDW•G and Discovery Education 2008 “Win a Wireless Lab” sweepstakes. Five K–12 classrooms will win the grand prize of a 21st Century Classroom valued at \$50,000, including a \$5,000 Discovery Education software grant; 20 notebook or tablet computers from HP, Lenovo or Toshiba; three wireless access points from D-Link, Linksys or NETGEAR; one Bretford mobile cart; one Promethean interactive whiteboard; a Promethean Activote integrated personal response system; a video projector from Epson or NEC Solutions; a document camera from AVerMedia and a laserjet printer from Epson or HP. Additional prizes include:

- five first-place prizes of a Promethean interactive whiteboard or a video projector from Epson or NEC Solutions;
- ten second-place awards of a notebook computer from Acer or Sony;
- five third-place prizes of a digital camcorder from Canon.

For each prize drawing, winners will be randomly selected from all entries received. Check the Web site for complete rules.

Deadline: May 1, 2008; winners announced in July 2008

Web: <http://www.discoveryeducation.com/cdwg>

Plus: Leading up to the grand-prize drawings at the end of the sweepstakes, NEC is giving away a total of five **interactive whiteboards!** Visit the sweepstakes site to enter this month’s drawing and remember to enter every day!

Attention Web Browsers: Web site addresses do change periodically. If you have difficulty connecting, use a search engine to get an updated address. These sites are recommended by teachers and editors for educational value, but all content and associated links are the domain of the site sponsor.



◆ **Discovery Education's 2008 Young Scientist Challenge** is a national science competition for students in grades 5–8. The goals of the competition are to encourage exploration in young scientists and to promote science communication. Since **Discovery Communications'** initial launch of this challenge in 1999, more than 540,000 middle school students have been nominated to participate. To enter, students must submit a video online between March 1, 2008 and June 15, 2008. The video entry should reflect students' understanding of the scientific concepts explained and show a comfort level in discussing science topics in general. Between June 15 and early September, judges from the Faraday Studios will choose 51 semi-finalists, who will each receive a certificate of recognition, \$250 in cash, a T-shirt, a plaque for the student's middle school and a plaque for the student's teacher. Ten finalists will be selected to take an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. for the competition finals (individual and team challenges that will take place in front of a live audience). Finalists will also receive a Young Scientist Challenge medal. Each age-appropriate challenge for the finalists will concentrate on different science disciplines. At the conclusion of the finalist competition, America's Top Young Scientist will win a \$50,000 savings bond. Second place through tenth place will each receive a \$1,000 bond.

Deadline: June 15, 2008

Web: <http://school.discoveryeducation.com/sciencefaircentral/dysclaccept/accept.html>

Plus: In summer 2008, a **Teacher Challenge** will be held for any teacher who is a member of the **Discovery Educator Network (DEN)**. DEN teachers will submit a video entry beginning March 1, 2008. Five teacher finalists will receive an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. for the challenge finals. For complete rules and list of prizes, visit the DEN Web site.

Deadline: Check Web site for specific dates

Web: <http://community.discoveryeducation.com/>

◆ The **National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA)** is sponsoring a **Media Pacemaker competition** for high school, student-produced television news programs. An entry consists of a student-produced news program, or segment of a longer news program, on VHS-format videotape. To qualify for this competition, students must do the majority of the planning, writing, scripting, taping and editing of the news program. Visit the Web site for complete details.

Deadline: June 16, 2008

Web: <http://www.studentpress.org/nspalcontests.html>

Continued on page 22 ➔

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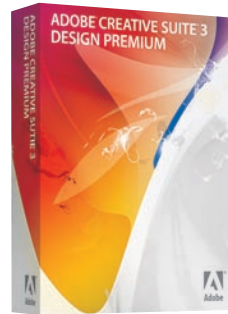
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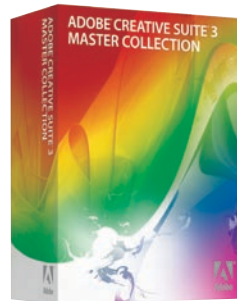
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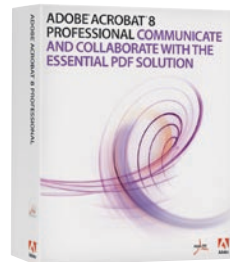
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◆ Young people need opportunities to celebrate achievements, and the Tiger Woods Foundation's **Fist Pump Challenge** lets students aged 13–18 share their moment of success. Fist-pump moments can be any positive achievement or celebration when a personal goal is achieved. Parents or guardians can help to create a video of the special moment. Submit the video of the special event and your celebration at the end for a chance to win monthly prizes. No video? Just submit a text-only version. On the last day of each month, the 10 highest-rated videos will be eligible for an 8 GB Apple iPod Touch, EA Tiger Wood's '08 video game, a \$25 Target gift card and the *Start Something* book written by Earl Woods.

Deadlines: Last day of every month for top-10 finalists and prize awards

Web: http://www.tigerwoodsfoundation.org/fist_pump_challenge.php

◆ The Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) began accepting online nominations in March 2008 for its **2008 Outstanding Young Educator Award (OYEA)**. Nominees must be education professionals, 40 years of age or younger, who exhibit exemplary commitment and impact on the profession, with a significant effect on student performance and achievement. Nominators of finalists receive a one-year premium subscription to ASCD, and the award winner receives \$10,000, an ASCD institutional membership for his/her school, an all-expense-paid trip to the 2009 Annual ASCD conference and a personal profile in ASCD's *Educational Leadership* magazine. Check the Web site for full award criteria and the online nomination form.

Deadline: Nominations began March 2008; see Web site for details

Web: <http://www.ascd.org/portal/site/ascd/menuitem.b00b3d3ab9fd959d8716b710e3108a0c/>

◆ **GlobalScholar.com** is offering a \$5,000 **Scholarship Giveaway** to the student who receives the highest SAT score among those who have completed SAT tutoring on or from GlobalScholar.com. GlobalScholar.com will pay for the SAT test for any student who takes a full SAT tutoring course. Visit the Web site for complete rules and information on how to register for SAT tutoring sessions.

Deadline: September 15, 2008

Web: <http://www.GlobalScholar.com/>

◆ The **Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching** recognize highly qualified K–12 teachers for their contributions in the classroom and to their profession in improving teaching and learning.

Deadlines: The application deadline for elementary school teachers is May 1, 2008; secondary school teachers are eligible to apply in 2009.

Web: <http://www.paemst.org/controllers/home.cfc?method=view>

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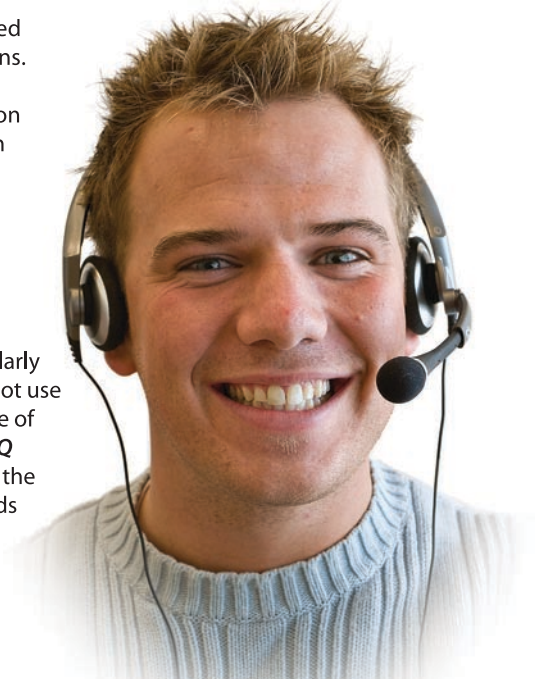
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Web: <http://www.getcaughtreading.org/>

◆ Students can become world travelers of literature with classroom activities using **Google Earth**, a *free* tool from **Google.com**. The curriculum is divided into K–5, 6–8, 9–12 and higher ed, with RSS feeds being added. In **Google Lit Trips**, students map the geographical features mentioned in such books as Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner* and *Candide* by Voltaire. Even young children can map the features in such books as *The Yellow Balloon* by Charlotte Dematons.

Web: <http://www.googlelitrips.org/>

◆ More than planetarium software that restricts viewing to Earth, **Celestia** is a **space simulation** that allows viewing of the universe in three dimensions. The *free* download will run on Windows, Linux and Mac OS X. The Screenshot Gallery will help you get started on traveling the universe.

Web: <http://www.shatters.net/celestia/>

Plus: The Related Resources offers links to Celestia curriculum. Check out NASA's Celestia Exploration Activity at <http://learn.arc.nasa.gov/planets/> to integrate in a study of the planets or to generate discussion on Space Day, May 2, 2008. The *Celestia Motherlode* is a resource of 12 Celestia tours and correlated student worksheet for each tour.

◆ The *free* 3-D video game **PowerUp** is intended to supplement science education by asking players to work in small teams or individually to save a planet approaching ecological disaster. The downloadable game and accompanying **lesson plans** are being offered, at *no charge*, by IBM and the TryScience/NY Hall of Science.

Web: <http://www.powerupthegame.org/>

◆ A set of illustrated stories from **MyYoungChild.org** addresses issues (sharing, dealing with bullies, respecting others and taking responsibility for actions) that children face every day. The *free* **online stories** are intended to be an enjoyable and playful tool that can be used to teach social values. Accompanying each story are **discussion questions** and **activities** as well as parent tips designed to complement the story's message and reinforce the impact. The nine stories include "Rosa the Rabbit Learns to Be Fair," "Ramon Sticks Up for Himself" and "Gilbert the Goat Learns Respect."

Web: <http://www.myyoungchild.org/stories/index.htm>

◆ **Adobe** is offering three *free*, year-long, project-based curriculum packages for developing student career skills. The packages support coursework for Adobe Creative Suite 3 Design Premium, Web Premium, Production Premium and Master Collection products. Special K–12 school site licenses are available. All curriculum packages are aligned to the ISTE NETS standards and the new Adobe Certified Associate objectives to prepare students for certification in visual communication, Web communication and rich media. Titles are *Visual Design: Foundations of Design and Print Production*, *Digital Design: Foundations of Web Design* and *Digital Video: Foundations of Video Design and Production*. Each online curriculum includes instructor unit and activity guidelines, reproducible student materials, presentations and media assets. Download the entire curriculum or individual units as needed.

Web: <http://www.adobe.com/education/instruction/teach/digitalcareers.html>

Plus: Adobe School News, a *free* e-newsletter for K–12 and higher education, keeps educators up to date on online seminars, conferences, special Adobe promotions and curriculum resources that provide support for Adobe solutions.

Web: www.adobe.com/education/community/survey

◆ Prepare your students to have the knowledge needed to take on jobs in the creative design and publishing industry with training for **QuarkXPress 7.2** in conjunction with **Quark Interactive Designer**. Request a *free curriculum kit, Take on the World*, to teach a comprehensive class on using QuarkXPress 7 and Quark Interactive Designer. The curriculum kit contains a full set of software for both QuarkXPress 7 and Quark Interactive Designer, two syllabus samples, in-class course content and exercises, online training modules for classroom use, homework exercises, electronic files for the content on the CD-ROM and short-cut sheets to help save teacher preparation time.

Web: http://www.quark.com/education/curriculum_kit/

◆ Let students tell their stories with the digital storytelling and video resources available at **Adobe Digital Kids Club**. Training and tutorials, lessons, activities and technology tips for completing a digital storytelling project are all here for students to begin publishing digital stories in the classroom.

Web: <http://www.adobe.com/education/digkids/index.html>

Continued on page 28 ➔



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◆ Download the *free* lessons and activity suggestions for *SunReady*, a sun safety program from The Weather Channel Kids. Materials are categorized easy, medium and hard. Cross-curricular lesson plans meet many of the subject-area standards for grades 3–5. Other safety programs on the Web site are *Severe Weather Safety* and *Safety and Preparedness*. The **Teacher Guide** is a rich source of weather information with lessons and links to weather news lessons. An online **Weather Encyclopedia** is complete with glossary and instructional resources for a variety of weather-related topics.

Web: http://www.theweatherchannelkids.com/weather_ready/sun_ready/

◆ **Tux Paint** for children is *free* open source drawing software that has many of the sophisticated features you might expect to find only in expensive paint and graphics programs. Available for Mac, Linux and Windows, the robust software is intuitive and easy to use with many cool features. Hundreds of stamps can be resized, flipped or mirrored. The stamps can have text or sounds assigned to them. A colorful penguin character is the audio director of this delightful product for children from preschool through elementary school. The tools are user friendly, with libraries of brushes, stamps, lines, shapes, text and a specialized “Magic” (special effects) category. The “Magic” toolbox has more than a dozen features (such as fill, grass, brick fill, smudge and drip) that are engaging and motivating for student creativity. There is even a “Cartoon Magic” tool that changes a drawing into a cartoon. The Thumbs Up and Thumbs Down icons allow for multiple redo and undo of art elements. Save is easy and lets students pull up different pictures from previous work to modify. Pictures can also be placed in a slideshow with transitions for presentations.

Web: <http://www.tuxpaint.org>

Plus: An **Artist Gallery** houses more than 500 pieces of art submitted by students and adults from around the world. Work can be submitted and posted in the gallery. Use is restricted to the Tux Paint Gallery unless the artist gives permission for artwork to be used by others. Submit Tux Paint art creations to bill@newbreedsoftware.com for posting in the Tux Paint Gallery. Only students’ first names are posted.

◆ Download everything you need for an Earth Day celebration on April 22, 2008 with **Earth Day in a Box**. The *free* resources include an Organizer Guide to plan and organize a community event, and Things You Can Do fliers with ideas and tips for climate change. Additional resources include K–12 energy lessons and activities. Register your event and help break the record of 12,007 events on Earth Day 2007. Share Earth Day photos and videos of school and community events by emailing them to Communications@earthday.net

Web: <http://www2.earthday.net/~earthday/resources>



◆ Tap into your students' creativity and artistic ability with **Imagination Cubed**, a *free online drawing program* sponsored by GE. This collaborative tool lets you submit an email or instant message to invite up to two friends to draw with you in real time. Tools include pens, shapes, lines, stamper and text in different styles, sizes and colors. Replay will redraw the steps of an art rendition. Drawings can be emailed to friends.

Web: <http://imaginationcubed.com/>

◆ The **Assistive Technology Training Online Project** provides K–12 teachers with *free* step-by-step tutorials for creating differentiated instruction tools using these software products (purchased separately): Clicker 4 (Click Software); Co:Writer 4000 (Don Johnston, Inc.); IntelliKeys, IntelliTalk II (Intellitools, Inc.); Microsoft Word (Microsoft, Inc.); Write: Outloud (Don Johnston, Inc.); JAWS for Windows (Freedom Scientific); BrailleNote (Pulse Data); and ZoomText Xtra (AI Squared). Each tutorial includes step-by-step instructions that can be printed or displayed as a slideshow for classroom instruction. Practice exercises with actual classroom examples reinforce the tutorial instruction. The AT Basic modules (top toolbar) provide for general assistive technology information. The interactive AT Decision Making section includes case studies and tools to help identify teaching strategies for engaging all students in learning, and the Resources section is divided into several categories with information for using technology for students with and without disabilities.

Web: <http://atto.buffalo.edu/registered/Tutorials.php>

Plus: Creating Talking Books with Microsoft PowerPoint, an **instructional tutorial** from ACE Centre is excellent for teachers and students who want to create talking picture books. A **storybook template** helps to get a quick start on a talking book project.

Web: <http://atto.buffalo.edu/registered/Tutorials/talkingBooks/powerpoint.php>

◆ **Promethean Planet** is a *free* online global community sponsored by Promethean with more than 100,000 teachers who share lesson plans, flipcharts and ideas with teachers in classrooms across the world. The *free* Lesson Resource area contains more than 3,000 teacher-created **Activprimary** and **Activstudio** lessons, divided by grade level and subject, for use with the Promethean Activclassroom solution. The **flipcharts** are searchable by subject, grade level and state standard and can be downloaded at *no charge* by all registered users. To preview the flipcharts without the Activstudio or Activprimary software, download the *free* Flipchart Viewer from the Web site. Also available are resource packs on different content areas and timely topics. Search by keywords to download the *U.S. Presidential Elections Resource Pack* for the 2008 election year.

Web: <http://www.prometheanplanet.com/us/>



◆ **Link to Lessons from LeapFrog School** is an online database of more than 6,000 standards-aligned, skill-based lessons and activities that link to **early literacy and reading programs** for preK–2 teachers. You can search for lessons from the extensive database or create your own. To build your own lessons, choose a skill, grade level, differentiations (for English language learners and special education) and class configuration (whole group, small group or individual/center). Then fill in the purpose, time required, description and procedure before saving to the lesson-plan area. Lessons can be saved as PDFs and emailed to a colleague or exported in rich text to use in any lesson-plan builder.

Web: <http://LinktoLessons.com>

◆ **ExploreLearning Gizmos** are Web-based interactive simulations for **math and science** that bring inquiry-based learning to the school computer lab or the classroom with an LCD projector or interactive whiteboard. New to the ExploreLearning library of Gizmos is the Elementary Science Gizmos for grades 3–5, with dozens of new Gizmo simulations, student explorations and demonstration movies. Each Gizmo simulation has a step-by-step inquiry-based lesson that can be customized by teachers. Lessons, which are correlated to state and national standards and many leading textbooks, feature formative assessment with immediate results for teachers to use. Register for a *free* 30-day trial for access to all 400+ Gizmos and begin exploring hundreds of math and science Gizmos.

Web: <http://www.Explorelearning.com/>

◆ Use your own **digital photos** and **custom text** to personalize the *free* downloadable templates for **greeting cards, photo albums, and desk and wall calendars** found on the **Brother CreativeCenter** Web site. Dozens of categorized templates fit any occasion or curriculum project. Print greeting cards for author birthdays, make photo album pages for historical events or characters in a story and send customized monthly calendars home to parents.

Web: <http://www.brother.com/creativecenter/>

◆ Help your students prepare for academic study with the **Academic Word List (AWL)** devised by **Averil Coxhead**, a researcher based in New Zealand. To build this word list, Coxhead spent some time placing on computer several hundred written academic texts (that is, about 3.5 million words in total). She then analyzed the words to see which ones were used most frequently. The 570 words on the Academic Word List are all thought to be important for students preparing for academic study, regardless of discipline. Download the AWL Sublists documents, *free of charge*.

Web: <http://language.massey.ac.nz/staffawl/index.shtml>

Continued on page 32 ➔



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EXCEED YOUR VISION

Epson® Stylus® C120 Color inkjet printer

- Print speed: up to 37 ppm black, 20 ppm color
- Print resolution: 5760 x 1440 optimized dpi
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- Hi-Speed USB 2.0 connectivity
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Epson Stylus R800 Color inkjet photo printer,
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CDWG 1286066

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Xerox® Phaser® 6130N Color laser printer

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CDWG 1321829

brother At your side.

Brother® HL-4040CN Network-ready, color laser printer with USB direct interface

- Print speed: up to 21 ppm black and color
- Print resolution: 2400 x 600 dpi
- Duty cycle: 35,000 pages per month
- Compatible with USB flash drive and PictBridge™
- USB 2.0 and Ethernet ports



\$399.99
CDWG 1215779

CDW-G

◆ Trend Micro's Internet security products monitor, respond to and protect student computers from Internet threats, such as inappropriate content, spyware, viruses and email spam. Download *free* tools and widgets for use on your PC. HouseCall is a *free* Web-based tool built to scan your PC for Internet threats, such as viruses, worms, Trojans and spyware. A detailed report identifies anything detected on your computer. Trend Micro email ID is a *free* browser plug-in that detects legitimate email in your inbox. TrendProtect is a *free* browser plug-in that helps detect unwanted Web content. Visit the Web site for more tools, plug-ins and widgets.

Web: <http://us.trendmicro.com/products/personal/free-tools-and-services/index.html>

◆ GlobalScholar.com recently launched two *free* school database resources, perfect for teachers, parents, students and the general public who need to look up or compare schools. CollegeFinder (<http://collegefinder.globalscholar.com/>) is a database for two-and four-year degree programs and graduate programs. Teachers, parents and students can locate and compare schools searchable by college or major. Each entry in the database contains General Information about the school, Degrees Offered, Key Financials, Notable Alumni and Contact Information with address and Web site links. You can print the page or add to A-list for comparison with other schools. The top 25 Lists are posted for easy browsing of Most Viewed Schools, Top Rated Schools and Just For Fun categories. SchoolFinder (<http://schoolfinder.globalscholar.com/>) is a searchable database of K–12 schools in the United States. K–12 school entries include Key Information, Brief Demographics, Test Scores, Student Information, Parent Rating/Reviews and Map using Microsoft Virtual Earth. These categorized school searches provide all the necessary information about K–12 schools and colleges along with links to the institutions' Web sites.

Web: <http://globalscholar.com>

◆ The time-consuming task of manually creating bingo boards and flash cards to reinforce concepts and vocabulary can be a thing of the past with Activity Builder, an online subscription service from Knowledge Adventure. Teachers can create dozens of instructional activities, including BINGO cards, flash cards, classic card games, Cube to Throw, Word Wall Cards, Puzzle Pieces and crossword puzzles. With more than 100,000 words included in the Knowledge Adventure Activity Builder database and the option to customize with your own words, you can create engaging resources for all content areas. Teachers can economically generate differentiated learning manipulatives for homework assignments, learning centers and small-or whole-group activities. Annual subscription licenses start at \$42 per teacher sign-in. Try the *free* seven day trial to see how easy it is to generate activities for your students.

Web: <http://www.kaactivitybuilder.com>



◆ TeachersPayTeachers is a *free* online marketplace from Scholastic.com where educators can buy and sell original curricula. Selling your creative worksheets, lessons or strategies is easy. First, sign up at TeachersPayTeachers.com for a *free* basic sellers membership. Second, upload your teacher-created materials. Third, set your prices and wait for orders. Scholastic.com collects the payment and sends out quarterly checks for earnings. The intellectual property rights to original materials remain with the member teacher-author. The online database also offers more than a thousand *free* downloads in different instructional categories. Drop-down menus help narrow the search by K–12 Subject Area, University Discipline, Type of Resource or Grade Level. Users set up a profile. They also can sign up for weekly emails with links to new posts for lessons in selected categories.

Web: <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/>

◆ Use this online 2008 Calendar from TeacherVision, with links to fun, educationally relevant holidays, historical events and celebrations for each day of the month throughout the year. Each event links to a corresponding Web resource or a TeacherVision printable for use in instruction. The downloadable version of the calendar is *free* from Pearson Education. The cost is \$39.95 a year; sign up for a *free* trial.

Web: <http://www.teachervision.fen.com/calendar/activity/47585.html>

◆ The Arbor Day Foundation, the U.S. Forest Service and Enterprise Rent-a-Car have teamed up to plant 50 million trees over the next 50 years. National Arbor Day is celebrated on the last Friday in April. This year's celebration is April 25, 2008. Send *free* e-cards for Arbor Day or download the *free* play script *Trees: A Joy Forever* about a statue of the founder of Arbor Day, J. Sterling Morton, which comes to life to teach the audience about the origins of Arbor Day. The play script is available in English or Spanish. Preschool through primary students will enjoy the Nature Explore Club. Student materials are \$4.95 per student with nine nature adventure activities and eight explorers' tools, such as feathers and leaf shapes, to use with the activities.

Web: <http://www.arborday.org/arborday/index.cfm>

◆ Free-reading.net is an open resource center and community, where primary teachers can access and share curricula on research-based instruction. The site features a complete set of activities for a typical 40-week core program. Or you can just access specific activities and downloads. Note in particular the Sound Pronunciation Guides, audio for the most common sounds (single letters and letter combinations), words separated into onset and rime, and words separated into phonemes. Free-Reading.net is continually updated by a large community of users and experts, which means you can share too.

Web: http://www.free-reading.net/index.php?title=Main_Page

◆ The **Google Notebook** tool lets you browse the Internet and collect clippings or links you want to save, for future access, for a lesson plan. Annotate your clippings and even share your Notebook with other colleagues or set up a Google Notebook for a student collaboration project. It's easy to share: just click the sharing options link and enter the email addresses of those you want to share the notebook. Another tool is **Google Custom Search Engine (CSE)**, which lets teachers select Web sites they want to be accessible and to create a CSE that is focused. Word processing and spreadsheets combine in the Web-based application found at **Google for Educators**. **Google Docs & Spreadsheets** is a *free* tool that can assist educators with the writing, reporting and tracking tasks teachers do daily, with the benefit of 24/7 access from home or school. Additional *free* tools for the K–12 classroom, such as Picasas can also be downloaded by clicking on the link Tools for the Classroom in the left menu bar.

Web: www.google.com/educators/

◆ **PowerTalk** is a *free* program that will add speech to any presentation or slideshow using PowerPoint 2000 or later. Just open and run any presentation and PowerTalk speaks the text on the screen. The program even speaks hidden text attached to an image. Download the *free* program for Windows only.

Web: <http://fullmeasure.co.uk/PowerTalk/>

◆ Add the **eBook Library v2.0** software to your Windows XP or Vista PC, a *free* download from The eBook Store from **Sony**. Software features let you read in full-screen, double-pane view on your PC and search your eBooks for keywords, set and jump to bookmarks and transfer eBooks to the Sony Reader Digital Book for reading on the go. The Sony Reader Digital Book is a portable reader for eBooks that uses electric ink technology requiring no backlight or power once the eBook image is displayed on the portable book-sized screen. The Sony Reader Digital Book retails for \$300 and holds more than 150 eBook titles.

Web: <http://ebookstore.sony.com/>

Plus: Earn 100 *free* eBook Classics titles published by Sony CONNECT (\$199 value) when you authorize your Sony Reader Digital Book before September 30, 2008.

◆ Visit the **Apple Dashboard Widgets** download center for amazing widgets for your Mac OS X Dashboard. Most of the widgets are *freeware*. Browse the Top 50 list or go straight to the categories for a more organized topic search of hundreds of widgets. One of the latest is an **Election 08 Countdown** to add to your school or classroom Web site.

Web: <http://www.apple.com/downloads/dashboard/>



◆ Qwest and the Qwest Foundation have partnered with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) to create an **Internet Safety Help Desk** to increase family awareness of **online safety issues**. The Qwest Foundation has funded **NetSmartz411**, a *free* Internet Help Desk with one-stop, interactive resources for parents, students, educators and law enforcement officers to find information about helping keep kids safe online. Search the extensive library for answers about the online world or send a question about online safety to Ask An Expert.

Web: <http://www.NetSmartz411.org>

Plus: Visit <http://www.netsmartz.org> and <http://www.netsmartzkids.org> to find **online safety games** and activities for kids.

◆ Your school can be the weather resource in your community with a scientific-grade **WeatherBug Weather Station** installed on your school roof. The weather station will record 17 different weather measurements in real time. The package includes a Digital Display Unit with live weather conditions displayed for school visitors and administrators, a **Safety Alerting Tool** for weather alerts and a **Teacher Activity Kit**. *Free* online weather resources are available, including a daily Monday–Friday **WeatherBug Weather Podcast** with a national weather summary. Subscribe to **Classroom Connections**, a *free* monthly email newsletter with a real-world instruction video lesson, a classroom activity, a featured weather cam and weather resources. Visit the Web site or call (800) 544-4429 for more information and pricing.

Web: <http://www.weatherbugschools.com>

Plus: **WeatherBug Achieve** is a full online curriculum package to integrate the weather station data. The *Achieve* program also includes professional development. **Interactive tools** and **standards-based lessons** use the live weather events from more than 8,000 schools across the nation. Powerful **graphing tools** combine with line and time-lapsed images to provide visual learning for math and science concepts and let students actively manipulate real-time or historical weather data. **Map gallery tools** let students view, create and print maps.

Web: <http://achieve.weatherbug.com/>

Attention Web Browsers: Web site addresses do change periodically. If you have difficulty connecting, use a search engine to get an updated address. These sites are recommended by teachers and editors for educational value, but all content and associated links are the domain of the site sponsor.

Respond and win a Canon Powershot A570.

See back cover for details.



Resources for 21st Century Skills

◆ Global communication is a necessary skill for the 21st century. The *Teacher's Guide to International Collaboration on the Internet* was created to help teachers use the Internet to reach out globally. The Table of Contents links to an extensive listing of National/Regional Networks, Internet ESL Project Examples, Additional Resources for Planning and Starting a New Project, Tutorials, and Guides and Tips on International Online Collaboration. Every hyperlink in this lengthy document provides resources for Internet collaboration. The materials were prepared as part of the U.S. Department of Education's **International Education Initiative**. Designed for online access to allow for the interactivity of the many links, the complete document is available in printable html view.

Web: <http://www.ed.gov/teachers/how/tech/internationalindex.html>

◆ The **Partnership for 21st Century Skills** is a collection of online resources for assessment, curriculum, professional development and learning environments dedicated to 21st century skills. Sign up for the *free e-newsletter* to stay up-to-date with information about 21st century skills. Link to **Route 21**, the first online resource dedicated to teaching and learning 21st century skills. The Resource menu is a valuable source of 21st century links to Publications, Online Tools, Presentations and Member Highlights. Online Tools include assessment tools for 21st century skills and a searchable Resource Database. The Member Highlights is an extensive listing of partner businesses and their 21st century initiatives, from grants and awards to innovative products.

Web: <http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/>

Plus: **Assess21**, under Online Tools, is a repository set up to showcase assessment tools for 21st century skills as they are developed and a place to submit new assessments. The definitions for the 21st century skills are also available. The Presentations link under Online Tools contains video, handouts and slideshows from the Partnership.

◆ The **Center for Digital Education**, with underwriting from **MPC Computers** (formerly Gateway), has released a one-to-one computing handbook, *K–12 2.0: A Complete Guide to One-to-One Computing in the K–12 Environment*. The handbook is a “best practices” guide to help educators implement the one-to-one computing initiative. Sections include budget guidance, funding options, classroom management and professional development suggestions. The guide also includes many real-world examples and details on successful and replicable one-to-one computing deployments from across the nation. Visit the Web site to download a *free* copy.

Web: http://www.convergemag.com/mpc_gateway/index.php

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Step up to more productivity.

NComputing®

\$206.99
CDWG 999289

NComputing X300

Each NComputing X300 kit enables you to add three users to an existing PC at a very low cost. With a second kit you can share a PC with up to seven users (six users connected through the X300 kits and one user working directly on the host PC). Each X300 kit includes a half-size PCI card and three access terminals. The terminals connect to the PCI card via a standard Cat 6 STP cable that can be up to 10 meters (33 feet) long. In addition to supplying the monitor, keyboard, mouse and audio signals to the terminal, the cable from the PCI card also supplies power eliminating the need for separate power adapters.



HP Smart Buy **\$121 instant savings**

HP Compaq Business Desktop dx2300

- Dual-Core Intel® Pentium® Processor E2140 (1.60GHz)
- Memory: 512MB
- 80GB SATA hard drive
- DVD-ROM drive
- Windows® XP Professional

\$419.99¹
CDWG 1341810



Monitor sold separately



¹After HP Smart Buy instant savings; savings may vary based on channel and/or direct standard pricing; available as open market purchases only; call your CDWG account manager for details

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EPEAT Gold Rating, Energy Star 4.0 Compliant

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ThinkCentre® A Series desktops offer a variety of models to fit your needs. Packed with power and expandability, they offer a great blend of essential features and technology at an affordable price. Provide your organization with the latest technology today to keep ahead of tomorrow.

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- Memory: 512MB
- 80GB hard drive
- DVD-ROM drive
- Windows® XP Professional



\$399.99
CDWG 1292278

Monitor sold separately



◆ Download a *free* eBook with realistic solutions for funding a one-to-one initiative for 21st century goals. The K–12 *Blueprint eBook: Funding Your One-to-One Vision* is made available by K–12 Computing Blueprint, produced by *Technology & Learning* and sponsored by Intel. Check out the list of eBooks that are also on the TechLearning Web site.

Web: <http://www.techlearning.com/content/epubs/index.php>

◆ *iEarn Multimedia Guide* provides teachers with a step-by-step procedure and detailed assistance for identifying and integrating online collaboration projects into the classroom curriculum. The outline starts with the educational goals of the existing curriculum and looks at the standards that can be enhanced with the use of global collaboration. This “how-to” guide includes ideas for designing new projects, finding global partners and sharing project outcomes. Much of the time-consuming preparation, forms and organizational tools are ready for download, including an **iEarn Buddy Support Contract**, **authentic assessment rubrics**, and **student presentations** and publications for existing iEarn global projects.

Web: http://us.iearn.org/professional_development/multimedialindex.html

◆ It’s easy to get families involved in math with the **Figure This!** Web site created for middle school students by the **National Council of Teachers of Mathematics**, in cooperation with the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering, Widmeyer Communications and the Learning First Alliance. The National Science Foundation (NSF) and the U.S. Department of Education provided the funding for this project. The **FigureThis! Math Challenges for Families** Web site has 80 different real-world math challenges with each one tied to at least one of the NCTM standards for math. The rigorous standards for student achievement in math are derived from the NCTM *Principles and Standards for School Mathematics*. Each challenge includes a description of the math involved, a note on where the math is used in the real world, a hint to help families get started on the solution, answers, an expanded **Try These** section, additional related problems with answers, **Think About This** questions to discuss, **Did You Know?** fun facts related to the challenge and related resources. A **Math Content Grid** identifies the math standard focus for each of the challenges. The PDF resources in **Family Corner** are available in English and Spanish. PowerPoint presentations for Figure This! Math Challenge sessions can be downloaded in color or black and white. A variety of brochures and math challenge sets can also be printed and sent home to get families involved with the math problem-solving skills necessary for the 21st century. A CD of the complete Figure This! Web site can be purchased for offline use.

Web: <http://www.figurethis.org>



◆ The ePals Global Learning Community connects more than 9.6 million educators and students in more than 132,000 classrooms across 200 countries to school-safe collaborative projects. While membership is *free*, every ePals member must create a profile that is approved by ePals staff before it is posted to the online class database. Approved profiles are limited to K–12 teachers, parents, school officials and other supervisory adults. Forums are available for **Teacher Talk**, **Parent Talk** and **Student Talk**. Conduct a search to find a global project that fits your classroom curriculum. This year ePals made its award-winning ePals **SchoolBlog** and ePals **SchoolM@il** technology tools, *free* to schools for use by students and teachers.

Web: <http://www.epals.com>

◆ Every educator should have a favorites or bookmark link to *A Teacher's Guide to Fair Use and Copyright*, which summarizes the copyright and fair use laws and includes a “Webliography” of additional resources on the topic. Today’s expanding digital world makes it imperative that educators and students gain a better understanding of the copyright laws and fair use guidelines for all digital media. This guide includes a chart for fair use in the classroom and a list of copyright-protected works to help define the professional and ethical responsibility of educators.

Web: <http://home.earthlink.net/~cnewresearch.htm>

◆ A great way to incorporate 21st century communication skills using podcasts, the **Just One More Book!** Web site is a compilation of podcasts about best-loved children’s books (geared to ages 4–10) and their authors and illustrators. Just One More Book! is a thrice-weekly podcast of discussions about children’s book titles, with weekly interviews of authors, illustrators and experts in children’s literature and literacy. Episodes are 5 to 30 minutes in length and can be listened to directly from the Web site or downloaded to an iPod for anytime/anywhere listening. The archives are categorized by subject area and by authors and illustrators.

Web: <http://www.justonemorebook.com/>

◆ The online **PolyVision Architect and Design Room** is an innovative Web resource that puts the specifications and drawings for all of PolyVision’s interactive whiteboard products at the fingertips of architects and school planners to meet the needs for creating a classroom environment that promotes 21st century learning. The Architectural Specification section makes CAD drawings with product dimensions and specifications readily available. Manuals and installation guides as well as online technical support can be found in the Architect and Design Room. The Walk-and-Talk interactive panel from PolyVision is a 21st century tool for mobile communication use with all presentations. The unique PolyKey technology puts a plug-and-play driver at the end of the USB cable, which makes it easy to capture files from the panel.

Web: <http://www.polyvision.com>

◆ Formed by the acquisition of the former IBM Personal Computing Division, **Lenovo** markets secure technology products and services worldwide. Innovations in security include the integrated fingerprint reader VitalSource KEY on the Lenovo ThinkPad and the ThinkVantage Technologies (TVT) subsystem consisting of an integrated security chip and downloadable Client Security Software.

Web: <http://www.pc.ibm.com/us/education/tvt.html>

◆ Enrichment and after-school programs help meet the learning needs of standards-based core content while preparing students for using such 21st century skills as problem solving and critical thinking, global communication, and digital and media literacy. **Freshi FilmWorx** puts a **digital camera** in the hands of students so they can use film to communicate their experiences and stories to the world. The hands-on approach to media literacy sparks creativity and builds confidence as students aged 8–18 plan their movie and work together to complete projects. Freshi FilmWorx provides online or on-site **filmmaking training** for teachers as professional development or for students for media literacy. See the Web site for complete curriculum packages (such as Live on the Set, or L.O.T.S.) and digital equipment pricing.

Web: <http://www.freshifilmworx.com/>

◆ **Xerox** has paired their WorkCentre Pro multifunction device with Remark Office OMR (Optical Mark Recognition) software from **Gravic, Inc.**, to automatically grade and analyze assessments. The end result is a more streamlined testing process that produces **graphical, customized reports** to show student strengths and weaknesses. The ability to reduce systems that scan documents and send them directly to a central print shop has greatly reduced the administrative tasks of teachers and administrators using the Xerox multifunction printer systems.

Web: <http://www.office.xerox.com/software-solutions/gravic-remark-office-omr/enus.html>

Attention Web Browsers: Web site addresses do change periodically. If you have difficulty connecting, use a search engine to get an updated address. These sites are recommended by teachers and editors for educational value, but all content and associated links are the domain of the site sponsor.



◆ Harness the technology power of existing computers with **NComputing** solutions, which uses small access terminals combined with nComputing software to allow users to share a PC. All users need their own monitor, keyboard and mouse, and their own applications; the PC power of one computer is then shared by up to 30 users. The X300 access terminal will share one PC with up to seven students. See the Web site for a *free* 30-day trial, valid for the U.S. educational market.

Web: <http://www.ncomputing.com>

◆ The **Toshiba K–12** Web site organizes education resources in an easy-access format. **Toshiba's Internet Select** allows administrators and teachers to select the types of information to be delivered from the Internet. The **Toshiba Learning Center** is an online training center with anytime, anywhere instruction for many of the applications used in K–12 schools.

Web: <http://www.csd.toshiba.com/cgi-bin/tais/publicsector/home.jsp>

Plus: Be sure to visit the **Toshiba Science Museum** for an in-depth look at science technology inventions.

Web: http://museum.toshiba.co.jp/index_3.html

◆ **RM Education** has introduced an interactive content pack that will have your students dancing their way to skills mastery and concept retention. The **RM Easiteach Dance Mat** operates like a keyboard when connected to a computer and sends signals when a student steps on the correct word or number on the floor mat. Dance Mat questions get progressively more challenging, making any instruction or review lesson fast paced and fun. More than 150 ready-to-use activities, covering the core content areas (math, English language arts, science, geography, history and world languages), will get your students started on dancing their way to student achievement. The lessons can be modified, making it easy to differentiate for students, and new activities can be created to match your specific curriculum needs. Further, students can use the built-in templates to create their own activity project and demonstrate content understanding.

Web: <http://www.rmeducation.com/easiteach/dancemat>

Respond and win a Canon Powershot A570.

See back cover for details.



Practical Professional Development and Training

FOR TEACHERS

◆ If you are planning a workshop on graphic organizers, you can request materials from **Inspiration Software** to use in your training. **Online tutorial videos** include the use of **Inspiration for Palm OS** and **Inspiration for Pocket PC** for handhelds. A wide range of **workshop scripts** can also be downloaded for use in training sessions lasting from 20 minutes to full-day workshops. Workshop scripts include training videos and curriculum packets for participants.

Suits: K–12 teachers, administrators and support staff

Costs: *Free*, by request

Locations & Dates: To be determined by local staff

Web: <http://www.inspiration.com/prodev/index.cfm>

◆ Online professional development from **CyberSmart!** provides strategies for meeting the challenges of teaching in a technology-rich classroom connected to a digital world. **Challenge for Educators in the 21st Century Workshop** is a highly collaborative workshop that follows the explore, apply, collaborate and reflect model of training. Other online workshops at CyberSmart! include **Cyber Safety**, **Cyber Ethics**, **Research & Information Fluency**, **Creativity & Critical Thinking**.

Suits: K–12 teachers

Costs: Visit the Web site for more information and pricing

Locations & Dates: Online, as scheduled

Web: http://www.cybersmart.org/pd/workshops_challenge.asp

◆ **Nova Southeastern University's Fischler School of Education** and **Human Services** offers a **Master of Science in Education** degree with a specialization in educational technology. It's offered through Nova's **National Graduate Teacher Education Program (NGTE)**. Students entering this specialization are assigned to a cluster/cohort group and take two courses per term. The program is for K–12 educators "who seek experience to fill the expanding need for innovators in the use of new technologies at regional, district or school center levels."

Suits: K–12 teachers

Cost: Per credit hour; see Web site for details.

Location: Online, as scheduled

Web: http://www.schoolofed.nova.edu/gtep/programoutline/gtep_ngte.html

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▶ **SOMEWHERE OUT THERE,
A TEACHER WILL INSPIRE HER
STUDENTS TO CAUSE AN EFFECT.**

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◆ Eduscapes' **Teacher Tap** is an extensive source of professional development resources for educators. The links under Teaching, Learning and Technology Professional Development Resources lead to a collection of time-saving starters for learning about technology.

Suits: K–12 teachers

Costs: Check Web site for more information and pricing

Location & Dates: Online, anytime

Web: <http://eduscapes.com/tap/tap1.htm>

Plus: A collected database of **Technology Tools** includes Data/Calculation, Design, Discussion Tools (forums, blogs, chats), Email, Handheld Devices, Interactive Tools, Publishing/Visual Art Tools, Multimedia and Writing Tools. Two more Eduscapes online resources are **42explore** and **Learning Ladders**.

◆ **Marco Polo technology training** sponsored by the **Verizon Foundation** is a *free* train-the-trainer model that provides teachers with innovative strategies for integrating technology into the content areas. Partner sites are ArtsEdge, EconEdLink, EdSitement, Illuminations, Read-Write-Think, Science NetLinks, National Geographic Xpeditions and the Smithsonian. Thinkfinity's professional development gives educators an opportunity to sign up for *free online self-training* on how to use the Thinkfinity resources. Sign up for educator webinars, bridge training for field trainers and online, self-paced literacy network courses.

Suits: K–12 teachers

Costs: *Free*

Locations & Dates: Online, anytime for self-paced courses

Web: <http://www.marcopolo-education.org/>

◆ **Promethean Learning** offers many **online courses** for using Activprimary software for elementary and ActivStudio software for middle and high school levels with the Promethean digital whiteboards and tablets. Online course offerings are categorized by level: Level 1—Foundation Skill courses; Level 2—Curriculum Developer courses; Level 3—Training and Coaching courses. The Level 1 courses are *free* and include both introductory and advanced skills. A new Level 1 course, ActivStudio for Mac Users, is now available.

Suits: K–12 teachers, instructional technology staff and trainers

Costs: Vary; see order form for pricing; Level 1 courses are *free*

Locations & Dates: Online, or as scheduled; check Web site for next course dates

Credits: May earn professional development points (PDPs) and certifications

Web: <http://prometheanlearning.com/us/>

Continued on page 46 ➔



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◆ Technology can provide help for teachers who educate ESE and struggling students. The **Florida Instructional Technology Training & Resource Unit** (FDLRS TECH) posts handouts from conference and workshop presentations. Click Resources on the left to select a search topic for even more links to PDF handouts, presentation materials and *free* software. Also find links to resources for integrating technology into the classroom and using assistive technology.

Suits: K–12 teachers and administrators

Costs: *Free*

Location & Dates: Online, anytime as needed

Web: <http://www.paec.org/fdlrstech/>

◆ HP and Microsoft are teaming up to offer a new *free* online community for teachers. Called “TEE” for short, the **Teacher Experience Exchange project** is a repository of content for teachers built by teachers. TEE content includes *free* software, lessons, discussions, contests and training materials. Courses, interactive how-to’s and online resources and tools are available 24/7. Register to become a teacher advisor and join other educators in sharing lesson plans, videos, photos and multimedia projects. Talk about technology with your colleagues, sign up for online professional development courses and tutorials on technology applications, watch video clips and download podcasts that support technology integration in the classroom.

Web: <http://www.hp.com/go/TeacherExperience>

◆ The spring schedule for **Vernier Software & Technology’s** *free* hands-on workshops is available on the Vernier Web site. Each workshop is a four-hour training session to learn how to integrate computer and handheld data-collection technology into the math or science curriculum. Participants learn how to use Vernier’s LabQuest data collection interface, both in the lab and out in the field using computers, TI graphing calculators and Palm OS handhelds. Optional Graduate Science credit can be obtained through the Portland State University Center for Science Education for about \$70 a credit hour. Twenty-six trainers, who have more than 686 years of teaching experience and have collectively written more than 60 science books and lab manuals, provide the training.

Suits: K–12 teachers, instructional technology staff and trainers

Costs: *Free*

Locations & Dates: See Web site for scheduled dates and locations across the country

Web: <http://www.vernier.com/workshop/evaluation.html>



◆ **Watchguard Technologies**, a global provider of network security solutions, provides **online support** for their products with **Learning Lab**. With the **Dustin Barnes Mystery Series**, teachers (and students) learn network security in a real-world scenario as they follow the adventures of network administrator Dustin Barnes. Each story has a suspense-filled problem to solve, from hackers to VPN tunnels to wireless security. The series archives make the stories accessible at any time. The task-based tutorials are short, step-by-step videos about using the security products from Watchguard. The informative **Network Security Glossary** is a “must see”.

Suits: K–12 teachers, administrators and IT support staff

Costs: *Free*

Locations & Dates: Online, anytime

Web: <http://www.watchguard.com/education/>

◆ Improving classroom observation skills is critical for administrators to assess if staff development training is leading to teacher growth and student learning. **McREL’s** two-day **workshops** train school leaders to turn regular classroom observations into power walkthroughs that use a PDA, Tablet PC, Blackberry or iPhone device loaded with McREL’s Web-based software. The two-day workshops cover the nine categories of strategies in the books *Classroom Instruction That Works* (CITW) and *Using Technology Classroom Instruction That Works*. In less than five minutes, a principal or instructional coach can observe and evaluate the CITW strategies being used in a lesson and record measurable observation data.

Suits: K–12 administrators

Costs: Check Web site for pricing

Locations & Dates: Check Web site for details

Web: <http://www.mcrel.org>

◆ Teachers, administrators and tech support staff can access the **American Power Conversion’s APC Learning** Web portal for help in taking care of top IT problems. Join 30-minute live **Web seminars**, access **podcasts** on current trends in the data center and sign up at the Data Center University for online courses. Find the full list of events and courses at the APC Learning Web site.

Suits: K–12 teachers, administrators and IT support staff

Costs: Check Web site for pricing

Locations & Dates: Online, anytime

Web: http://www.apc.com/corporate/learning_center/

◆ **Polycom** sponsors **distance learning** events that correlate to the K–12 curriculum for classrooms using the Polycom video conferencing technology. Register for author interviews, with video streaming, scheduled throughout the spring or sign up for a writing session on May 1, 2008.

Suits: K–12 teachers, administrators and IT support staff

Costs: Check Web site for pricing

Location & Dates: The schedule for spring 2008 is posted on the Web site. Check back regularly as events will be added.

Web: http://www.polycom.com/usalen/solutions/industry_solutions/education/programs_resources/special_events.html

FOR STUDENTS

◆ The **Women in the Sciences and Engineering (WISE) Camp** is a one-week residential science and engineering career exploration camp for 11th- and 12th-grade girls. The camp curriculum is designed to encourage young women who enjoy solving puzzles and exploring how things work to consider a career in the sciences and engineering. This year's summer camp is scheduled for June 22–28, 2008 at Penn State University in University Park, Pennsylvania. For more information and a brochure and application, contact the WISE Institute or call (814) 865-3342.

Deadline: April 4, 2008 for applications

Costs: \$425

Web: <http://www.equity.psu.edu/wisewisecamps.asp>

◆ The **Cisco Networking Academy** is a comprehensive **e-learning program** that provides students with training for the technology skills they will need for success in a global community. The Web-based curriculum and hands-on labs teach students Internet technology skills and prepare them for industry standards certification. The Curriculum Alignment Database matches the Academy Program CCNA 1–4 course objectives with national and individual state standards as well as the Taxonomy of Performance Indicators (TAPI). Training prepares students for the Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) and Cisco Certified Network Professional (CCNP) degrees. Optional courses include IT Essentials, PC Hardware and Software and IT Essentials: Network Operating Systems; and Panduit Network Infrastructure Essentials sponsored by Panduit Corporation. Through partnerships with the United Nations Development Program, the United States Agency for International Development and the International Telecommunication Union, Cisco has made the Academy available worldwide.

Web: <http://www.cisco.com/web/learning>



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Worth-the-Surf Web Sites

◆ As part of the **50 State Quarters program**, the last five state coins in the United States 50 State Quarters series will be distributed in 2008: Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Alaska and Hawaii. The quarters are introduced in the same order as the states' birthdays, with the first quarter to be Oklahoma on January 28, 2008. The **United States Mint** has developed an extensive **database of lessons** correlated to state standards that can be used in grades K–12. In addition to the lessons, there are quarter-related **interactive games** and **activities** and links to state research and American history activities at **H.I.P. Pocket Change** for kids and adults to learn more about the United States Mint and our U.S. currency.

Web: <http://www.usmint.gov/kids/teachers/>

Plus: Find Presidential \$1 Coins lessons and activities on this Web site as well.

◆ Looking for an educationally focused, vetted search engine for students in the elementary and middle school grades? **Ask for Kids** combines human editorial judgment and natural-language searching with content appropriate for the age group. The site also makes use of filtering technology to ensure that search results are relevant for education topics. Search results are reviewed for content on the first level and for content linked from that first page, known as a Level 2 page. Study Help is also rich with hyperlinks to Dictionary, Thesaurus, Almanac, Biography, Science, Clip Art, Math Help and History. There are also main links to News Resources for K–12 and Fun & Games, including word games, spelling games, crosswords and geography games.

Web: <http://www.askforkids.com/>

◆ **Target** and **Scholastic.com** have teamed up for **Dream in Color**, a celebration of the diverse cultures and heritages that make up our world through the use of storytelling. The curriculum lessons and resources use storytelling to help students celebrate their cultures. Share inspiring video of an interview with Dr. Maya Angelou, browse the extensive resources and use the technology tools to expand your study of cultures. The project encourages students to share their heritage through digital storytelling and video. Calendar events include Asian Pacific Heritage in May and Hispanic Heritage in September. Email your stories about celebrating heritage and culture to DreaminColor.Stories@Target.com

Web: <http://www.scholastic.com/dreamincolor/>



◆ The **PT3 project** (Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers to Use Technology) features the **Teachers' Info-Port to Technology** with a well-organized, *free* database of Technology Tools. Each category links to Web resources for using the tool, opportunities for training and tutorials, and ways to integrate the technology into instruction with sample projects and ideas. Technology Tools includes imaging (video and digital resources, digital cameras, scanners, Fireworks, Inspiration), Desktop Presentations (PowerPoint, *Jeopardy*), Internet (email), Web design and development, Print Documents (Adobe InDesign and PageMaker, Microsoft Publisher and QuarkXPress).

Web: <http://tipt3.utoledo.edu/>

◆ With the new mobility of technology products now in the K–12 learning environment, **ComputraceComplete** from **Absolute Software** can help administrators and school districts take control of their computer and software inventory and track missing computers or unauthorized use of software. Absolute Software is the first in the industry to offer a recovery guarantee by paying up to \$1,000 to replace any computer with ComputraceComplete installed that cannot be recovered within 60 days. See the Web site for guarantee details.

Web: <http://www.absolute.com/computracecomplete/laptop-tracking.asp>

◆ *A Lifetime of Color* from **Sanford** is a *free* resource for the Arts & Humanities curriculum. Students can apply art history and visual arts concepts through interactive, critical-thinking activities suited to primary and intermediate grades. This online resource gives students a glossary, timeline and artists links for learning about the color wheel, the elements and principles of art, and the biographies and works of different artists. Lesson plans by grade (also searchable by subject) provide teachers with ideas for integrating art with reading, math, science and social studies. The lessons include downloadable visual resources tied to national visual arts standards. More than a dozen **Art Adventures** simulations help students discover how artists made their famous works, while learning tips and techniques for creating their own art.

Web: <http://www.alifetimeofcolor.com>

◆ A generous grant from the Best Buy Children's Foundation made it possible for the **National Park Foundation** to create **WebRangers** for K–8 students. Sign up, login or just visit this interactive nature and environmental study site of the U.S. Department of the Interior's **National Park Service**. Once students log in and create their personal Ranger Station, they can explore and complete dozens of investigations, which are tracked and saved. As students complete each activity, they are awarded badges. Activities are leveled (easy, medium, hard) so they are easy to differentiate for ages 6–13 and up.

Web: <http://64.78.32.69/webangers/>



◆ The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) created **MyPyramid.gov** to help students and adults understand the **MyPyramid** food guidance system introduced in April 2005. Middle and high school students (parents and educators, too!) will find the interactive **MyPyramid Plan** helpful in determining what and how much an individual should eat to stay healthy. **MyPyramid Tracker** is an online tool used to assess individual diet quality and amount of physical activity using a Food Calories/Energy Balance to calculate balance between physical activity and food intake. A downloadable PowerPoint tutorial is available for using the online MyPyramid Tracker. Elementary and middle school students will love the challenge of the **MyPyramid Blast Off game** where players attempt to reach Planet Power with their rocket by making healthful choices for a daily plan that meets USDA requirements. If students win the game and take off for Planet Power, their successful daily menu can be printed along with a certificate of achievement.

Web: <http://www.mypyramid.gov/>

◆ **4Teachers' TrackStar** is a *free* online resource for teachers to organize and create Web-based lessons that can be linked for classroom use and made public for others to use. The track database is searchable by keyword, subject, grade, theme and standard. A drop-down menu gives immediate access to other 4Teachers tools, including RubiStar, QuizStar, NoteStar, PersuadeStar and Web Worksheet Wizard. TrackStar tutorials make it easy to use all the teacher tools for creating and using the TrackStar resources.

Web: <http://trackstar.4teachers.org/trackstar/>

◆ The **Epson CreativeZone** is a picture-perfect collection of scrap-booking, storytelling, art and craft ideas to integrate into instructional lessons or implement for school and classroom bulletin-board themes or even for yearbook pages. Project postings include detailed instructions and supply lists to make it easy to re-create the projects. Register for the **Creative Croppers Club newsletter** to stay current with articles on photo printing and new Epson CreativeZone project ideas. The projects under the School Tools link include personalized photo CD case calendars and I.D.s for Kids tags for emergency contacts, backpacks, books, lunch bags and lockers. Check the Web site for the schedule of courses.

Web: <http://www.epsoncreativezone.com/>

Plus: Enroll in *free*, online courses at the new **Epson Creative LearningZone**. Sample tutorial titles include Photoshop for Photographers, Digital Music Essentials and Advanced Digital Scrapbooking.

Continued on page 54 ➡



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◆ **ClassroomEarth.org** is an environmental resource for K–12 sponsored by the **Mitsubishi International Corporation Foundation**. The annotated database of environmental education curriculum programs for K–12 classrooms is extensive and categorized by Popular (Top 10 programs for K–12 classrooms), Rising Star (not Top 10 but close), After School, Home School and Earth Day. Each entry in the database includes detailed information on the curriculum covered by the program, the grade levels, and how to obtain the program materials.

Web: <http://www.classroomearth.org>

◆ **A Virtual Journey into the Universe** is an interactive journey into space for a close-up look at the planets, the universe and exploration. The Interactives section includes games or informational animations. The Exploration section consists of in-depth details about famous people in astronomy, *Explorer* satellites and space stations. This is an outstanding resource to use on Space Day, on May 2, 2008.

Web: <http://library.thinkquest.org/28327/>

Plus: For additional Space Day resources, search the more than 6,500 Web sites in the **Oracle Education Foundation's, ThinkQuest** library. All the Web sites in the library have been created by students and submitted as part of the ThinkQuest competition.

Web: <http://www.thinkquest.org/library/index.html>

◆ The **Education Place** Web site supports **Houghton Mifflin** preK–6 programs with online resources, such as ebooks, eglossary, egames and emanipulatives. Do an activity search by theme or keyword for printable lesson plans. Visit **Parent's Place** for activities based on core content topics that can be done at home. Print graphic organizers, link to resources and lesson plans for monthly themes and get **Homework Help** Web resources.

Web: <http://www.eduplace.com>

◆ Get your middle school and high school students involved with current events and the digital media resources found at the **Learners Online WebCurrents** Web site. Weekly online lessons from the archives focus on a thematic topic that ties into a relevant news event. Lessons include a relevant news article, links to Web resources for increasing student understanding of the news topic and suggested newspaper activities for extending learning.

Web: <http://www.learnersonline.com/weekly/index.htm>

Continued on page 56 ➔



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◆ **The New York Times Learning Network** is a learning environment for teachers, parents and students in grades 3–12. Updated every week day during the school year, the news resources include a News Summary of the day’s news, a Who’s Who and What’s What news quiz, links to what happened On This Day in history, a Word of the Day and Conversation Starters for discussing the day’s news at home. Use the News Snapshot photo to build interest in daily news. Just print the Student Handout with study questions and the Teacher Page with answers to the discussion questions and a link to the actual online news article. The Student Connection has an online Daily News Quiz with five questions taken from the daily news and a “hint” link to the actual news article for each question. Quiz play is every Monday through Friday.

Web: <http://www.nytimes.com/learning/>

◆ **Cable in the Classroom**, in partnership with CNN and The History Channel, has developed the nonpartisan eLECTIONS: Your Adventure in Politics, a *free*, online 3-D simulation of the race for the presidency. Getting into the race requires the candidate to learn policies and compete for the party nomination in the primary election process. Students can learn American politics and the election process as they build a platform and run their campaign. Players can get help with decision making, using video footage from CNN News and The History Channel documentaries.

Web: <http://broadband.ciconline.org/elections/game.htm>

GREEN ENVIRONMENTAL SITES

◆ **Plug-In to eCycling** is a program to provide opportunities to donate or recycle (eCycle) used electronics, such as computers, televisions, cell phones and other old electronics. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and **Plug-In Partners** from communities, electronics manufacturers and retailers have joined together to promote responsibility in safe electronics recycling that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and safely manage toxic chemicals, such as lead and mercury. Some eCycling allows companies to donate ready-to-use or refurbished equipment to those who need it. Visit the Web site to get the complete list of eCycle partners and ways for students to help with eCycling through take-back, mail-in or trade-in programs.

Web: <http://epa.gov/reel/plugin/>

◆ Use these **multimedia demonstrations** for an “interactive insight” into the **security products and services** of SonicWALL. Choose the Comprehensive Demo for a look at all of the firm’s offerings or delve into the specifics of Unified Threat Management, firewalls, email or endpoint security, content filtering, wireless solutions and more.

Web: <http://www.sonicwall.com/us/products/resources/2198.html>

Continued on page 59 ➔



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Where simplicity meets technology

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With its flexible IE configuration and removable magazines, it's the perfect library for integration with disk systems. The result of this forward thinking design is seamless integration with disk by enabling users to manage and monitor multiple Quantum libraries and disk systems from one screen using StorageCare Vision.

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CoSN is THE national organization for K-12 technology leaders. Through networking powerful community of peers, CoSN nurtures leadership, promotes ed tech advocacy and gives me tools, resources and links to innovative best practices in the field. As a technology leader, I rely on CoSN every day!

—Katie Lovett
CIO, Atlanta, Georgia

Consortium for School Networking (CoSN), Your Voice in the Future of Education Technology

CoSN's mission is to serve as the national organization for K-12 technology leaders who use technology strategically to improve teaching and learning.

CoSN Membership Benefits:

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- Face-to-face networking opportunities with your peers and the corporate sector at the annual K-12 School Networking Conference (www.k12schoolnetworking.org).
- Face-to-face networking opportunities through CoSN events such as CTO Clinics or CTO Forums.
- Leadership development information that enables you to stay current on the key education technology issues you face.
- Participation in CoSN's annual Internet & Education Webcast Series.
- Representation of your interests in Washington.
- A free print copy of the new edition of the annual CoSN Compendium, plus online access to all previous years' monographs.
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◆ **PolyVision** has developed a corporate environmental policy called eVision that guides the corporation’s research and development and its product specifications. PolyVision is the first manufacturer to earn GREENGUARD certification for all its tack and markerboards manufactured in the United States. The Edge Premium Whiteboard, using an e3 environmental ceramicsteel writing surface, is the first industry product to earn global Cradle to Cradle Silver certification and GREENGUARD Indoor Air Quality and GREENGUARD Children and Schools certification. PolyVision’s goal is to meet or exceed all areas of environmental stewardship by using raw materials and natural resources responsibly. For more information, call (800) 620-POLY or visit the Web site.

Web: <http://www.polyvision.com>

◆ **Rand McNally Classroom** contains more than 1,800 reference, special topic and history maps that can be printed, viewed and saved. The site’s new **interactive history maps** and its numerous **interactive games and activities** will engage your students, while the **lesson plans and assessments** will help you implement all the site has to offer. A **correlation search tool** shows you how the site’s content aligns with your state standards and how to integrate the site’s features across the curriculum in reading, math, science and social studies. Special features include weekly **current events articles** and **discussion questions**, as well as daily “Where in the World?” **photo features**. In addition, “Traveling Teddies” **photos and postcards** describe places in the world where a traveling bear has visited, and “Ask the Geography Sleuths” gives students the opportunity to submit their geography questions to Rand McNally’s resident experts.

Web: <http://www.randmcnally.com/rmc/EdPub/action/marketing.do>

◆ Whether you need to back up workstation hard drives or network servers, you’ll find comprehensive information in a white paper from **Tandberg Data** titled “Keeping Your Data Out of Harm’s Way.” This primer for IT professionals provides an especially useful checklist to help outline a personalized school/district backup and recovery plan to secure data.

Web: <http://forms.tandbergdata.com/Surveys/21/566CECE735F85658/Survey.aspx>

◆ Stimulate the brain and find out how this complex organ is the body’s primary control system. Feed the body different foods and find out how the digestive system is the body’s fuel factory. Watch how aging and stresses like cuts and sunlight can affect the body’s largest organ—the skin. Explore these and other workings of the human body on this **National Geographic** site.

Web: <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/guides/science/humanbody/index.html>

Continued on page 61 ➔



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◆ **Firsthand Learning** is designed to engage elementary and middle school students in writing about natural phenomena and to observe and read on their own. Teachers are encouraged to use the variety of *free mini-journals* to encourage students to begin keeping a science journal. Students can use the downloadable mini-journals to record their observations about whatever interests them. They can go outside and investigate nature firsthand, or if they prefer, they can get started by watching some interesting animal behavior, using the **video clips** provided on the site.

Web: <http://www.firsthandlearning.org/minijournal.html>

◆ The **Journey North program** engages students in a global study of **wildlife migration** and **seasonal change**. Students share their field observations with classmates across North America. They track the coming of spring through the migration patterns of monarch butterflies, bald eagles, robins, hummingbirds, whooping cranes, gray whales and other birds and mammals. Students also monitor the budding of plants, changing sunlight and other natural events. Since the program is based on seasonal changes, the **standards-based lessons** focus on northern migration in the spring and summer and on southern migration in the fall and winter. For almost all the lessons there is a **reading-writing connection**. Teachers must register to take part in the program, but registration is *free*.

Web: <http://www.learner.org/jnorth/index.html>

◆ **ServiceVote** has launched an interactive Web site intended to engage young people in the 2008 elections by providing **news** and **information** on the candidates paired with **key issues**. The site also allows for peer interaction and ongoing conversations through a **discussion forum** that enables youth to post videos, images and audio files. The hope is to increase the numbers of young people taking action in the election and in the political process.

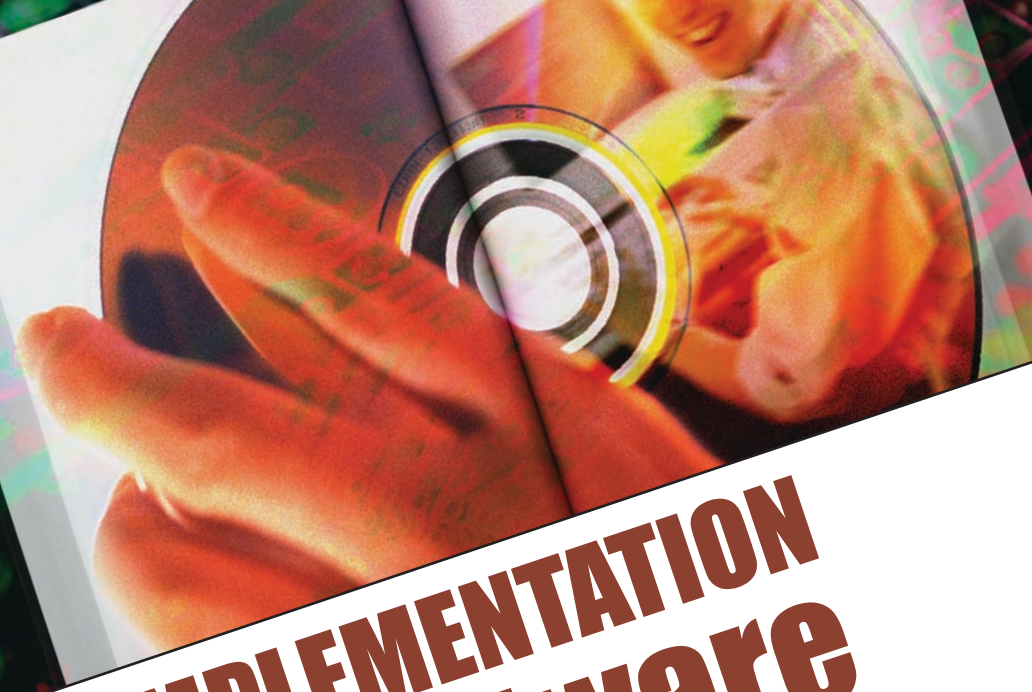
Web: http://www.servicevote.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=219&Itemid=142

◆ **The Last Brain Thinking** is a **mental agility game show** that aims to make **math** and **English** fun for students. To improve their brainpower, students simply enter the Last Brain Thinking studios and play the single-player games. Once they've fully trained their brain, they can test their mind against other players in the multiplayer studios. There are three studios—easy, medium and hard. **Teachers' notes** are available to download for use in the classroom.

Web: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/communities/onionstreet/lastbrain/>

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