Technology Tidbits

connect ➔ research ➔ abstract ➔ analyze ➔ communicate ➔ collaborate ➔ create

All About the New Website

I've been so busy with the new website that I did not publish a March 31st or April 15th Tidbits. Now that the new website has been revealed, I've been able to get back to business. If you have not taken a good look at the new site, here are two videos to help you navigate. This video is an overall view that was sent to all staff and families, just before the vacation. This video is more recent and it's about the fabulous calendars.

We hope you will help our students and families navigate the new sites and find the treasure trove of information that is available. The Families and Students tabs at each school and on the district page are very helpful resources, the quicklinks at each school are mostly what our students need quick access to, and the staff resources at each school will get you where you need to go.

Please let me know if you find any links that don't work or that have the wrong information.
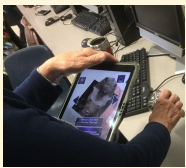
Technological Fluency

Just as we teach literacy skills for our particular subject matter, we need to teach skills for technological fluency. If we all take part in teaching students how to use technology in our own classrooms, imagine how rich their understanding of technology will be. This brief article from Empowered Learner (ISTE Publication, April 2019) is an interesting perpective on how naturally weave technology skills into your everyday lessons and keep students with skills to help themsevles.
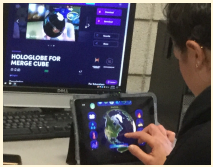
Augmented Reality

What is it? If we look at the two words: *augmented*- increased in size, number, strength and *reality*- resemblance to being real, we can deduce that augmented reality is somehow about increasing real life. But what does that mean? Augmented reality apps allow you to remain in a real setting, but you are adding something to the setting that doesn't really exist in the setting. That's not much clearer.

An example can be found on the IKEA or Amazon websites. Both have an option for iphone where you can use the camera to show your living room and then you can "place" furniture and accessories through the website to see how they would look. Your living room is reality but you are augmenting (increasing) it through the website by putting something in the scene that isn't really there.

Augmented reality can be that basic or much more. Recently, a product called the Merge Cube has become very popular in education. If you are a twitter fan, you can look for it and find AMAZING things people are doing with it. I demonstrated these cubes at Family Literacy Night where people could "hold the universe" in their hands. Hold the

Merge Cube in your hand, look at the cube through one of the Merge apps on your ipad and voilà, now you're holding the universe and touching planets right in your classroom.

I'm a big fan of Merge because even without the actual cube, you can explore their apps by downloading the 6 sides of the cube, printing the images and trying out the apps. Here's a great link to see what is available and how it works. It's not new, so you will find there is even more available now.

You can even make your own paper cubes by printing this document, cutting it and making a cube. You can get a 30 trial of Merge EDU here and then download the app on your own. Try it yourself, try it with your students through your ipad. We haven't put the apps on any student ipads yet and I'd love feedback from anyone who

has tried it themselves with and without students. This is a good place to start to get everyone interested in the possibilities of augmented reality.

ISTE Conference Opportunity

The ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education) conference this year is in Philadelphia June 23-26. This is the largest educational technology conference in the world and is guaranteed to have something for everyone. If you are committed to broadening your technology skills, I have one full conference registration for one lucky person. If you are interested, please look carefully at the dates, check out the website and fill out this form by May 6th. Travel, meals and accommodations will be entirely your responsibility. Please contact me if you have any questions before filling out the form.

GooglePalooza

If you want to get the most out of using the G Suite, you should attend one of the GooglePalooza sessions offered by MassCUE in August. I have attended twice and I've come away each time with more G Suite skills. It's worth every penny. Click for information.

The Tidbits

Looking for Online Course?
MassCUE Offerings

Did you miss an issue? Back issues of Technology Tidbits can be found on the Technology Website. Click here.

Google Tools For Primary: Click here for some creative activities you can download and have your students do.

Digital Citizenship: Have students take charge of teaching others about DigCit. Interesting article here.

Follow @dyadvantage and @dysupt on Twitter. If you have an event coming up, please let me know so I can tweet it!

Doing something awesome with technology? Show me!

Writing a grant proposal? If it involves purchasing technology, please be sure to consult with the Technology Office first.