


From: Mandy Nelson <nelsonm@district90.org> 
Subject: Fwd: TECH NEWS- FEBRUARY 2013
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13 Attachments, 323 KB

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Subject: **TECH NEWS- FEBRUARY 2013**



IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN!

Keys get broken off keyboard, the mouse suddenly becomes gigantic, the desktop background changes, laptops get dropped.

Oh yes, it's coming. Remind your kids of the following:

1. Report anything listed above ASAP to the tech specialist.
2. Always log out.
3. Carry the laptop with two hands. (We've had two dropped laptops in the past 2 weeks.)
4. Put your laptop back in the correct place in the cart.
5. Always plug the laptop back in.
6. If a laptop never seems to charge let the tech specialist know so that the battery can be replaced.



THE ADVENTURE IN NUMBERING THE iPADS CONTINUES...

The rubber "Gumball" cases that protect the iPads do not allow for easy labeling. So, in my second attempt I labeled all of the iPads in two places. They are numbered in white on the front bottom-left corner of the case. They are numbered in black near where the charger plugs in. Please tell your students not to scratch them off!



RECENT TECH INTEGRATION FOR MEANINGFUL LEARNING BY OUR PEERS:

- Mr. Peters had his students use Keynote on the iPads to write sentences that included their spelling words. The students then took pictures that corresponded to the sentences and pasted them into their Keynote.
- Check out Ms McFarlane's website, where students post their [book reviews](#) for all the world to see. Earlier this year we utilized Audioboo to record students talking about their projects. We created QR codes and at the writing celebration their parents visited, scanned the codes with their phones (or our iPads), and listened to the student reflections.
- Mrs. Gapastione's class uses Arcademic Skill Builders to compete against each other for who can type the fastest (and most accurately) in the lab.

- Mrs. Pesce and I had students post their questions about the moon on the iPads using the Wallwisher (now called Padlet) website. Then we posted the questions on her website. I created links to answers for the questions they posed. Then, they visited the lab, clicked on the links and conducted their research. It was fun!

- Mrs. Miller and I just used the ShowMe! app for a math activity. Students were given a problem on the board and had to record themselves talking and working through the problem on the iPad. (The app records both their voice and whatever they write on the screen.) Mrs. Miller had the BRILLIANT idea of using it for practicing extended response math problems.

3rd & 4th TEACHERS: YOU SHOULD RE-USE THE GOOGLE ISAT READING PRACTICE FORMS WE CREATED LAST YEAR!

Remember how last year we created ISAT online practice tests that provided immediate feedback?. Re-use them now! I'll host you in the lab. Or, you can do it on your own. Go to our school's website > click on Classroom Websites > click on [mine](#) > go to your grade level > click on the practice ISAT link. **You'll need to provide your kids with the paper version of the written stories we used last year.**

AFTER SCHOOL TECH TRAINING IN MARCH

Due to my volleyball coaching schedule (for the 7th grade girls at Roos) I won't be able to host an after school tech training until mid March. The most popular request was for how to create screencasts so we'll start with that one. In the mean time if you want to meet one on one to learn a program let me know! We can set up a time to meet weekly during one of your prep periods if you'd like. Or, we can meet before school. I'll send out a survey to find out your availability in late Feb for the screencasting workshop.



A SET OF BOOKS ON THE iPADS?

Some teachers have mentioned they would like books on the iPads. If your grade level has a book that is assigned to students year after year and you want to try using it with the iPads let us know. We'd like to pilot this with one grade level to see how it goes. It would need to be a book that you will use each year to make it a good investment.



STYLUSES FOR iPADS

We purchased one class set of styluses for the iPads to be shared (for now) between Willard and Lincoln. A stylus is basically a pen you can use to draw and write with on an iPad or touchscreen device. If the demand warrants it we can buy another set but they are surprisingly expensive. **If you plan on using them in a lesson let me know a day ahead of time so I can bring them to you from the other school if need be.**



DOES YOUR MAC EVER GET REALLY HOT? IF SO, RESTART IT.

There's probably an application continuously running in the background that is causing the issue.

SHEL SILVERSTEIN'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL

There are a few Silverstein poems and stories uploaded [here](#). Your students may enjoy watching and reading along. I'm guessing there are lots of children's books read aloud on Youtube. Let me know who your favorite authors are and I'll look for you. Then we can post links on your website or mine.



HOW APP-TASTIC!

Here are two sites curated by educators for finding useful iPad apps:

[Teachers with Apps](#)
[iPad Apps 4 School](#)



AN OLDIE BUT GOODIE- ARCADEMIC SKILL BUILDERS

Watching students in the lab the other day get excited to play this game reminded how useful and fun this site is. Each student is on their own computer but they can invite one another to play against each other in arcade-like academic games such as addition, multiplication, money, geography, typing, fractions, time, language arts (vowels, spelling, double vowels etc.) Want me to come in and get this started as a center in your class? Let me know!



CAPITALIZATION SONG AND VIDEO

Are your students forgetting when to capitalize? Have them check out [this](#) rap song/video.



THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION RECOMMENDS...

"[Great Websites for Kids](#) is a compilation of exemplary websites geared to children from birth to age 14. Suggested sites are evaluated by the Great Websites for Kids Committee using established selection criteria. The committee is made up of members of the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association. Newly evaluated and accepted sites are added to the database three times a year. The committee also reviews all sites within the database twice a year to guarantee sites are still relevant, appropriate and accessible."



This is from [Richard Byrne's website](#): "Scholastic has developed a new series of interactive lessons about the Underground Railroad. [The Underground Railroad Escape from Slavery](#) takes students on a virtual trip from a southern plantation to freedom in Ohio. The trip is divided into four sections; On the Plantation, Escape, Reaching Safety, and Reaching Freedom. In each section students can listen to short narrated stories and browse through slideshows. The slideshow images are accompanied by short narrated captions. Each section of [The Underground Railroad Escape from Slavery](#) has a teacher's guide and writing activities for students to complete. [The Underground Railroad Escape from Slavery](#) is optimized for use on interactive whiteboards. The lessons are appropriate for students in grades three through six."

EDMODO UMBRELLA

If you plan to use Edmodo with your students we need for you to sign in with a certain code one time so that you become part of the D90 umbrella. This way we can better monitor what students are doing. Let me know and I'll walk you through it.

FREE SOUNDS FROM ALEXANDRIA

Our new online library catalog has free sounds that can be downloaded for student use. Click [here](#) for more info.

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Lincoln Schedule: Mon-Tues mornings, Wed-Fri afternoons
Willard Schedule: Mon-Tues afternoons, Wed-Fri mornings

