

TECH NEWS- DECEMBER 2014

Still Prefer Writing Over Typing? Use Penultimate to Take Handwritten Notes on Your iPad

From Free Tech for Teachers: “Penultimate provides a place for you to hand-write notes on your iPad. The app allows you to create multiple notebooks with multiple pages in each. You can change the color and size of the pen strokes that are created when you write in your notebooks. Each page in your notebook can include pictures that you have stored on your iPad or pictures that you take through the Penultimate app.”



Two Resources to Help You Find Cool, Free Apps

I get a weekly email update of cool apps from Richard Byrne. Click on this link to subscribe: <http://ipadapps4school.com/subscribe/>

Download Apps Gone Free from the App Store and you'll have access to all kinds of discounted/free apps every day.



Instead of Using Images From the Web...

Richard Byrne (instructional tech guru) recommends teachers encourage students to draw or take their own pictures to insert into their reports. This limits the amount of copyrighting and encourages students to get creative.

Class Messenger Makes Parent Communication & Reminders EASY!



From their site: “Class Messenger makes it effortless for teachers to send home important notes and updates about the day’s learning experiences. **They can even see exactly which parents have read each note.** And whether via app, text or email, communication through Class Messenger is always private.”

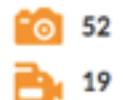
Use Arkive.org for Animal Info and Images



Common otter (*Lutra lutra*)

The elusive common otter (*Lutra lutra*) has sleek brown fur, which is often paler on the underside...

[More about the Common otter »](#)



If students are doing a research project on animals have them use this site.



Turn Your Classroom into a Gameshow

This seems like one of the most fun, simple tools you could use in your classroom. Lindsay (tech spec. @ Roos) has said her teachers really like it. First, log in as a teacher, pick a “quiz” (or create your own). Next, have your students go to kahoot.it. They enter their name and the game code and start playing. Kahoot keeps track of their scores. Your students will LOVE this!!!

Preparing for PARCC Could Be Fun?

PARCC Games was created to help students and teachers take on the new Common Core standards as well as the PARCC assessment. Click here to search for games based on each standard.



 +  = Resources

Check out PARCC tutorials on Youtube. Lots of educators have already created videos that explain test features to students.

Have Students Visit The Electric Company on PBS.org



From Free Tech for Teachers: “PBS Learning Media offers a huge collection of resources for teaching students of all ages. The Electric Company collection of literacy lessons is designed for students from ages six through nine. The Electric Company literacy lessons are focused on helping students decode sounds and words, build their vocabularies, and improve their reading comprehension skills. The Electric Company's

literacy lessons use short instructional videos (some of them are kind of corny) along with some interactive activities to help students toward becoming better readers.

Three Online News Sources for Students

From Free Technology for Teachers: “**News in Levels** offers news stories that are on the lighter side of things. The stories are available in three versions so that you can choose the version that is appropriate for your students. The stories include a list of potentially difficult words along with definitions of those words. Each story is also accompanied by a video.”



Again, from Free Technology for Teachers: “A few years ago I featured **Youngzine** as a source of news, sports, and entertainment stories for elementary school students... they now offer a classroom blogs feature. Youngzine classroom blogs enable teachers to create a private online space for their students to use to discuss news

stories. As a teacher you can register your students on Youngzine and assign them to your classroom. Then within your Youngzine classroom you can assign articles for your students to read, ask them to response to articles and discussion prompts, and view their scores on the Youngzine weekly quiz.”

This looks worth investigating. If you want me to get your kids set up on this, let me know. I'll do all the legwork for you.



News-O-Matic

From the App Store: “

Each daily issue features:

- * Five dynamic news articles
- * Rich and detailed images, videos, and illustrations
- * Informative maps relating the user to the location of every story
- * News Room for drawing or asking questions about the news
- * An interactive history-based timeline
- * Puzzles, games, fun facts, and many other elements for discovery
- * Audio support for challenging vocabulary and full stories read aloud
- * Improved design
- * Content adapted for 3rd & 4th Graders

- * Bilingual articles (English and Spanish)
- * Bilingual Read to Me (English and Spanish)
- * Save or print articles
- * Highlight text
- * Citations
- * Access to 10 past editions”

You get 10 free issues, then it costs you. Let me know if you want to test it out on a few iPads. If you want to purchase it, it costs \$1.99 per iPad.

The logo for Hour of Code, featuring the words "HOUR OF CODE" in white capital letters on a teal square background.

December Hour of Code

“Last year, 15 million students tried an Hour of Code in one week. Join students all over the world for an Hour of Code during Computer Science Education Week, December 8-14.” (hourofcode.com) I am going to try to see if Marcia and I can introduce Hour of Code to your students during their library special.

Headphone Organizers!



Have you seen these? Maybe they should be on the supplies list for next year?! Students could suction cup them to the side of their desk or just use the winding feature to make sure the cord doesn't get tangled. It's called the [Macaroon Earbud Holder](#) and it costs \$3.99 at the Container Store.

Random, Useful Info:

- Four people can legally share one single username/password on an Amazon Prime.
- 2nd season HBO shows will be on Amazon in 2015.
- Netflix allows up to 5 people to legally utilize the same account.

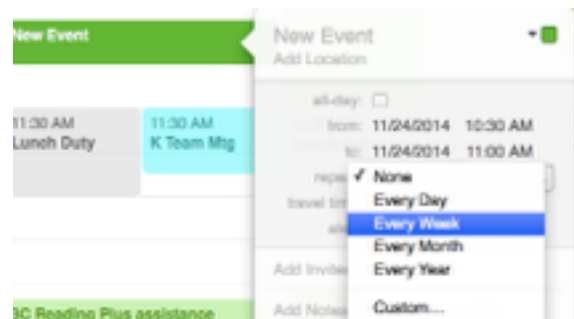


We Are Migrating to Chrome

Chrome is a browser like Safari and Firefox. It automatically gets Flash updates without Brady/Me/4th graders having to do the updates on every single computer in the school. It is on the dock of every laptop on the 1st floor. Kids on the 2nd floor should go to Spotlight and type in Chrome to open it.

Use iCal to Your Advantage

Too much going on? Set iCal weekly reminders for things like Read Naturally so you never forget to send your students. How? Create an event, then select reminder and set it to weekly.



You Probably Don't Need Those DVDs

Before you go the library to check out a DVD, search Youtube. It will likely have what you're looking for.

