

TECH NEWS- MARCH 2014



IPAD TRIPOD

We bought an iPad Tripod. Now student movies won't have the shakes! You can check it out from the library.

AN INTERACTIVE, ONLINE WHITEBOARD

Imagine this: Each student has their own laptop or iPad. **No login required.** You give them the url of the page you want them to post ideas/drawings to, they go to that page and start adding information. Other students (small groups) are able to see what student #1 is writing in real time, and the rest of the students can post to that page as well. Silent brainstorming opportunity! It gets everyone involved. I really want to try this, let me know if you're interested! It works on iPads too.



NEWSLEA

Jim Cheney sent out an email about this last month but just in case you missed it, visit newslea.com. It automatically gives each student a version of the same article that's just right for his or her reading ability (based on Lexile levels). And, an easier or harder version of each article is just a click away.



A LIST OF SIMPLE WAYS TO INCORPORATE YOUR APPLE TV:

- Broadcast stuff from your iPhone! If you're not comfortable w/ an iPad yet but use your iPhone all the time go ahead and start exploring. Maybe show kids pictures of them that you've take on the phone. Baby steps!
- Use the radio option to play music when your students are working.
- If your students are brainstorming have them write their thoughts or draw an image using the doodle buddy app, then selected students can project what they've done remotely from their desk to show the entire class.
- Be like AJ. (And that's the only time I'll say that to you! ☺) Use the Book Creator app to have students write a non-fiction text about what they're learning in science. Students can insert pics taken w/ iPad camera into the book. They can also record their voices reading the text.
- Have them use the iPad camera to take pictures of math concepts. For example, go on a "scavenger hunt" and have students take pictures of all parallel and perpendicular lines they can find.
- Use the ShowMe app and have students solve a math problem. The app is basically a whiteboard that records everything they write and say. This would be very useful to get kids

practicing extended response math problems. Also, a student who gets it wrong could watch the video of a student who correctly completed the problem.

ADDRESS CCSS WRITING STANDARDS AND WRITE A STORY TOGETHER w/ BOOMWRITER

Using the website tool [Boom Writer](#), students all begin with the same story and then continue telling the story on their own. Students write, read, and then vote on the story they like the most. The winning submission is added to the class story and the process continues. I already created a login. Who wants me to lead their class in doing this? Lincoln's 3rd grade is using it and likes it! <http://boomwriter.com/>



NEW WEBSITES BY CUNNINGHAM AND KATZ!

Check out Kate Cunningham's [new website](#)! She migrated most of the info from her old iWeb site. Check out their class blog, which they just started. Jen Katz just recently started a [website](#). Kudos to you both! I would love to help everyone get a class website going. It shouldn't be something that you keep up to keep parents informed but rather a hub for you to post cool resources for the kids. ***They love going home and playing on your website.*** If you already have one but it's through iWeb consider switching to a weebly site. (I'll migrate everything over for you if you'd like.) Weebly sites look more up-to-date and they can be edited from any computer, not just one with iWeb installed.

CREATE PASSWORD PROTECTED VIDEOS

You can use Vimeo to post password-protected videos of your class. Kate Cunningham has done this before so she can share videos with parents.



POETRY MINUTE

"[Poetry Minute](#) is here to help teachers share poetry with their students by providing a new poem for each day of the school year, Monday through Friday, from the beginning of September until the end of June." The poems are short and sweet, and only take a minute.

APP SPOTLIGHT



Tell About This

We downloaded the free version of it. Let us know if you like it and use it. App description: Tell About This is an easy platform to inspire and capture children's thoughts and stories! Respond to interesting photo

prompts using voice, craft custom prompts and add profiles to personalize the experience! <http://www.tellaboutapp.com/>



Write About This

App description: Write About This is a visual writing prompt & creation platform perfect for classrooms and families! With endless ways to respond and the ability to craft custom photo prompts, it will kick-start any

writing activity. 125 categorized images & 375 text+voice prompts included! This costs \$3.99 so we have not purchased it. However, if you think it is useful maybe we can download it on some iPads (or at least on your teacher iPad). Dana Polun has the paid version on her iPad so ask her if you could check it out sometime. If you want it let us know via helpdesk.

<http://www.writeaboutapp.com/>

COLD CAR/HOT CAR + LAPTOP = BAD IDEA

Freezing temps could freeze the crystals in your lcd screen so it's best if you do not leave your laptop in your car over night. If you have to leave it in there while you run errands etc. be sure to **turn it off first**. It's ideal, though, not to leave it in your car. Extreme heat is even worse for your laptop. Do not leave it in your car during hot summer days.



FOR A MATH LAUGH SHOW THIS TO YOUR STUDENTS:

[Bad Maths Flickr group](#) (preview it yourself first in case any inappropriate things have been added since I viewed it.)

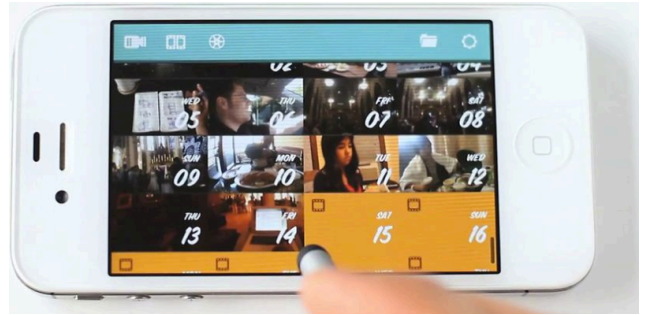
SMARTBOARD TIP:



If you have a blinking green light on your smartboard run the connection wizard. Go to Board Tools>Open>Control Panel,> Connection Wizard.

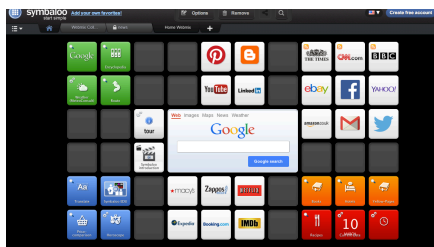
1 SECOND EVERYDAY

Use your device to record a few seconds each day, create videos of the week, the month, the whole school year, etc. Great way for students to capture learning or special event. ICE presenter Steve Dembo, former K teacher, suggested that you could have students do this for 100 days and then use the movies for 100 day celebrations. Create an end of the year movie or welcome to the new year next fall. Videos can be saved to your camera roll and uploaded to google drive. Must hold device sideways in landscape mode. Free version is simple and kid friendly. Soon to be loaded onto our school ipads!
<http://1secondeveryday.com>



Wevideo

Also mentioned at ICE, create online video projects with Wevideo. You can use one email address to log your students in. Students upload images from internet or use images that you provide. It links to Google Drive. Students can record themselves reporting on what they have learned, etc. Operates through your browser, so projects can be finished at home! <http://www.wevideo.com>



Symbaloo

Are you a Visual person? You might especially like this bookmarking site where you can gather all of your favorite websites together in one place. Great for students to use with projects or for you to share with other educators. For example, here is one by Shannon Miller, Teacher Librarian with her favorite Web 2.0

tools: <http://www.symbaloo.com/mix/web20sites5> and another one by a random teacher for tech tools <http://www.symbaloo.com/mix/zstemtechtools>. <http://www.symbaloo.com/#>

Go Noodle

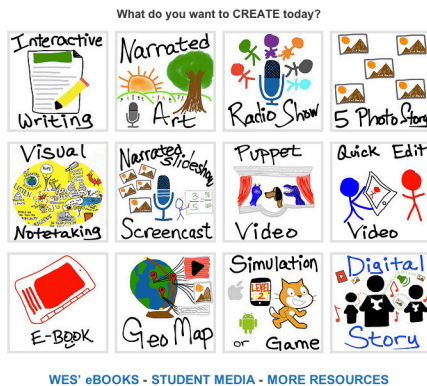
Brain breaks for kids of all ages. Only takes a couple of seconds to sign up for a free account! Karrin Burns is trying it out at Lincoln. <https://www.gonoodle.com>



Sharing: The Moral Imperative

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ELeIPZWx7Zs>

Dean Shareski's opening keynote for the 2010 K-12 Online Conference (25 min). You and your team are doing some wonderful things in your classroom. Now its time to share that with educators on behalf of students everywhere! If you need ideas about how to do this, please see your friendly neighborhood tech specialist.



Mapping Media to the Common Core

This is an awesome menu style board created by Ed tech guru, Wesley Fryer. Digital projects do not have to take a long time, they can be done in the last 10-15 minutes of class to show what a student has learned, or they can be started in school and finished at home. Steps for each of these are included, along with student samples. <http://maps.playingwithmedia.com>

Skype Classroom

For those teachers who have expressed an interest in skypeing with another classroom, take a moment to join Twitter and then follow Skype Classroom. This is a global community of teachers and you will easily find another classroom to do a project with. Or feel free to ask Mandy or Annmarie to look for another classroom on your behalf!



Tellagami

This app (soon to be on our iPads) lets you create a talking video called a "gami". Videos can be up to 3 minutes long. Another great way to let kids show what they know about a topic. A great idea overheard at last weekend's Playdate (a tech "un" conference where teachers just tinker with apps and discuss possible lessons) is having kids use Tellagami for a book review and then link it to a QR Code which can be displayed in hallway for next parent event. Your tech specialist would love to come to your classroom to facilitate a Tellagami project within a center or whole class.