



Website Wednesday

Heim Middle School, 320 Telegraph Rd., Stafford, VA 22554
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Catch my blog at
darciep.blogspot.com

View previous websites at
the Website Wednesday
Archive Wiki at teacher-plustechology.wikispaces.com

NECC Is Coming!

This week, I will be stopping by team meetings to discuss one of the premier educational technology conferences that will be coming to the Washington, D.C. area in June, the National Educational Computing Conference (NECC).

This conference will be a great opportunity to learn technology techniques, meet with vendors from some of our favorite companies such as Smart, Elmo, and Apple, incorporate new ideas in your classroom, and get FREE stuff!

NECC will take place on June 28-July 1, 2009 at the Walter Washington Convention Center. You can choose to go for the entire time, for just a day, or just a couple of hours for half-day or full-day workshops. The Super Early-Bird Registration deadline is March 31, 2009 and the cost is \$295, the **Early-Bird Registration** deadline is May 1, 2009 and the cost is \$315. The best deal however is for groups of 10 or more that can register for the price of \$295 and there is no deadline. A one day pass will cost \$135 before March 31st and \$150 after. There are also prices for half-day and full-day workshops.

For more information visit: <http://center.uoregon.edu/ISTE/NECC2009>.

Upcoming Events

On Wednesday, March 11, at 1:00 pm join "Digital Storytelling with the DEN" where Hall Davidson will share tips and tricks for creating compelling digital stories, for both you and your students! Follow the link to enroll: <http://tinyurl.com/c6wpx7>.

On Tuesday, March 17, at 7:00 pm join "Consumers to Creators", a one hour webinar for educators interested in growing themselves digitally to meet the needs of their students and the global economy. Attendees will hear about how students learning has changed due to the rise of the media and technology and what needs to take place within education to meet the new demands of our changing world. Follow the link to enroll: <http://tinyurl.com/b2qetx>.

**All you need is a computer with a volume control or speakers that are connected to the Internet. If you choose to sign up for one of these events, please let me know what you thought about it and what you learned.*

The Exploratorium

Online since 1993, the Exploratorium was one of the first science museums to build a site on the World Wide Web. Housed in the San Francisco's Palace of Fine arts, the online museum serves 20 millions visitors a year, making this website the most visited museum on the



The site contains over 18 thousand award-winning Web pages exploring hundreds of different topics, instructions for over 500 simple [hands-on activities and experiments](http://www.exploratorium.edu/explore/hands-on-activities-and-experiments)

(<http://www.exploratorium.edu/explore/hands-on-activities-and-experiments>), including how to build a solar system, the study of faultlines and plate tectonics, and the science of Baseball. There's also a variety of [online activities](http://www.exploratorium.edu/explore/online.html) (<http://www.exploratorium.edu/explore/online.html>) such as learning about modified foods and crops, and [online exhibitions](http://www.exploratorium.edu/explore/online.html) (<http://www.exploratorium.edu/explore/online.html>)

such as "Speaking of DNA" and "Frogs", as well as other technologies, patterned after real exhibits on the museum floor. The Exploratorium also recently added webcasts and podcasts to its website, which are broadcast live directly from the museum floor, providing access to events, scientists, artists, educators, and other museum resources for audiences on the

Teachers can look specifically for educational related materials under the "educate" tab located at the top of the home page. This page covers a range of materials from spotlighting specific questions, or of-

This site can also work for the math and language arts curriculum, as well. There's a math explorer database, that houses math activities at http://www.exploratorium.edu/math_explorer/search.php?help=no. While, Language Arts teachers can use videos or photos for writing prompts. If you're looking to get away for the summer, you could also check out their summer institutes for teachers too! The dates for the Summer Institute 2009 are from June 22nd to July 17th. This year's applications are due back to [us](#) by April 1st. Click here to learn more about the [Classic Summer Institute](#).

TECHNOLOGY TIPS

Making long URL's shorter

Hate it when you have a very long URL? Look at this one, from tinyurl.com: <http://www.mapquest.com/maps/map.adp?ovi=1&mqmap.p.x=300&mqmap.y=75&mapdata=%252bKZmeilh6N%252bIgpXRP3bylMaNoO4z8OOukZWYe7NRH6ldDN96YFTIUmSH3Q6OzE5XVquc5zb%252fY5wy1MZwTnT2pu%252bNMjOjsHjvNlygTRMzqazPStrN%252fiYzAooWEWLwkHdhVHeG9sG6cMrfXNJkHY6fML4o6NboSeQm75ET9jAjKelrmqBCNta%252bsKC9n8jslz%252fo188N4g3BvAJYuzx8J8r%252fifPFWkPYg%252bT9Su5KoQ9YpNSj%>

252bmoohoaEK%252b0fj3f6vCP Now that's a long URL!

Tinyurl.com will turn those extra long URL's into shorter ones making it easier to share their links. This is ideal for your SchoolFusion pages!

For example, you want to share an article you've recently read and add it to your page, but the URL is so long! Copy and paste into this box

on their website:

Then click on "make tinyURL!" and your long URL will turn into a very short URL, looking something more like this: <http://tinyurl.com/6> . Isn't that better?

One of the things I notice most while in the labs is how long it takes students to type in a URL address. You could also use tinyurl.com to make shorter URL's for your students to type in the address window. I've just started incorporating this into this newsletter, my blog, my wiki, and most importantly on my twitter account.

Enter a long URL to make tiny:

Custom alias (optional):

<http://tinyurl.com/>

May contain letters, numbers, and dashes.

Scholastic's Computer Lab Favorites

Scholastic.com has created a website for teachers and students that include 50 one-stop interactive, self-contained activities in Math, Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, and Spanish curriculums as a way to introduce a topic or enliven computer lab time at <http://teacher.scholastic.com/>

Each activity is 15-30 minutes in length and is designed for grades 3-5; however, after looking at the site, most of the activities would be great to use with special education students or ESOL

students to help reinforce skills, especially in math. The Fraction activity allows students to watch a 3 minute video helping them grab the keys to understanding fractions. This activity also features a quiz and vocab section, as well as a lesson plan and teacher guide. The Human Body Math Hunt gives students story problems to work on that include cross-curricular activities with sci-

“Fish Up Word Endings” in the Language Arts section allows students to work on suffixes, while “Clean Up

Grammar” would help Spanish students learn about verbs and the correct use of grammar. This activity can also be played in English, which would be help-

The Social Studies section would give students a tour of Ellis Island helping sixth graders review immigration, and in Science students could learn about the water cycle or animal classification.



Announcements Corner

- Monica Van Husen's sixth grade classes have been busy using technology this month. They recently used quizdom and this past week were creating comics on World War II, the Great Depression, and Roosevelt and the New Deal using Comic Life. The kids were eager to put their rough drafts into comic form and found great ways to illustrate what they have been learning in class.
- Both Kimberly Drees in sixth

grade and Patti Orcutt in seventh grade have been taking advantage of the mac carts, as well. Both ladies have been using Study Island to help reinforce those literacy and math skills in their students!

- Lindsay Toomey and Tammy Reeves in Eighth grade, recently learned about how the SmartBoard and airliner can engage



their geography students in identifying South American countries and capitals.

Way to go to all of these teachers and thank you for sharing your experiences!

**All links to websites in this issue are in blue. To view a website via a link, hold down the ctrl button on your keyboard and at the same time click on the text.*