

CIT RESPONSE

Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Technology

Summer 2009

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Have a wonderful summer and watch for our Fall issue in September!

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BOCES

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Teacher Summer Resources

By Laura Benin

With the school calendar turned to its last page, teachers finally have a chance to think thoughts of relaxing, recharging, and renewal. Best of all, the summer freedom to explore comes at no cost. Professional development encompasses a range of activities, so feel free to peruse this online enrichment (by the poolside, of course). There are various government agencies and higher education institutions offering educational resources across the disciplines, as well as vendors of technologies that provide free online companion materials.

SMART Technologies offers webinars, lesson activity tool kits, and more, for SMART Board users (www.education.smarttech.com/ste/en-US/Ed+Resource/).

Discovery Education features programs and free classroom materials, including a puzzle maker, lesson plan library, clip art, brain games, technology educator, Kathy Schrock's guide, and more (<http://streaming.discoveryeducation.com/>). The programs include NASA at 50, a timeline with video and audio clips of milestones in space, and Fuel Our Future Now, a program for STEM educators that was made with the US Department of Energy (<http://fuelourfuturenow.com/>).

4Teachers offers technology support, professional development, and free tools developed by the Advanced Learning Technologies Project (ALTEC), as well as quizzes, rubrics, and student tools (<http://4teachers.org/>).

NortelLearnIT can help you become a 21st Century e-Teacher through their partnership with Curriki and the National

Institute of Aerospace (<http://nortellearnit.org/LearnIT/21eteacherinitiative/>). The repository of tutorials can help you answer all the questions you have working with PowerPoint, Flash, video production or web development.

Doing What Works is an initiative from the U.S. Department of Education, where educators learn how to integrate evidence-based practices in all curriculum areas (<http://dww.ed.gov/>).

The Department of the Interior has a science education site (www.doi.gov/teachers/index.html) which includes biology for elementary school children and Frogweb (www.frogweb.gov/portal/server.pt) which focuses on amphibians.

The National Endowment for the Humanities, along with www.Thinkfinity.org and Verizon have created EDSITEMent, a resource for teaching humanities (<http://edsitement.neh.gov/>). This month's spotlight features Frank Lloyd

Wright's architectural amalgamation of nature and art, Fallingwater (<http://edsitement.neh.gov/Spotlights/spotlight-wright.asp>).

Picturing America, created by the National Endowment for the Humanities, in cooperation with the American Library Association, is an online gallery of American art that inspires the teaching of American studies through paintings, sculpture, architecture, crafts, and photography. (<http://picturingamerica.neh.gov/>). The National Archives gives teachers access to primary sources for teaching American history (www.archives.gov/education/). The Teaching American History project also offers documents and podcasts to bring history to life (<http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/>).

Whether in the form of video tutorials, podcasts, webinars, or as a connection to a community of users, technology allows us to learn at our own leisurely summer pace.



We at CIT Response hope you enjoy your summer!

Summer Fun Can Lead to Academic Success



The Zoo

Take the whole family on a trip to the local zoo.

Science Museum

If you live in a large city, or close to one, chances are you have a science museum nearby.

Sporting Events

Take me out to the ball game! Who doesn't love a live sporting event?

Concerts/Shows

The next time your child's favorite band is in town, take him or her to a show for a special treat.

Amusement Parks

Whether you seek thrills from hair-raising roller coasters, or prefer to glide on an old-fashioned carousel, amusement parks have something for every member of the family.

Camping

Become one with nature. Grab the bug spray, pitch a tent, and tell ghost stories while sitting around the campfire roasting marshmallows.

Movies

Make this perfect rainy day activity a family affair.

Park/Hiking Trail

Enjoy the great outdoors and get some exercise with a leisurely stroll or hike along a nature trail or scenic road.

Outdoor Sport

Whether you live somewhere that stays warm or cold all year, there is always an outdoor activity that can be enjoyed by the entire family.

Bowling

Don't forget the local bowling alley when you're looking for something different to do on a rainy day.

More Information: <http://life.familyeducation.com/slideshow/activities/57572.html?detoured=1>

Professional Learning Communities

Professional Learning for the educational professional, i.e. school librarians and other teachers, has changed—along with almost everything else in the world. Only a few years ago, quality sources were limited to attending a conference, taking a graduate-level class, and reading professional journals. For most of these options, the time was set and not always convenient, cost effective, or possible. The Internet has vastly increased the options available for the learner. Conferences are still great for learning; many now include online additions during the sessions for those unable to attend, and as a follow-up for attendees. Webinars are Web conferences with limited interaction, which are accessible at convenient times and locations. Online classes also provide the flexibility of learning when, and where, they fit into one's personal schedule.

One great advantage of these new Web tools is the access to notable professionals in the field. Many host their own sites with blogs and materials to share. David Warlick, a Web 2.0 notable, (<http://davidwarlick.com/connectlearning/>) posts his handouts and links to his podcasts. As of March 2009, he has 105 different podcasts. Chris Harris, another Web 2.0 notable, (<http://schoolof.info/infomancy/>) has been working on gaming and curriculum, interesting stuff to engage thinking students.

What about the Internet links to the professional journals? *School Library Journal* is a noted print journal with a great Internet presence. There are many resources to search, and a blog to participate in. The resources for managing our own learning are available. The challenge is finding the format and the notable person to match your criteria. Take advantage; pick one and learn one new thing each day. Realize how smart each of us can become by maintaining, improving, and broadening our knowledge through these new learning opportunities.

See all the latest Professional Development offerings Nassau BOCES' CIT has to offer:
<http://nassauboces.org/cit/catalog/current/index.htm>

Incredible Learning Vacations

Excavate a real archeological site: Crow Canyon Archaeological Center. To find out more, visit: www.crowcanyon.org/ or call 800-422-8975.

Explore another culture: Global Volunteers
To find out more, visit: www.globalvolunteers.org/
or call 800-487-1074.

Go on an eco-adventure: The Sierra Club
To find out more, visit: www.sierraclub.org/outings
or call 415-977-5522.

Watch African wildlife: Robin Pope Safaris. There are also tour operators that work with this company (a complete list is on the website). To find out more, visit: www.robinpopesafaris.net/

Cook up a storm: Cooking School of Aspen. To find out more, visit: www.cookingschoolofaspen.com/ or call 970-920-1879.

NETC Educational Travel
www.educationaltravel.com/

Model School Highlights

It is difficult, after a full year of professional development throughout Nassau County, to choose just one project to highlight. Our successes have been many, whether clearing the hurdle with a technology “newbie” opening his/her first e-mail attachment, or by expanding the skills of a veteran technologist through the introduction of virtual worlds to classroom instruction.

We hope you enjoy the following brief notes by Nassau BOCES Professional Developers, as they share the highlights from the 2008–09 school year that brought meaning and satisfaction to their work.

These are the moments that remind me why I am a Professional Developer:

JoAnne Disken:

- Teachers see the need for technology staff development and are motivated to learn how to integrate technology into their curricula. Teachers are becoming more comfortable and confident in their ability with technology, and are able to incorporate these new technologies at a faster pace.

Bonnie Foster:

- Creating a shared database for teachers to access each other’s templates/projects, and having teachers ask me to come see “their new” lesson in a SMART Notebook.

Paula Goldstein

- At the end of a workshop, hearing a teacher say: “Is it already time to go? When will you be back?,” and having a teacher, who was truly hesitant about using a new technology, ask for extra help and then become the one to impart that information to his slightly surprised peers.

Mark Pasciuti:

- Showing teachers how to use 21st Century resources with their interactive white boards to easily make their lessons more dynamic and meaningful for their students,

and using Google Earth across the subject areas and grade-levels has been amazing for teachers and students alike. Finally, the best feeling is after a workshop, when teachers ask me if I will come and visit their students. We all learn together. You know ... I have a great job!!!

Beth Ann Randazzo

- Seeing the availability of new technology in the districts, and the willingness of teachers to experiment on how to integrate them throughout their curriculum. Seeing them learn how SMART Board, individual laptop computers, laptop carts, mimios, flip cameras, and web 2.0 applications have become essential tools to enhance the learning of all students. It’s great to see even the more technology-resistant teachers recognize the importance of motivating students with even the smallest piece of technology as they deliver their instruction.

Francine Smith:

- Seeing middle school teachers continue to use technologies to motivate students and enhance lessons as well as use Rosetta Stone to help ESL students.

Jean Stanziale:

- The excitement of witnessing the empowerment teachers feel when they have created a video with Photostory3, and then bring it right back to their students, as well as the proud moments of being able to train teachers from instruction to delivery, while supporting them all the way into the classroom.

Carolyn Strauch :

- The questions in the hallway are my favorite times. A teacher sees me and suddenly, an idea or question pops up. This is great! These are the questions that may be on the tip of his/her tongue, and together we can problem-solve the issue, or I will follow them back to their classroom to help. Teachers know I am always on call for them.

Tech Toys

ArtsEdge Kennedy Center

Maintaining arts education in the classroom during the age of math, science, and technology isn't always easy. The groundbreaking Web resource developed by the National Arts and Education Network (ArtsEdge), at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, continues to help. This network provides standards-based teaching materials, along with instruction guidelines, mentoring, Web resources, relevant articles, how-to's, and a lot more. This helps integrate the arts into a range of academic subjects, while offering an abundance of creative ways to use cutting-edge tools. www.artsedge.org/

ScrapandLearn

Get art back in the classroom and keep it there by integrating it into any subject. With the materials provided in the ScrapandLearn packages, students make their own themed scrapbooks. The hands-on, visual nature of these projects means students are highly engaged in the lessons while also creating art and improving their writing skills. Explore the ScrapandLearn Web site for great student-generated ideas.

www.scrapandlearn.com/gallery/

WebLockers

Now, it's easier and more affordable than ever for K–12 schools to begin using the Web to store and share everyday projects, such as homework and class assignments. Myweblockers is based upon the premise that managing data for an entire school or school district, or even an individual classroom, can be overwhelming.

www.myweblockers.com/

Hotmath

Improve math scores with affordable math tutoring.

Hotmath Tutoring Plus cuts the cost of tutoring dramatically, by linking to live math tutors only after the student has tried our content first. Use Hotmath Tutoring Plus in your after-school programs, remediation classes, credit recovery programs, or for help away from school for struggling students. Tutors are available 24/7. <http://hotmath.com/tutoring-plus/>



Online Learning is Fun!

Celebrate History and Cultural Heritage

The Smithsonian Center for Education and Museum Studies is offering a new series of free, online cultural heritage tours that invite educators, families, and students to explore the Smithsonian's rich array of cultural heritage-related treasures. The Black History Month tour is available online now, and the Hispanic Heritage Month tour will be available shortly.

www.smithsonianeducation.org/heritage_month/index.html

Plant the Seeds of Learning

Learning about gardens, flowers, vegetables, and the principles of horticulture can be a really fun experience for you and your students. My First Garden Web site, from the University of Illinois, is intended for elementary students to learn about the beauty of gardens and the care involved in planning, nurturing, and enjoying the benefits of gardening in a variety of spaces and places. The site is accessible in English and Spanish. <http://urbanext.illinois.edu/firstgarden/>

Plus: The My First Garden CD-ROM connects gardening to science, social studies, and mathematics. Through various activities, students learn to collect and organize data, measure using nonstandard units, and plan and problem-solve using estimation.

Visit the Mixed-Up Museum

"Meet Me at Midnight" is an interactive online adventure that takes place in an animated Smithsonian American Art Museum. Intended for children aged 8 to 10, the site presents a perplexing scenario. An artwork—the dreaded Root Monster—comes alive and wreaks havoc in the galleries overnight. Visitors choose a friend—a character that has been separated from its artwork—to help the mixed-up museum and then find its way back home. Each friend takes the children on a vivid journey through the museum's art collection while imparting key concepts in American art.

http://americanart.si.edu/exhibitions/online/midnight/default_flash.html

Picture the 1930s

Explore the 1930s through paintings, historical documents, music, and video in this virtual 3-D movie theater. Virginia Mecklenburg, Senior Curator of the Smithsonian American Art Museum, guides your visit.

http://americanart.si.edu/education/picturing_the_1930s/index.html

For information on any of CIT's programs,
including back issues of CIT Response, up-to-date education news, NCLB, special reports,
new services and more, visit the Curriculum, Instruction and Technology Website at:

www.nassauboces.org/cit