

# Instructional Technology Newsletter

## December 2007

Springfield, Massachusetts Public Schools  
Information and Instructional Technology Solutions Department

Volume 3

Issue 4

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### Phone Numbers

#### Chief Information Officer

- Donna Boivin  
413-787-7125

#### Director of Technology

- Dr. Deb Gendreau  
413-787-6605

#### Technology Specialists

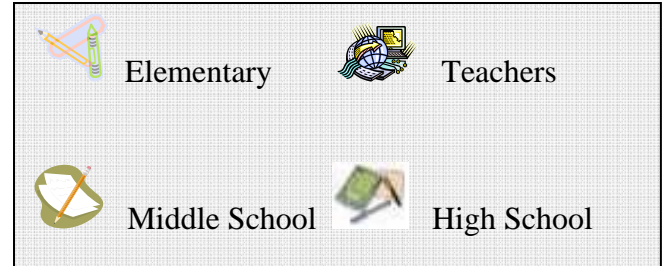
- Jackie Bedinelli  
413-478-7318
- Micky Cahillane  
413-262-7915
- Nadine Payne  
413-335-5910

### Instructional Technology Curriculum Committee (ITCC)

Wednesday 12-05-07  
3:00-4:50 PD Center

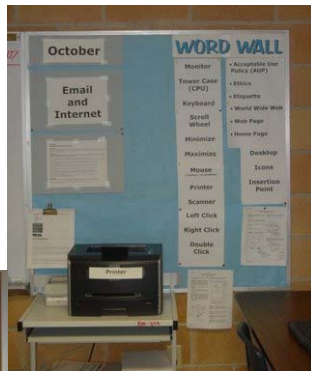
Topics: **TIG December Unit  
Assessment**

### Subject Area News



### Classroom Word Walls

Monthly technology vocabulary is included in the planbook section of the Technology Instruction Guides (TIGs). Teachers utilize the TIG to be sure all technology terminology is presented and covered at the appropriate



grade level and unit. Students regularly use a written or electronic vocabulary journal to keep track of terms and their



definitions presented throughout the unit and course.

A classroom word wall is another tool a teacher can use to reinforce new terminology.

### ALL SUBJECTS

#### Academy of Achievement

<http://www.achievement.org/autodoc/pagegen/index.html>

The Academy of Achievement brings students face-to-face with the extraordinary leaders, thinkers and pioneers who have shaped our world.

#### Virtual Stopwatch and Virtual Time

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

This site lets Internet users use their PC as a virtual timing device. The Stopwatch counts up from zero, and the Timer counts down to zero. The stopwatch and timer are both based on your PC's internal clock.

#### ELA



#### Guide to Grammar and Writing

<http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/>

The College Foundation maintains the site. Students can seek help with sentences, paragraphs, essays, and research papers. There are also quizzes, PowerPoint presentations, and Grammar Poll: FAQs on grammar usage.

## MATH



### Fun Mathematic Lessons

<http://math.rice.edu/~lanius/Lessons/>

This site contains lessons plans for teachers along with instruction directed towards students with age appropriate explanations, directions, and problem solving strategies.

## READING



### Project Gutenberg

[http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main_Page)

Project Gutenberg is the first and largest single collection of free electronic books, or eBooks. Michael Hart, founder of Project Gutenberg, invented eBooks in 1971 and continues to inspire the creation of eBooks and related technologies today.

## SCIENCE



### Physics Classroom

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

Learn basic physics concepts and review them in the online Physics Tutorial. Check Your Understanding quizzes let you know you got it.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

### National Geographic: Remembering Pearl Harbor

<http://plasma.nationalgeographic.com/pearlharbor/>

Using photos, film footage, and first person accounts, National Geographic created a powerful multimedia map and timeline that examines the bombings on the island of Oahu.



## TECHNOLOGY



### Microsoft Office Online

<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/templates/default.aspx>

Microsoft provides helpful templates for teachers and students. Browse the extensive list for quick Word, Excel, and PowerPoint downloads.

### Quality Information Checklist

<http://www.quick.org.uk/menu.htm>



Eight ways of checking information on websites

## PERFORMING ARTS

### Music - George and Ira Gershwin

[www.gershwin.com/](http://www.gershwin.com/)



George and Ira Gershwin will forever be remembered as the songwriting team whose voice was synonymous with the sounds and style of the Jazz Age. Click Jukebox and listen to their songs or download sheet music.



## PARENTS NEWS

### **PACE – Parent and Community Engagement**

<http://www.sps.springfield.ma.us/deptsites/pce/default.asp>

A website sponsored by the Springfield Public Schools to support the efforts of parent in building good character in their children and to empower them to be academically successful.

### **PAC – Parents Advisory Counsel**

<http://www.sps.springfield.ma.us/pac/>

This website sponsored by the Springfield Public Schools has been dedicated to all children with disabilities and their families. Explore this site, attend meetings, and become better informed about the educational environment in and around Springfield.



## **Spotlight Website**

### **School Homepage**

**Glenwood Elementary School**

**40 Morison Terrace**

**Springfield, MA 01104**

<http://www.sps.springfield.ma.us/schoolsites/glenwood>

## **Spotlight Teacher of the Month**

### **Ms. Karen Collins**

William N. DeBerry Elementary School

670 Union Street

Springfield, MA 01109

<http://www.sps.springfield.ma.us/deberry>



I have been an instructional technology teacher at William N. DeBerry School for fifteen years. At William N. DeBerry School, I work with both teachers and scholars, to integrate and align technology standards to various content area standards from kindergarten thru grade five. I also assist teachers in developing technology centers. I incorporate the use of the Smartboard and Infocus projectors to model and instruct scholars in new computer knowledge as well as content. A colleague, Elaine Sgueglia, and I are involved in the TV studio in which scholars rotate through and learn how to operate various pieces of equipment associated with television broadcasting.

This year our third and fifth grade scholars have been working on PowerPoint presentations. The third grade scholars are creating PowerPoint presentations based on word problems and answers which are aligned with the math standards. The fifth grade scholars are conducting online research, emailing scientists, and creating PowerPoint presentations aligned with the Bones and Skeleton science standards.

The fourth grade scholars have been doing research using the Internet to find information related to their social studies standards, specifically the Northeast Region. They have taken this information and organized it into spreadsheets using various features and have graphed various data as well.

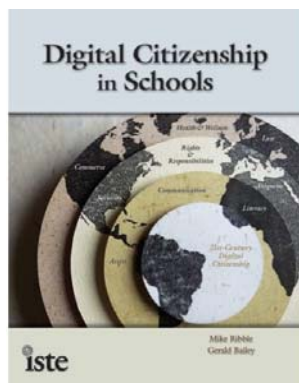
Our second grade scholars are utilizing and continuing to develop their word processing skills through a project aligned with their holidays and special occasions' social studies standards. Scholars will use this document later on to create a PowerPoint presentation.

At William N. DeBerry School, scholars gain knowledge of computer applications and tools such as word processing, drawing, spreadsheets, databases, multimedia, Internet researching and on-line activities through the use of desktop computers and mobile cart laptops throughout their entire elementary school experience.

## Digital Citizenship Corner Nine Elements

### Element 2: Digital Communication:

Digital Communication is the electronic exchange of information. One of the significant changes with the digital revolution is a person's ability to communicate with other people. In the 19th century, forms of communication were limited. In the 21st century, forms of communication have exploded to offer a wide variety of choices (e.g., e-mail, cellular phones, instant messaging). The expanding digital communication options has changed everything because people are able to keep in constant communication with anyone else. Anyone is afforded the opportunity to access information anywhere and anytime.



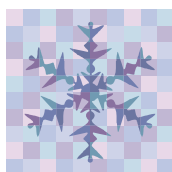
<http://coe.ksu.edu/digitalcitizenship/Communication.htm>

## GRANT INFORMATION

### Above and Beyond Awards

The Education Foundation created the Above and Beyond Awards in 1996. This unique program acknowledges and rewards innovative teaching and learning in Massachusetts schools. Individual teachers are chosen to receive a \$1,000 grant and each team of teachers is chosen to receive a \$2,500 grant for classroom use.

<http://www.masstlc.org/wor/edfoundation/AboveApplication.aspx>



Find previous SPS newsletters @

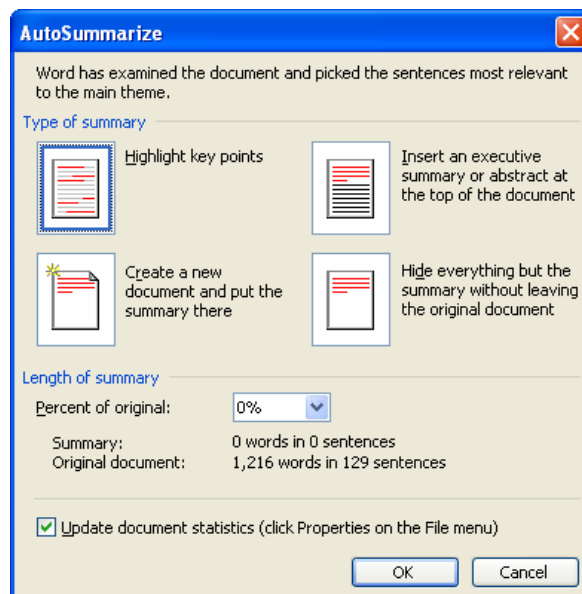
<http://www.sps.springfield.ma.us/tech/newsletters.asp>



## Toolkit Tip of the Month

### To summarize a document use Auto Summarize feature

Auto Summarize determines key points in a document by analyzing the document and assigning a score to each sentence. AutoSummarize works best on well-structured documents, such as reports, articles, and scientific papers. You then choose a percentage of the highest-scoring sentences to display in the summary.



1. On the Tools menu, click AutoSummarize.
2. Select the type of summary you want.
3. In the Percent of original box, type or select the level of detail to include in the summary. Select a higher percentage of the original document to include more detail.
4. If you don't want AutoSummarize to replace your existing keywords and comments on the Summary tab in the Properties dialog box (File menu), clear the Update document statistics check box.

Important - Complying with all applicable copyright laws is your responsibility. You should review the accuracy of any summary because it is, by its nature, not the entirety of the work.

**Do you have a question?**

Send it to: Nadine Payne @

[paynen@sp.spspringfield.ma.us](mailto:paynen@sp.spspringfield.ma.us)

Subject: Toolkit tip Question

