Learning Technologies
Connecting a Community of Learners

Digital Citizenship

Happy new year. Like all new years, it is a time of anticipation and new beginnings. Especially with all the technological changes that our students have at their fingertips. While they may be really comfortable at texting and bouncing from one interchange to another, there is a significant difference when using technologies for multiple organized purposes. Powerful research skills, understanding bias in published content, online communication and decision making all need practice to be proficient. Questions such as how do we teach internet safety, what happens to our digital footprint, how do we engage in dialogue on cyberbullying, what about copyright as we consume and create online, what about privacy, are all front and center in our lives. These topics can all fit under the larger umbrella of Digital Literacy and Digital Citizenship.

Digital Citizenship might be described as the ability to integrate technologies to fully engage in an increasingly global and digital world. These skills or competencies reflect the need to analyze, learn and explore a world, that for the most part has not yet been conceived. A bit daunting, yet each topic area can be broken down. The key is to purposefully embed these into your everyday curriculum from early elementary upwards.

Over the next months and year, we will be actively delving into this area with practical ways that support the classroom. You can start by joining us at our District Pro-D on February 21st. Come and be a part of the developing journey as it unfolds. More information and registration will be in the District Pro-D calendar.

Multi-Purpose Your iDevice!

Did you know your iPad can be turned into a document camera? All it needs is a little height and a ledge (like a box or cart over a table). The new Justand 2 does one better - it can transform the ipad into a scanner, document camera, video camera stand, microscope, even an ipad podium. The sturdy tool clips to the device without removing cases and can be adjusted in multiple ways. This allows a stable platform to video work in process. Imagine documenting learning without having to stand behind the device. Or sharing a picture book at an assembly. Perhaps it is annotating a written mentor text. And if your presentation used Haiku Deck, then it can act as a podium for your speech. The ideas just keep coming.

Going Paperless in Steps

You can hear the environmentalists scream "yeah"! Automatically hitting that "Print" key has been questioned for some time especially when much of the work in school is process oriented. Even completed products can be showcased online with the availability of multiple web platforms.

What would 'paperless' or 'nearly paperless' look like? *Paperless exit tickets:* students solve a quick equation as an informal assessment using

Paperport Notes (iPad app needs wifi). Draw using finger, record with speech/text tool, export to Google doc or email.
Paperless self assessment: Students import portion of performance standards and curate examples of writing using **Google docs**. Results are shared online with teacher or others.
Paperless graphic organizer presentation: Compile research using **Diigo**, organize and present in **Popplet**. Or

use **Inspiration**/**Kidspiration** and save files onto class shared server space.
Paperless brainstorming: Create shared or individual brainstorms to curate and organize ideas for further development using **Padlet**. [allows video and audio links]
Paperless worksheet: Convert a Word doc into template and drop it onto class server space for students to pick up.

Ideas are as endless as your imagination. Let us know how you're going paperless.

Images that Speak - Screen Capture with IrfanView

We live in a world using visual medium to share our message. Whether we publish online or in print, images serve to enhance the communication of ideas. (The brain also has a tendency to remember images and emotion more than text.)

You've seen it when you save an image on the computer. That crazy "splat cat" icon is the program, **IrfanView** at

work. While it is an image editor, one of the lesser known options is screen capture with single step cropping. This is great when you only wish a portion of the image.

  How? Launch IrfanView. Find an image on the web. When ready, click "C" to capture. Choose #5 from the setup list. The mouse becomes the pointer to select the por-

tion of the image you wish to keep. This handy trick can be used to save time especially when you or your students are using quite a few images in presentations or on your blog. (*Note: IrfanView is part of our software list. It is also a free download at home.)

Destination Math— Tailor Practice to the Individual

Who doesn't have a Math class that is filled with a range of learners? It can be challenging to meet everyone's needs. Small group work can help with organizing activities.

Destination Math can support a wide group of learners requiring either extra practice time or for the advanced

learner wanting a bit of challenge. The comprehensive program teaches basic skills, math reasoning, conceptual understanding and problem solving. Students work through tutorials designed around objectives in numbers and number sense, fractions, decimals, probability, statistics, and geometry. More importantly, the activities are

matched to the individual needs of students, providing a level of personalization. Combined with reflective class dialogue, this web-based resource can offer flexibility in a blended environment (merging school and home). Details can be found on our website or ask our Learning Technologies Team for how to get started.

Compile individual activities to match skills from Grades K-9.

Keyboarding to Support Communication

The amount of time spent on a keyboard has increased over the years. While the "hunt and peck" method works, having keyboarding skills can come in handy. Especially in writing, where time can be spent on the process of writing instead of the mechanics of typing. Students struggling with writing fatigue may find typing a better method of sharing ideas.

Installed on all computers is **All the Right Type** (ATRT-3)

providing students with a way to learn to type. The program is divided into Lessons, Practice, Skill Building, Games, Tests, all built around a futuristic theme. Lessons are designed to go at your own pace, from basics of home row to speed drills. The Record Library offers immediate feedback for error and fingering analysis. With guidance by a teacher, students learn proper posture and hand position, which will re-

duce possible injuries. And best of all, when teachers set up their classes, all activities are saved so students can continue from where they left off.

When more practice is needed then it's time for **Tux Typing** (also on the base image). These games serve to enhance the skill building of **All the Right Type-3**. Two great resources to support writing!

Great for Grades 5-12.

The Power of Story

We live in a world made up of stories. Whether they are about our daily lives, an attempt to document a science discovery or make sense of a learning sequence, they are the threads that connect our culture.

There are many tools that can be used to experience both process and product. Some use images as a base

such as **ComicLife** (think graphic novel or comic books) while others may rely on text like **MS Word**. The more powerful ones invite collaboration, integrate multimedia, and widen audience. Consider the platforms of Google Docs or blogs, wikis or other web tools for their abilities to connect ideas and people anytime anywhere. Each can

be used to "park ideas" to work through processes, as well as publishing content as product. Marry this with activities in digital citizenship and you have the making of a "futures skillset".

How are you documenting or capturing your story of learning? Or what new tool or processes would you like to try in 2014?

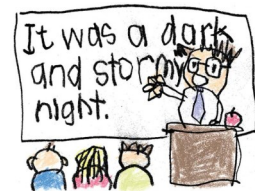> "STORIES ARE THE THREADS THAT CONNECT OUR CULTURE."

Story In Action...

Continuing on the theme of "story", here are a brainstorm of ideas to nudge more ideas.

- go on a learning walk and capture simple images that you can add text in bubbles
- synthesize your thoughts into six words (six meaningful words) that can be shared in an expanded acrostic
- hide your book comments or

reviews in a QR code
- build a collaborative story (using Google Docs) between classes and share results on the web
- capture images of a process and create a video
- take a single image, fracture into parts and use poetry to describe
- audio record multiple texts and reflect on differences in

reading skills over time
- use a science/math/history event and tell it in story animation form
- list ten things or events that made the year, capture or create the images and use **Thinglink** to expand written details in an interactive
- use **Tellagami** or **Aurasma** to weave in digital citizenship
- blog your story

Learning Technologies

Where to Find Us?

- http://blogs.sd41.bc.ca/learningtech
- http://blogs.sd41.bc.ca/fastforword
- http://digisandbox.wordpress.com

Staff Development Calendar:

http://blogs.sd41.bc.ca/staffdevelopmentcalendar

Contact Learning Technologies Team:

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Worth Checking Out:

Microsoft's Home User Program [Office 2013] offers discounted price of $11.00 plus taxes. This is available for both Mac and PC users on Win7. Access to the Program Step-by-Step Guide is available on the District Portal (http://portal.sd41.bc.ca). See Welcome page under **VENDOR EM-PLOYEE DISCOUNTS**.

Raz-Kids— Have students who are struggling with reading fluency and/or comprehension? Raz-Kids may be an option to support your class program. Ask our Learning Tech team.

Graphic Organizers: Inspiration 9; Inspiration 8 French; Kidspiration 3
Graphic organizers are the heartbeat of communication especially in writing. Free teacher take-home licenses—apply on our site. Click on *FORMS*.

What If?

In celebration of 2014, these actions were curated from colleagues. Perhaps some of these are on your list or may be added to your list.

- Challenge yourself to create a reading list to complete and tell others
- Try one new technology
- Hang around people who will challenge you; expand your personal learning network
- Stop and listen more to understand
- Use the language of "what if" to transform an environment to one of wonder
- Laugh more
- Start a blog or other web space
- Find a different way to showcase learning
- Go paperless or at least reduce the number of worksheets
- Create digital learning centers that focuses on creation
- Make one interactive project
- Purposefully integrate exercise or mindful breathing tips into day
- Go for "learning walks" to see with new eyes
- Flip writing or other program on its head
- Investigate a new process
- Get onto Twitter and follow #edchat, #bclearns, #bcedchat
- Connect with a group and share resources
- Rearrange your classroom to view things from a different perspective
- Share a story (everyone has one or two or three)
- Start a Genius Hour
- Limit 'To Do' list to "what's important"
- Learn a new craft from start to finish