

THE TECH

Michael K. Berg michael.berg@eastern.k12.in.us

TRAINER Vol. 3.3

Technology has the power to inspire with careful planning.

App of the Week

TanZen—The free version of this app comes with over 50 tan gram puzzles for completion. A great app for practicing spacial relation skills with children.

Amazing Web Resources

Trying to put together a lesson for use with a projector, handouts for class or maybe just a bulletin board? Check out these free resources.

<http://www.openclipart.org> –a searchable database of “free” clipart for use by anyone.

<http://www.theteacherscorner.net> –devoted to all things teacher with examples of handouts, bulletin board ideas, etc.

Tech Tuesday #1

The first Tech Tuesday will take place on September 28th. We will be meeting in the lower level computer lab at the high school. The subject for this first training will be the first two sections of the level I proficiencies, covering the corp’s technology acceptable use policy (very short) and computer hardware (this will take most of the time). We will begin at 3:30 and finish by 4:00.

Technology Deployment

As the year progresses we will update you on schedules for technology deployment. Please remember that this is a guideline and subject to change.

- mClass Reading Assessment window 8/23-9/20
- mClass Math Assessment Window 9/13-10/8
- Acuity Diagnostic I Window 10/10-11/3
- Network switch and server upgrade underway by 11/15
- Wireless infrastructure installed by 1/1/11

Tech Tip of the Week

Have you ever made a mistake when working with a program on a computer? Well, there are some shortcuts that are almost universal. If you ever need to undo a mistake in Word, PowerPoint, or a myriad of other programs you can save a bit of time by using the keyboard shortcuts for undo and redo. To undo a mistake simply press the “Ctrl” and “Z” keys at the same time. This will erase your last set of actions. In a similar fashion you can redo something you accidentally undid by pressing the “Ctrl” and “Y” keys at the same time.

Computer Updates

Certain software on your computer may ask you to perform updates from time to time. The software that requires updates may need your permission to install. Listed below are common updates the computer may ask you to apply. Please apply these updates when you know they are available, it helps to keep security tight and improves general computer functionality (the computer will indicate when updates are available).

- **Windows Update:** when windows is ready to install updates to the operating system you will notice a small yellow shield icon in the bottom right hand corner of your screen. If you mouse over that icon you will most likely be told updates are downloading or ready to install. If ready to install click on the icon and say yes or ok to the prompts that appear. Note: Windows updates often require a reboot so do this at the end of the day
- **Flash:** Flash will ask to update often. Flash is used on many websites and without updating some sites may not work correctly. Please follow the onscreen prompts should a request ever pop up concerning Adobe Flash.
- **Java:** Java is similar to flash in that it provides functionality on many websites. If java pops up and says it is ready to install an update please do so.

Open Source Spotlight: *Sculptris*

This particular software is not so much open source, as it is an alpha version of software that is being developed. It may be useful in a classroom setting in conjunction with writing or storytelling, as well as within the realm of visual arts. Sculptris is a 3D design software based on the fundamental properties of clay. In the program you start with a ball of clay and manipulate it by pinch, pull, smooth, crease and various other tools. You can even change the material and paint the final sculpture. Very intuitive and fairly easy to use, Sculptris can help set the imagination free. Learn more at www.sculptris.com.