Co-Teaching Opportunities

Are you interested in taking your technology integration to the next level? Is there a class or subject you teach that you would like a fresh perspective on? Once again this year I would like to offer my support in the classroom by offering co-teaching opportunities. I would love to participate in your class and work with you to develop a lesson or series of lessons that push the boundaries of technology use. If you are interested in forming such a relationship and working together on something for your class or a series of classes, email me and we can schedule a time to discuss and plan.

Software Spotlight:

Libre Office (formerly 000)

The spotlight this week falls upon Open Office yet again. While this software has been featured in the past, I would like to draw attention to it once more. Open Office is actually undergoing a restructuring of sorts. The OpenOffice.org portion of it's acxistence is being phased out as a new foundation is being developed called "The Document Foundation." The software itself is in the process of rebranding and future versions of the software will now be called "Libre Office." The good folk at the foundation believe this will foster new development and great new things for the software as it evolves. Best of all it guarantees that the software will still be developed and offered for free to the general public. If you have come to use Open Office you may want to take note of the name change. In the future if you ever choose to download or install it, you may want to search for Libre Office to find an active link to it more quickly. The new foundation can be found at https://www.documentfoundation.org.

Virtual Clone Drive http://www.slysoft.com/en/virtual-clonedrive.html

I wanted to review another piece of software as well this week since Libre Office is not actually a new suggestion, just a new name. Virtual Clone Drive however has not been recommended before. I would categorize this as software for the more "geeky" amongst the readers. Virtual Clone Drive allows you to create virtual DVD drives on your computer where you can insert virtual disc images (meaning a legal digital copy of software). In a world where you can download more and more software legally and driveless computers such as netbooks exist, virtual DVD drives make sense.

App of the Week

PlainText for the iPad is a very simple document creation tool. It is exactly what it says, a plain text editor. While it has no bells or whistles like many pc based editors, it can be used to effectively type simple documents. It integrates with Dropbox to allow you to share your documents with your own Dropbox account, so you can access the documents you create from any machine with an internet connection.

THE TECH

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"Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic".

-Arthur C. Clark

Thank You for a Great Tech Tuesday!

Thank you to all in attendance at the first Tech Tuesday this past week. We had twenty participants attend the after school session and a few more explored the Moodle course on their own. I hope we continue to have such a good turnout for the next installment of Tech Tuesday on October 12th. The next installment will be held in the main computer lab at the elementary school (Karen Rust's computer lab) and will begin at 3:30. This half-hour session will cover the level one proficiency sections on operating systems and online forms. Updates to the Moodle course will be made available the Friday before each impending class.

Again, thanks for a great start and I look forward to seeing you soon!

Amazing Neb Resources

http://www.tagxedo.com – make word clouds and give them shape

<u>http://edu.glogster.com</u> – make interactive posters online.

Tech Tip of the Week

If you ever need to install your own software at school or at home there is some advice to heed for success.

Try to be aware of the software already on your computer, specifically the "add-ons" like acrobat reader, flash player, shockwave, etc. Older software often contains installers for these add-ons, however because of how fast software changes the included versions are often out-of-date.

Typically it is not a good idea to install older software over newer software already on your computer, as both pieces, old and new, may no longer work properly.