

Some Guy Once Said...

"I do not fear computers. I fear the lack of them." Isaac Asimov echoed the future when he spoke those words. When technology glitches occur (and at times they will), remember how much easier technology has made life.

THE TECH TRAINER

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

Vol 4.6

g Blue Edition - - - Big Blue Edition - - - Big Blue Edition - - - Big Blue

Tech Tuesday Upcoming Sessions and Changes

The New Year brings changes for Tech Tuesday. Starting with the first session (last week, Tuesday January 4th) I will be moving from an "every other week" format to a "two week/ skip a week" format. I have noticed that participants are more likely to attend when Tech Tuesday is held in their respective building. Check the TechTrainer for updated weekly schedules and your email as I will email out reminders of sessions the Friday and Monday before the actual session date. Upcoming session information is included below:

January 11—This session will take place from 3:30-4:30 in the High School Lab. We will focus on flip software and how to resize video for easy upload to the net. If you have access to a flip camera, and haven't used it much, this session would be right for you.

January 25—The focus of this session will be creating video photo slideshows. We will use two different programs, Windows Movie Maker and Windows Photostory to combine pictures into a playable computer file and DVD. Bring music, pictures, and a camera with you if you actually want to create a slideshow during class. This session will be held in the Elementary Computer Lab from 3:30-4:30 and will repeat on February 1st at the high school.

Further upcoming topics include "podcasting in the classroom," "digital photo editing and personalized classroom decoration," "Skype for distance learning," etc. If you have something you think others would like to know about please email me and we can turn your topic into a Tech Tuesday session (of course let's keep things related to technology and the classroom).

School Wireless Project Update

Upon your return from break you may have noticed some new hardware that has popped up around the corporation. The small boxes mounted to the ceiling are our new wireless access points. While most of these are functional, a few are still in the "hook up" phase. These will soon be brought online and once the network is up and running, tech will distribute the key to the security protected network. Some teachers have already discovered that there is an unprotected "guest" network running as well. Those that have already connected on their own are already enjoying life without wires. Please realize that there may be hiccups along the way as this new technology is deployed. Tech will address major issues as they arise. Please, emphasize responsible use to the students you work with, especially those that have already discovered the network. The guest network is filtered and a bit more locked down than the regular network. We appreciate your patience as the wireless network is finished up and will let you know more details as they become available.

Okay, So I Got a New Cell Phone

Over break I took advantage of Verizon's annual upgrade for my phone and I can now honestly recommend an android phone to anyone wanting a smart phone. I have found so many uses for it and all of the free (and paid) apps that are out there. For instance, one of the apps scans (barcode) my movie collection at home and keeps a database of all of my titles. Another app lets me share files wirelessly with all of my computers. Honestly, if I were a robot, I would probably *really* be in love with it.

