

## Tech Tuesday

January 11—This session will take place from 3:30-4:30 in the Elementary Lab. This will be a flip-cam session and will focus on flip software and how to resize video for easy upload to the net.

# THE TECH TRAINER

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## A TechTrainer Break

This marks the last edition of the TechTrainer until the new year. Since next week is a short week I will not be publishing an issue. I wish you all warm holiday greetings and hope your time off finds you well rested.

## Busy Holiday Times for the Tech. Department

Over the next few weeks big changes will be taking place in tech at Eastern. Over break we will begin installation of wireless services by installing wired cabling for our new infrastructure. In addition, some servers will be upgraded and services may be up and down at points. We hope to do all of this with minimal interruption to anyone that may choose (or has) to be in the buildings. Please be patient as the changes that are scheduled will lead to a much brighter future and better access of technology throughout the district. If you have technical issues while you are in the buildings, please address emails to tech so that we can also handle those problems as they arise.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Training Opportunities

Let's face it, we as educators have a lot on our plates. I know training opportunities can sometimes be passed over because there is a lot going on. Second semester we will be holding some sessions at both the elementary and the high school to share ideas, learn more about our interactive whiteboards and generate new and exciting ideas of how we might use our tools differently in the classroom. Some of these activities will take place during the day with a half-day sub pull out. Other opportunities will still be delivered through Tech Tuesday, which will expand to an hour after school instead of a half-hour, and some other independent training sessions. If any group or individual has an idea or focus for a training session, please suggest it as I am currently working on creating a second semester schedule.

## Software Spotlight

Have you ever recorded a video file and then needed to make it smaller, or perhaps convert the file to something that can be burned on a DVD. Well, there are lots of file formats out there and changing between them requires software. WinFF is a graphical program that uses an encoder called FFmpeg to convert video files or shrink file sizes. You can check out the software at <http://winff.org>. It can handle most video formats with ease.

## Tech Deal of the Week #1

Do you have a Wii at home? Are there any hot games out that your kids or grandkids want? Best Buy is running a deal online that gives you a \$30 gift card back when you buy two select Wii games normally priced from \$39.99-\$69.99. Some of the popular titles very rarely go on sale so now is your chance to get something back when paying full price. Hurry though, as this special is only running today, December 17<sup>th</sup> and tomorrow, December 18<sup>th</sup>. You can follow this link for more details: <http://www.bestbuy.com/site/olspage.jsp?type=category&id=pcmcat227500050008>

## Tech Deal of the Week #2

Wow, have you seen the Walmart advertisement for this weekend. Again, venturing into the realm of video games, Walmart is offering several great deals in store starting at 9:00 p.m. tonight, December 17<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. Two of the deals listed online are for a red console Wii with a bonus \$75 gift card for \$199 and a PS3 Console for \$299 with a bonus \$100 gift card. As with all things from Walmart, there is limited availability of merchandise and your local store may be running different deals. Call your store to see if the specials apply. (I have checked with the local Kokomo, Indiana Walmart and they are participating. According to customer service they will not hand out tickets or bracelets, it is first-come-first-serve starting at 9:00 p.m.)