

“Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic”—Arthur C. Clark

Arthur C. Clark’s words are striking today in a world of automobiles, computers and handheld devices. We do live in a world of wonder, though even technology can run afoul at times. Always be prepared with a “plan b” when teaching with technology. We are moving toward magic, but advancement takes time.

THE TECH TRAINER

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Chilly Blue Weekend Edition....Chilly Blue Weekend Edition....Chilly Blue Weekend Edition....

Tech Tuesday Upcoming Sessions and Changes

January 18—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.

Open Source Spotlight



“PDF split and merge”

PDFsam is a small opensource program that allows anyone to break a PDF apart into a individual pages or sections, or to combine multiple PDF files into one document. At school you already have this ability through the Adobe software that the school has purchased. If, however, you need to pull out parts of a document at home or want to combine a bunch of smaller PDF files into one document, PDFsam can help. You can even use the software to reorder the pages of a PDF or to rotate the entirety of a PDF document from portrait to landscape and back. These functions can come in really handy if you scan documents on the copier and email them to yourself to work on later. Check out <http://www.pdfsam.org/> for more information and download details.

Cyberbullying: Detection and Protection Tips

Cyberbullying is one of the fastest growing forms of harassment for youth in America. Technology has allowed us to communicate at the speed of light (well, maybe not that fast) but it has also provided avenues for bullying in more discrete ways. There are several signs and tips to help detect cyberbullying in school and at home; a few of the more prominent are listed below.

1. Students/Children who are being cyberbullied may show changes in mood or depression just as they would if they were the victim of physical bullying.
2. Victims may be reluctant to discuss their online activities with parents or friends.
3. Sudden changes in texting or internet habits may stem from avoidance associated with cyberbullying.
4. Some individuals that are bullied by text may show apprehension to read their text or email or seem nervous when a text or email is received

Getting involved is often a key to preventing cyberbullying in the first place. Preventative measures range from simply talking to your students/children about bullying, to educating them about the internet. Here are a few specific tips to help students become responsible in their use of technology.

1. Educate students/children about the internet and the forms of communication that are available and responsible uses of those tools.
2. Get involved with what your children are into. If they have a Facebook account, friend them. If they tweet, become a follower and see what exactly they are tweeting.
3. Set rules about internet and computer use at your house. Keep computers in a common area to discourage unsavory online habits.
4. Communicate. Children that have an understanding, open communication line are more likely to confide in others.