Tech Tuesday Upcoming Sessions

March 15 & 22—The focus of these two March sessions will be basic photo editing with Picasa. Picasa is a free program available from Google. Throughout the hour you will learn how to touch-up pictures you have taken in class and finish them for printing and display. This tutorial will also give you the knowledge to apply the program to your personal photos. A sample of photos will be provided and you will actually work hands-on with the program to edit some of those samples. When you leave you will have a copy of the software on CD along with handouts on how to recreate the effects we explore in class. The session on the 15th will be held at the elementary computer lab from 3:30-4:30 and will repeat on March 22nd at the high school.

Looking for a Resource for Middle and High School Chemistry?

Try out the **ChemMatters** publication and website from the American Chemical Society. While you have to have a paper subscription to enjoy all of the articles, select ones are available in their entirety at the website. The site also showcases a video podcast called "Bytesize Science" which is produced to inform and entertain upper elementary and middle school students. You can also find mini-audio podcast series at the site focusing on special effects in movies and earth day. This is really a great site for science and students are sure to enjoy the ideas and concepts discussed.

Who wouldn't want to know how raw sewage is turned back into drinking water? Check it out today and discover material to enliven If you your lessons.

like the chemistry content

above you might also like the free pdf version of a book they are allowing teachers to download called "Inquiry in Action." The activities in the book have an upper elementary/middle school focus and are tied to the national science standards. You can download the pdf version of the book by following this link.

Looking for Interactive Geography Maps?

There are many sites out on the internet that provide maps for use in class, but I have come across one site that bears mentioning. "Owl & Mouse" (part of yourchildlearns.com) provides a multitude of online interactive geography "puzzles" that are drag-and-drop. These flash based tools can help when studying geographic regions and borders.

Check it out at the

following Can't link. Make It to Tech

Tuesday? Download Picasa and give the program a proper test drive at www.picasaweb.google.com. I'm sure you will like the program and you can always ask me for help if stuck!



Are you Looking to Infuse Some More Fun into Your Curriculum? Try a Game!

If you have a whiteboard (or even if you don't) you can easily create games from premade templates. There are many sites on the web that already provide the basic templates you need to build your own. One such site can be found here. So, what are you waiting for? Game on!

Creating Online Books: Storybird and the New 4.0 Classes

I have thrown the online web 2.0 tool "storybird" into an article in the past. I thought I might give you an update. In the past if you wanted to use the tool with your students, all participants had to sign-up and create their own accounts. This required students to give out information that we may not want them to. Well, you can now safely use the tool with your students by creating a "Teacher" account. After you have your account you can create multiple classes, student accounts of your choosing (without having to give out personal information), class discussions, thematic assignments, and even build your class works into an online library that can be shared amongst the class. Privacy settings allow you to make parts of your library public as well so that the world in general can see them (otherwise what is made in the class stays in the class), but you would first need to see administrative approval. The "storybird" team even plans to allow you to collaborate amongst educational classes (although it isn't implemented fully yet). The artwork is amazing and the potential is limitless. Check out the new 4.0 site today and sign up for your own teacher account. Sorry, but the site requires flash, so no there is no iPad support at this time.