

December Media/Tech Talk

By Jennifer Varney, Director of Media and Technology

DID YOU KNOW

With the new release of Windows 7, many are contemplating upgrading from Windows XP or Windows Vista:

Here are Microsoft's top 10 reasons to upgrade or buy Windows 7

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windows-7/compare/top-ten-reasons.aspx>



HELP CONSERVE ENERGY

Everyone is reminded to turn off all equipment in classrooms, offices and work areas over the Christmas Break. This includes: computers, monitors, VCR/DVD players, printers, Phonic Ear units. Please do not leave your Phonic Ear transmitter charging during the break since it may ruin the batteries.

BEHIND THE SCENES

During the Christmas Break, tech staff will be applying patches and updates to district servers in order to maintain and improve their performance. This work will continue to keep our network uptime at a very high level and allow various programs to function properly. If you plan to work over the holiday, and encounter difficulties, the tech office will be staffed. Please contact Ida for assistance at ext: 5753 or Jenn at ext: 5751 or send them an e-mail.

“WORTH THE SURF”

Wordle - Wordle is a toy for generating “word clouds” from text that you provide. The clouds give greater prominence to words that appear more frequently in the source text. You can tweak your clouds with different fonts, layouts, and color schemes.

www.wordle.net/create

Example:



MakeBeliefs Comix - What could be more fun than presenting writing in comic form? MakeBeliefs Comix gives a student the opportunity to work individually or with a partner to create a paneled comic story. Comics can be created in different languages!

www.makebeliefscomix.com

Log On and Learn - Did you ever imagine what it was like to live in a log cabin in the woods? Some of the greatest people in our nation's history—including George Washington, Ulysses S. Grant, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt—spent time in log cabins. Many **historic log cabins** still exist in our national parks. Surf around this **National Park Service** site to find out more about the **presidential log cabins**.

[Click Here to Visit Web Site](#)



Bookmark Booktalks – Through podcasting and Web video, **Bookwink** connects children in grades 3–8 with books that will make them excited about reading. The videos are approximately three minutes long and are updated monthly. Each **video booktalk** is about a different topic, and additional read-alikes can be found on the Bookwink Web site. You can look for books by subject, grade level, author or title. Subscribe to the **video podcast** to automatically receive the latest videos.

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