

MEDIA AND TECH TALK

by Sharon Kubica



March 17, 2006

PAUL SIZER VISIT

With graphic novels the new craze for students, the Media Program is pleased to celebrate March is Reading Month by bringing in Paul Sizer, Author/Illustrator, to visit with High School and Middle School students on Thursday, March 23. Mr. Sizer is best known for his Japanese manga and anime novels: Little White Mouse and Moped Army. His program will include showing students his drawing and sketching techniques as he talks about creating a graphic novel. He will also share techniques for penciling and inking and demonstrate how to turn art into comic art. High School students have been invited to submit original work for a Manga/Comic Art Contest and Mr. Sizer will review individual student portfolios after his workshop. Students will find this program entertaining and informative.

AUTHOR STUDY FOR K-2 STUDENTS

As part of March is Reading Month activities, district Media Specialists are doing an author study with K-2 students. Dian Leckrone and Sharon Kubica have a program with Tomie DePaolo as the featured author/illustrator at Galewood, Washington, and Weymouth. In support of the Parkview March is Reading Month theme "Take a Ride on the Reading Railroad", Jennifer Degroat and the Parkview students will study Julius Lester who wrote books about trains and railroads. Each session includes biographical information, a study of the author's works, and a reading of one of his books.



COMMERCIAL E-MAIL SITES AND FILTERING

Most commercial e-mail sites provide SPAM filtering and often give each account holder the ability to set up their own controls for SPAM or JUNK mail. For example, in Hot Mail, under OPTIONS, select: JUNK MAIL PROTECTION, then select: SAFE LIST to add addresses you want to be sure make it through the filter.

CHARLOTTENET E-MAIL ACCOUNTS

The district e-mail service (charlottenet.org) has experienced a huge increase in the number of e-mails that are handled daily and weekly over the course of this year. This increase can be attributed to three main things: 1) an increase in SPAM; and 2) an increase in personal e-mail messages; 3) an increase in non-educational e-mail.

With the amount of SPAM that is filtered on a daily basis, nearly 7,000 messages per day, there is no guarantee that you will receive important non-school related messages through your Charlottenet account. Tech staff spend approximately one hour per day, often 7 days a week, sorting through a mailbox that collects mail messages that are identified as possible SPAM.

Each staff member has been given a charlottenet e-mail account to support the educational endeavors of Charlotte Public Schools. Receiving occasional personal messages into this account is not a major problem. However, using this account as a personal e-mail account for on-line purchasing (E-bay, Coldwater Creek, J.C Penny) subscriptions to non-educational sites (Travelocity, on-line banking, Sports sites), or web sites of personal interests (Weight Watchers, Joke of the Day) is not

considered to be in keeping with the district's Use and Access Policy.

When mail from a list serve comes in, since individual e-mail addresses are not included, tech staff has no idea who to forward the message on to.

It has become very common to be asked for an e-mail address when providing contact information. It is strongly recommended that staff who use e-mail as a means of communicating outside of educational endeavors obtain a personal e-mail account from a commercial provider such as HotMail or Yahoo to do this.

TECHNOLOGY STAFF CHANGES

At the board meeting on March 13, Jen Varney, currently the Assistant High School Principal was named as the replacement Director of Media and Technology Services for Sharon Kubica who had announced her plans to retire at the end of this school year. Jen comes to this position with a strong background in technology as a former High School Vocational Education teacher with a Masters in Career & Technical Education, a long-standing member of the District Technology Committee, a current district administrator, and nearly completed MSBO certification in School Technology Management.

We also welcome Mindy Allmon as the new Middle School technology support staff. Her experience in technology includes work at a call help center and employment at a large business as a member of a technology support team. She comes with great technology skills and customer support experience.

The mid-year resignation of Christine Wine in the high school began a number of changes in technology staffing that are expected to provide the best level of service to all buildings affected. Jeff Bennett was moved to the High School from elementary buildings, Bill Neff was moved to Galewood/Weymouth from the Middle School and Mindy Allmon was hired to staff the Middle School.

SUMMER TRAINING OPTIONS

Mark your calendar for the summer Regional Technology Academy, July 24 – August 3, 2006. Tech training sessions on a wide variety of topics are being planned at sites in Eaton, Ingham and Clinton counties. Charlotte Middle School will once again be a training site for one week. Specific information will be shared as it becomes available. These sessions are free and available for all school employees.

A new feature this year will include Regional Tech Academy – Mini Camps that will be held in 2-day sessions that include supplies and lunch for a charge of \$60.00. The following sessions are currently planned:

MACUL Grant Writing

Eaton ISD, June 13 & 14

Using Moviemaker

Ingham ISD, July 18 & 19

Podcasting

Ingham ISD, July 19 & 20

Fun with Forensics

Ingham ISD, June 27 & 28

Blackboard: Getting your class on line

Eaton ISD, August 15 & 16

Open Source Software

Clinton ISD, June 21 & 22

United Streaming & You

Eaton ISD, July 17 & 18

Microsoft Access

Eaton ISD, June 15 & 16

REGISTRATION INFORMATION WILL BE SHARED AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE.

COOL WEB SITES

Sudoku

Sudoku puzzles can be found at:

<http://www.321know.com/sudoku.html>

AAA Math

This site contains hundreds of pages of interactive practice for basic math skills along with Challenge Games.

<http://www.aaamath.com/>

American Folklore Lessons

This K-12 site is an outstanding collection of tall tales, campfire stories, Native American tales, animal stories, and legends.

<http://americanfolklore.net/lesson-plans.html>