

# Technology Newsletter

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## Upcoming Events

- ◆ TTI Training, Nov. 3 -4, Breckinbridge Middle School, Roanoke, VA
- ◆ VDOE Ed Tech Conference Nov. 29 - Dec. 1
- ◆ County Technology Academies - 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester, More information in next newsletter

## Director's News

Welcome back and thank you for a smooth start to school. I am proud to be part of a great school division.

All our technology staff members work many long and hard hours to assist you in your classrooms. Please let me know how we can further assist you!

We have the opportunity to be part of several regional groups that assist us in training and in developing many grants. Southside Virginia Regional Technology Consortium (SVRTC) works with 25 school divisions in technology and professional development. The Regional Schools Contracting and Planning Committee, known as RSCPS also assists our school division in the integration of technology. The Blue Ridge East consortium, formed for the Ed. Tech. Grants from DOE sponsors the annual Teacher Technology Institutes (TTI). Who can ever keep track of all the acronyms?? We are lucky to be

## Palms

*By Danny Richardson*

Have you ever wanted to carry around a computer? Could your students use one to jot notes or create slideshows, documenting their learning? Could you use one to take care of the one million administrative tasks that a teacher has to keep up with? Have you ever wanted a quick, portable way for your students to take a quiz and then almost instantaneously have the results of that quiz? If so, have I got a solution for you: the Palm T/X! They are computers with the power of a CPU made in 1997 that fit in the palm of your hand.

The county has a classroom set of 25 that are available for checkout from the cottage. They are loaded with the Go Know Suite software which includes a word processor, a spreadsheet application, software for creating

Martha J. Eagle, Director;  
Danny Richardson, Susie Fisher,  
& Marion Wood, Division  
Instructional Technologist

geographically placed to benefit from so many different organizations.

Locally, there are several changes being incorporated this year in our schools. Two of the more significant changes are:

APS and AES are getting ready to start electronic report cards. This will allow teachers more efficient access to their grades, comments, and reporting for students.

AMS and ACHS are working with student email and individual student log-ins.

Good luck for the rest of this semester and enjoy the fall!!

*Martha Eagle*

*"If you do not explore the new path, how will you ever know where it leads?"*



slideshows and a simple animation program. In addition, all of the projects created on the palm can be loaded on one computer and are then viewable anywhere with internet connection. They also have a quiz program which will score the quiz for you and a way to get all of those quizzes to you quickly with no additional paperwork! This is just the beginning of the capabilities of these awesome little gadgets. Please contact your in-house IT, Marion, Susie or me to help you integrate these tools into your instruction.

Director of Technology and Career Education-



Martha Eagle

Network Administrator/ Computer Technician -



Gerald Ryan

Computer Technician-



April Johnson

Division Instructional Technologists are



Susie Fisher,



Danny Richardson, and



Marion Wood

Their main job is to help teachers integrate technology into the classroom.

School Instructional Technologists are:

- APS- Donna Paulette and Adele Granieri
- AES- Cathy Berry and Nancy Williams
- AMS- Vic Meadows and Susan Williams
- ACHS- Amy Stump and Mary Turner
- Web Masters: APS- Danny Richardson
- AES- Jason Wells
- AMS- Peter Sengenberger
- ACHS- Edwina Covington

Avatars were made by the Abi-Station at [http://illustmaker.abi-station.com/index\\_en.shtml](http://illustmaker.abi-station.com/index_en.shtml)

## Why can't tech people just talk in English?

*"DITs and SITs in ACPS have access to the resources of SVRTC, BRETC, and RSCPC; maybe one of these can furnish training on the new EIMS system or training could be combined with the SASI training. If any of your people are having trouble with ANGEL, let me know."*

The above paragraph made perfect sense to me, but until it was brought to my attention that I was speaking acronymese, I never imagined that people had no clue what I was talking about.

This summer at the ITRT Summer Camp, we received a t-shirt that listed 10 reasons why it was good to be an ITRT. One of those reasons was that we could talk in acronyms. The following list of frequently used acronyms might help you understand some of the "geek" talk.

DITs-Division Instructional Technologists

SITs- School Instructional Technologists

SVRTC- Southside Virginia Regional Technology Consortium

BRETC- Blue Ridge East Technology Consortium

RSCPC- Regional Schools Contracting and Planning Committee

EIMS- Educational Information Management System

SASI- School Administration Information System – our division student data base

ANGEL- A New Global Environment for Learning

GPS- Global Positioning Systems

AT- Assistive Technology

DOE - Department of Education

## To Whom Do I Go?

With DITs, SITs, Techs, and Media Specialists, how does a teacher know who to go to for help? I hope the following chart will help:

Problem	Person(s) to go to:
1. My computer is acting funny. Sometimes it won't even turn on.	Gerald/April and SITs will review the submitted CPU work orders. Be Patient!!
2. I need my technology certificate for proof of completing TSIPs for my recertification.	School Instructional Technologists (SITs)
3. I want to use the Smartboard, but I am still a little scared.	The Division Instructional Technologists could help you plan your lesson and be there to model the lesson or partner with you.
4. I want to check out a school pad for the entire year.	Ask your Media Specialist. If one is not available at that library, she will contact the DITs and other Media Specialists to see if there are any available.
5. I need a printer or want to purchase technology for my room.	Ask your principal
6. I would like a workshop on finding pictures on the Internet.	Ask the Division or the School Instructional Technologists

## Your Assistive Technology Staff

*By Dorinda Grasty*

Appomattox County School division has an Assistive Technology Committee. They meet every month to consider important issues regarding assistive technology. Contact them if you have questions. They are a good resource for you.

The team members are:

APS - Evelyn Ford, Mary Paciocco  
 AES - Debbie Elliott, Beth Haught, Laurie King  
 AMS - Vicky Davis, Terrie Hamlett, Julia Lisa  
 ACHS - Cathy East, Jane George, Susan Hamlette

At their September meeting, Susie Fisher demonstrated The Writer.

(See picture at the right). An individual unit costs \$189. The Writer is a "portable note-taker that features word prediction, keyboarding tuition, spell checker, thesaurus and easy infrared download to your computer." The County presently has 4 of them that we are trying out to see if they are a good replacement for the Alphasmarts.

Lab units are also available. These units are used to teach keyboarding, leaving their computer labs free for other uses. The lab unit at the right costs about \$7000. Other units are available for about \$5000. For more information, go to <http://www.writerlearning.com/index.html>.



## Assistive Technology - An Excellent Online Resource

*By Marion Wood*

Technology allows us to build on each others' knowledge more readily than ever before. Many people have spent a great deal of time creating resources. I found a great site for Assistive Technology and I want to share it with you. The site is located at

<http://atto.buffalo.edu/registered/ATBasics.php>. I have reprinted, with permission, a copy of the site's Home page just to show you what you can find here.

There is so much useful material located at this site. You are looking at the [AT Basics page](#), but as you can see there are other pages, entitled *Tutorials*, *AT Decision Making*, *Resources*, and *Project Information*.

The [Tutorial page](#) contains tutorials on Intellikeys, Overlay Maker, Write Outloud, Word, PowerPoint, and many more.

The [AT Decision Making Page](#) contains resources to "help you identify AT and classroom strategies to 'put the puzzle pieces together' for children to engage in learning." Check it out, there is much more.

AT Basics

Home > AT Basics

The AT Basic Modules provide general assistive technology information on a variety of related uses for elementary students with disabilities. They include links to tutorials on the setup and use of several products as well as links to related resources.

**F Foundations**  
 Information basic to the use of AT including: benefits, laws, assessment considerations and school policies.  
[Introduction to Assistive Technology](#)  
[Federal Laws and AT Use](#)  
[Assessing AT Student Need](#)  
[AT School District Start Up](#)

**C Curriculum**  
 Commercial and specialized software programs to support writing, reading and math.  
[Using the Computer for Reading](#)  
[Using the Computer for Writing](#)  
[Using the Computer for Math](#)

**A Adapting Computers**  
 Low and high-tech adapted computer technology solutions for today's classrooms.  
[Simple Modifications](#)  
[Keyboard Options](#)  
[Mouse Options](#)  
[Specialized Input Systems](#)  
[Switch and Scanning Systems](#)

**T Technology for Special Populations**  
 Technology options designed to meet the needs of disability specific groups of students.  
[AT for Blind Students](#)  
[Communication Needs](#) **New!**  
[Low-tech Tools](#)  
[Students with Learning Disabilities](#)  
[Students with Low Vision](#)  
[Switch Users](#)  
[Universal Design](#)



## Your Technology Staff Recommends

### Danny Richardson's Favorite Sites:

Excellent handheld site:

<http://learninginhand.com/>

fantastic web search engine, use a graphical interface:

<http://kartoo.com/>

excellent teacher resource:

<http://www.thinkport.org/default.tp>

### Donna Paulette's Favorite Sites:

[www.Starfall.com](http://www.Starfall.com)

[www.primarygames.com](http://www.primarygames.com)

[www.atozteacherstuff.com](http://www.atozteacherstuff.com)

### Cathy Berry's Favorite Sites:

[www.brainpop.com](http://www.brainpop.com)

[www.discoveryschool.com](http://www.discoveryschool.com)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips/>

### Mary Turner's Favorite Sites:

[www.Howstuffworks.com](http://www.Howstuffworks.com);

[www.ask.com](http://www.ask.com)

[www.va.algebra1.com](http://www.va.algebra1.com)

[www.va.algebra2.com](http://www.va.algebra2.com) (textbook sites)

### Marion Wood's Favorite Academic Sites:

<http://www97.intel.com/education/index.asp>

<http://www.edutopia.org/index.php>

<http://learnweb.harvard.edu/ent/home/>

### Susie Fisher's Favorite Sites:

<http://citationmachine.net/index.php>

<http://www.howstuffworks.com/index.htm>

### Remember to check out:

[www.acpstech.com](http://www.acpstech.com)

[www.marwoodweb.org](http://www.marwoodweb.org)

## Why Not Create Your Own Class Web Site?

*By Marion Wood*

Have you ever thought you might like to create your own class web site? There are a number of online resources that make it easy for teachers to create their own website at a reasonable cost. These are database driven websites. What that means is that a teacher does not need to learn any software or HTML. I will suggest three such sites that individually cost the teacher \$25 - \$30 a year.

### **“ClassWebs.net** [\[http://classwebs.net\]](http://classwebs.net)

ClassWebs is designed to provide teachers with a simple way to publish class information in a clean web page format. It has a straightforward administrative interface where teachers update their pages, upload files and change various settings. ClassWebs includes multiple templates such as a student work page, course pages and a photo gallery. ClassWebs also designs custom teacher web page system for schools and districts.

### **TeacherWeb.com** [\[http://teacherweb.com\]](http://teacherweb.com)

TeacherWeb allows users to create multiple pages in a very basic format (a title and a textfield) and is commended for its simplicity of use. Though the each page is limited by the simple format,



TeacherWeb allows modifications to various design elements such as background color and graphics. Multiple templates for publishing of links, photos and grids (such as schedules) are available.

### **MySchoolOnline.com** [\[http://myschoolonline.com\]](http://myschoolonline.com)

MySchoolOnline has several useful templates that allow users to create different types of pages such as newsletters and homework pages. A service of Pearson Education, the world's largest educational publisher, MySchoolOnline integrates content into its page creation process such as student activities, "this day in history" and graphics. This system also allows parents and students to create pages on the teacher's site according to a permissions system controlled by the teacher."

(<http://www.newcurriculum.com/2004/current.htm>)

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