

Technology Newsletter

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& Marion Wood, Division
Instructional Technologist

Director's News



What a great start to a great year it has been!

With so many changes over the summer, the schools were set and ready to roll with eager students and enthusiastic teachers.

The Technology Team welcomes the following new members:
Susie Fisher, Division
Danny Richardson, Division
Kellie Baldwin, APS
Cathy Berry, AES
Mary Turner, ACHS

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

All instructional staff now has new computers in their classrooms and many

upgrades were made this summer to workroom areas, computer labs, and libraries. There are numerous technology resources available for instructional use. As the Instructional Technologists come out to work with you, tap into the varied resources available.

The GroupWise email web access upgrade has also been a great improvement in the technology world. Although the client view is still the best application to use, this upgrade has made web access much more user friendly.

Happy Fall!!

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

Contents

Director's News	1
Introduction of new IT staff	1
Wired & Wireless	2
Monday Night Open Lab	2
A Collaborative Project	3
Kurzweil	3
GroupWise 7	4
What's next?	4

Upcoming Events

- ◆ VDOE Ed Tech Conference Dec. 5-7
- ◆ NTTI Training, Nov. 18-19, Registration to Marion Wood by Nov. 1st.

Introduction of New Division Instructional Technologists *By Danny Richardson*

Research has shown that a curriculum that successfully integrates technology increases student performance. In addition, many of the programs found within *The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* rely on this integration of technology. Because of this, the 2004 General Assembly passed legislation which amended the Board of Education's Standards of Quality to incorporate more technology positions with the express purpose of providing technology support to teachers.

The above mentioned Standards affected Appomattox by providing for three Division Instructional Technologists (DITs). Susie Fisher is serving in a fulltime position while Marion Wood and Danny Richardson are serving in half time positions.

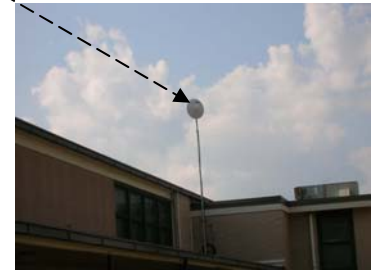
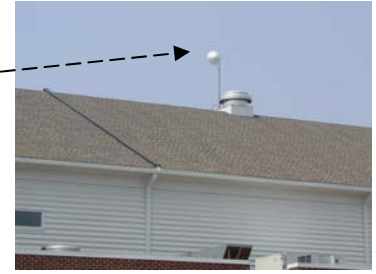
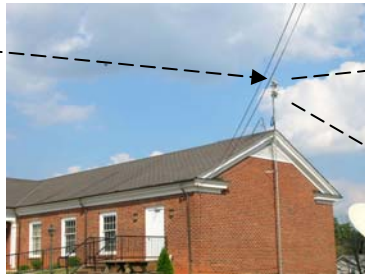
The Appomattox technology team has 3 major goals.

1. *To help instructional staff, in an individual way, implement technology in their classroom.*
2. *To create a collection of technology resources.*
3. *To assist instructional staff in reaching their TSIP's (Technology Standards for Instructional Personnel).*

In addition to the division instructional technology positions, each school has two in-house Instructional Technology (IT) positions. All of these positions, DIT and IT exist to help teachers integrate technology into curricula and instruction.

Wired and Wireless in Appomattox County

By Susie Fisher



A 10 MGB wireless connection is beamed from a tower in Fluvanna County to the Appomattox water tower.

Appomattox County Schools' internet connection is provided by Compusec, a company out of Palmyra, VA. A 10 MGB wireless connection is beamed from a tower in Fluvanna County to the Appomattox water tower. A 36 megabyte wireless network connects each school facility.

FAQ

If the signal for the Internet is wireless, can anyone in Appomattox get a wireless connection?

No, the connection is a secure connection much like that on your cell phone.

Who pays for the school system's Internet connection and how much does it cost?

The original start-up money was mainly funded by the Virginia Department of Education. In recent years the grants have been getting smaller and smaller.

Internet services alone cost approximately \$15,000 each year, with E-rate assistance.

How can I get a faster Internet service at my home?

At the present time there are a limited number of options for high speed Internet for Appomattox County citizens. Nesbe Cable offers high speed to a limited number of customers in the town of Appomattox and in high populated surrounding areas. Another option is a satellite connection but at the present time this is an expensive option. Plans are in the works from electric co-ops and telephone companies to offer high speed options.

Internet services alone cost about \$15,000 dollars each year.

Monday Night Open Lab

By Susie Fisher

The Monday Night Open Lab began on October 3rd and will continue through the first Monday in December. The lab will be open to all citizens of Appomattox County ages 13 and up. Beginners are welcome! This is a free service to the community.

The Open Lab is geared toward those who want to improve their computer skills as well as those that just want a place to use a computer on Monday nights.

There will be instructors present for those that need specific help. In the

past, adult students have learned various software applications such as Word and Excel. Students have made mailing labels, business cards, brochures, and printed out special pictures they have received from emails. One big hit last year was learning how and where to shop on the Internet.

Digital photography and scanning will also be offered. Cameras will be available to use during lab time.

Participants will be asked to complete a registration and regulations form.



Closing the Gap with Computers

By Karen Cyrus & Debbie Elliott

Last year Mrs. Cyrus' and Mrs. Elliott's classes partnered to create interactive Power Point and KidPix presentations. The students in Mrs. Elliott's class each had a specific objective to accomplish related to their IEP's. Mrs. Cyrus' students assisted them in selecting pictures, developing animation, and organizing their information into a KidPix or Power Point presentation.

Individual programs included slide shows of beginning sounds, numbers, famous Virginians, directional concepts, and map skills. Upon completion of the project, Mrs.

Elliott's students presented them to School Board Office Administrators, Principals, and parents with the assistance of their peer partners.

In addition to accomplishing IEP objectives, students with disabilities ranging from autism, TBI, and mild to moderate mental deficiencies were able to build social relationships with students in the Advanced Learners Program. It is amazing how the use of computer technology, along with a little help from cookies, playtime, and play dough, can bring a group of diverse, yet cooperative, learners together.



Assistive Technology - Kurzweil

By Marion Wood

Last year our Division upgraded the site licenses for the Kurzweil 3000 Color Professional. That means each school has a Scan/Read version that is installed on a computer with a scanner. Each school also has 4-5 Read Only versions. If you would like to have one of these Read Only versions installed in your room, let one of the new Division Instructional Technologists know. There are a few available licenses remaining.

The following quote describes Kurzweil's effectiveness as a learning tool.

"Kurzweil 3000 for Windows was first introduced in 1996. It has since become the leading reading, writing and learning solution for individuals of all ages with learning difficulties like dyslexia, attention deficit disorder (ADD) and other literacy difficulties.

Teachers have demonstrated time

and again that Kurzweil 3000 provides students the tools they need to improve their reading speed and comprehension, plus a suite of features that make it possible for them to learn and study independently. In this way, it has helped improve their academic experience, their ability to function effectively in the workplace and the quality of their daily lives. For students who have difficulty physically accessing curriculum materials, Kurzweil 3000 provides a digital means of engaging with text and can support students who use alternative methods for accessing the computer.

In addition, the product is proving instrumental for both classroom and standardized assessments. Kurzweil 3000 not only reads questions and answers aloud, it allows students to type answers directly onto the image of a scanned test, thereby offering more independence for both the student and teacher."

http://www.kurzweiledu.com/products_k3000w_in.asp

Kurzweil 3000 has received the EDDIE award in the Best Special Education (Reading) Category during the 10th Annual ComputerEd Gazette Awards.



For an online demo, go to <http://www.kurzweiledu.com/k3000demo/>

Groupwise 7- Web-Access Has a New Look

By Marion Wood



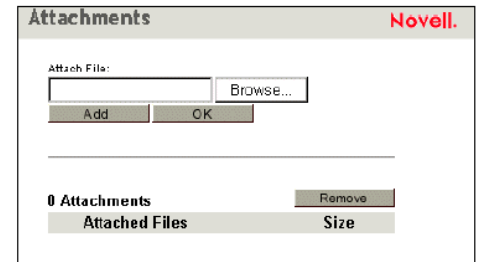
If you are not getting the correct login screen on your web access, then type in the URL below and save it to your Favorites folder.

<http://groupwise.appomattox.k12.va.us/gw/webacc>

You have probably noticed a new look to your Web Access GroupWise. It has been upgraded to version 7 and has some great new features. You can now do many things that you could only do in the Client-side view. You can drag and drop, you can type in a name and name completion will take over the typing for you. You can right-click on items and open up a menu.

Here are directions for attaching a file to an e-mail that you are sending.

1. Click on the **Compose** button to start a new message.
2. Click on the **Attach** button.
3. Click on the **Browse** button and locate the file you want to attach.
4. Click on the **Open** button.
5. Click on the **Add** button; the file will then be listed at the bottom of the screen.
6. Repeat steps 3-6, if you want to attach any additional files.



7. Click on the **OK** button.
8. Finish your message as you normally would.
9. Click on the **Send** button.

A Guide to the Web-Access view can be found at:

http://www.novell.com/documentation/qw7/index.html?page=/documentation/qw7/gw7_userweb/data/a20gkue.html

What's Coming *By Danny Richardson*

In an increasingly technology oriented world, it is vital that teachers have a basic understanding of the complex issues revolving around the use of technology. One of the county's ways of keeping teachers up-to-date with technology is requiring the completion of the Technology Standards for Instructional Personnel or TSIP's.

The first cycle of teacher completed TSIP's was in June of 2001. Since then every teacher new to the county has been required to either complete the TSIP's checklist or provide proof that he or she has met the standards. The state and Appomattox County are in the process of revising the Technology Standards. One of the possibilities we are looking at is an electronic portfolio. This portfolio would take into account the new standards being adopted. A sample of possible



standards can be found at http://cnets.iste.org/ISTENCATE/TL_standards.doc

Teachers who are due for recertification are now required to show that they have performed the state/county requirements for completing TSIPs within a 5 year time frame. This means that teachers up for recertification this year can use their TSIPs from 2001 until now. Teachers due for recertification next year will only be able to use TSIPs dated on or after 2002.

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Learning and Succeeding in a Caring Environment
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