



Moving from the Oooo-Ahhh to the Ahh-Haaa

I'd like to thank Roberta Banfield from St. Michael's School in Independence for sharing with me the article The Oooo-Ahhh Versus the Ahhh-Haaa (by Jen Wagner) from *Tech & Learning* online. This is a practical article stressing the importance of using the technology we have to its fullest potential. In the article, Jen Wagner describes how everyone gets

excited the first time a new technology or software application is shown, and how easy it is to get caught up in the excitement of its "bells and whistles" or "fluff". She challenges her readers to not simply be wooed by the "fluff" and never use it as an instructional tool, to better our students learning. When a piece of technology is used to simply "wow" your audience you

are doing a disservice to yourself and your students. Be sure you are using the technology to demonstrate the substance of the lesson and use the tool to its full education potential. To read the article in its entirety go to: <http://www.techlearning.com/blogs/25424>

Internet Integration Resources for Advent and Christmas

I am often asked for religion Internet resources, so I have located some for you to use this Advent/Christmas season. I have found three sites that are not interactive, however, I think may be helpful to you or colleagues in your school who teach religion. All three of the following sites include Catholic traditions, Advent prayers and activities. I hope they help!

1. <http://www.catholic.org/advent/>
2. <http://www.catholiceducation.org/articles/religion/re0372.html>
3. <http://www.catholicmom.com/advent.htm>



Check this out!

There is a new and easy way for your school to connect with your parents when there is an emergency alert. EventLink is an affordable, easy to use

Below are some technology integration lessons for you to use:

1. Create an Advent wreath in a drawing program, have the students label what each piece symbolizes.
2. Have students create a stained glass window in a drawing program have them use advent colors all over the page. Have a discussion on why Church uses those colors. Once printed, spread a little vegetable oil on paper, it will become transparent.
3. Have students create a timeline of Jesus' genealogy in Excel (this is good for 6th grade, since that is when the Old Testament is taught).
4. Research Christmas traditions from

around the world - have students present them in a Power Point, or other presentation tool.

5. Have students research the legend of the candy cane then create a page using the legend.
6. Have students research Mary -the different feast days and present their findings either in a media presentation or essay form.

If you are in need of some cute online Christmas games, below are three fun sites!

1. <http://www.billybear4kids.com/holidays/christmas/games.htm>
2. <http://www.northpole.com/club-house/games/>
3. <http://holidays.kaboose.com/games-xmas.html>

system to connect with your school community. You will use a login and password to enter the system and then your families can receive the

message in a text to their cell phone, on twitter or facebook. To find out more information go to <http://www.eventlink.com> or call 1800-705-7526.



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Special Thank You

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Sharing

If you weren't able to attend the several after-school workshops in November, you missed out on some excellent best practices shared by teachers from around the Diocese. I would like to thank Theresa Basch from St. Albert the Great in Noth Royalton who shared her expertise in ACTIVInspire and Sandy Artim from Academy of St. Bartholomew's in Middleburg Heights for sharing her MOODLE site and expertise. It is always great to see how these tools are being used to increase student learning in the classrooms across the Diocese.

Funding Opportunities

An excellent site for a variety of education grants for classroom and larger school and technology grants available at: <http://www1.center.k12.mo.us/edtech/resources/grants1.htm>

This is a site I just found that has many different educational technology grants: <http://technologygrantnews.com/grant-index-by-type/educational-technology-grants.html>



I Need Your Help!

Each month I have included integration lessons that I used when I taught. I love to share my ideas, but I would like to share some of your ideas too! If you have a technology integration lesson you would like to share, please submit it to me so I can share with others the great things that go on at your school!

In order to make this monthly newsletter fit your particular needs, please take a moment to contact me at dbruno@dioceseofcleveland.org with any suggestions for the newsletter.

Professional Development

Office of Catholic Education

Be sure to go to the OCE PD site for upcoming opportunities!

To register and check out the details for all the Office of Catholic Education Professional Development opportunities go to our site at: <http://www.oce-ocs.org/oceregister/>

BCL

<http://www.bclsite.com/MenuPages/trainingmenu.htm>

WVIZ IdeaStream

<http://www.wviz.org/education/development>



Resources

OCE Ed Tech Page

http://www.oce-ocs.org/oceteachers/teacher_resources.shtml

Willoughby Eastlake Tech Page

<http://www.willoughby-eastlake.k12.oh.us/classroom/technology>

Bloom's Taxonomy, Bloom's Digitally

<http://techlearning.com/article/8670>

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