

Technology Newsletter



Office of Catholic Education

JANUARY 2009

Feature

Podcasting

Podcasting is an excellent way to help students in your class who need remediation, clarification or were absent. Podcasting can be a powerful tool for instruction and remedial learning because a podcast can be replayed as many times as a student needs. It can help students with note taking, listening skills, differentiating between important and non-important facts, memory retention or for those who have been absent. A podcast can be a valuable tool for your parents and the community because it gives outsiders a look into the classroom that they would not normally have.

What is a podcast? A podcast is an audio file (MP3 file) that can be easily recorded, saved and uploaded with any computer. Now I know what you are thinking - you don't have ipods, and you don't have the funds to purchase any. Don't worry, you don't need any other equipment besides your computer and a microphone. You can use an additional recording device, however a computer and software is all you need. No, you don't have to purchase the software you can get *Audacity* for free! *Audacity* is free software that works on both Mac and PC platforms. If you are a Mac user *Garage Band* is also great software to use, it's not free though. Once you have recorded your podcast you will need a place to host it - still no cost to you! You can go to <http://www.gcast.com/>, or <http://www.podomatic.com/> they are both free and easy to use services!

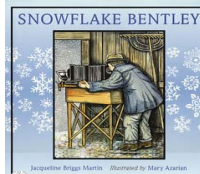
If you have been struggling to find a way to help your students, give podcasting a try!

Lesson Plans & Web Sites

English Language Arts Integration

I love winter and snow. These lessons I am sharing this month are some of my favorite!

One of my favorite lessons for 3rd graders is a collaboration with the language arts and art teachers. First have the language arts teacher read the book "Snowflake Bentley" by Jacqueline Briggs Martin which is a story about Wilson Bentley, the snowflake man.



After the book has been read to the class have them go to Snowflake Bentley's website at <http://www.snowflakebentley.com/snowflakes.htm>. Here the students can take a tour of Snowflake Bentley's snowflake gallery. Have students pick their favorite snowflake and print it. Then go to <http://snowflakes.barkleyus.com> here the students can "make a flake" using the interactive scissors to cut and print a snowflake they designed. Next have the art teacher use paper and scissors to create a third flake. Glue all three snowflakes onto a 11 x 17 inch paper folded into tri-sections. The project goes back to the language arts teacher for the students to create a snowflake simile to be written on the bottom of the paper.

For my second graders, I showed them the book "The Snowman" by Raymond Briggs. This is a picture book of adventures a boy

has with a snowman he built. After the students see the book they have to create the next adventure for the boy and his snowman by drawing the scene in a painting program.



For my 4th-5th grade students I used the poem

Snow Men Fade Away

Five little snowmen standing in a row
Each with a hat and a big red bow.
Out came the sun and stayed all day.
One little snowman melted away.
Four little snowmen standing in a row
Each with a hat and a big blue bow.
Out came the sun and stayed all day.
One little snowman melted away.
Three little snowmen standing in a row
Each with a hat and a big green bow.
Out came the sun and stayed all day.
One little snowman melted away.
Two little snowmen standing in a row
Each with a hat and a big yellow bow.
Out came the sun and stayed all day.
One little snowman melted away.
One little snowman standing in a row
Each with a hat and a big orange bow.
Out came the sun and stayed all day.
One little snowman melted away.

The students typed the first stanza and then I had them copy and paste the other stanzas, going back and changing the number and color for each stanza. Each student then draws the snowmen to match each stanza. After all the snowmen are drawn they cut out and place the snowmen and the poem on a small poster board.

This is another activity that can be integrated with your language arts and art teachers.

Professional Development

Check out **WVIZ Connections** newsletter at www.wviz.org/education for a list of their in-services.

The following workshops are available through the Office of Catholic Education

Curriculum Mapping and Differentiating Instruction in Math

Dates: January 15 (Cleve)
January 16 (East)
January 22 (South)
January 23 (West)

Audience: All math teachers looking for differentiating in your math class.

Location: Depends on region
Still Time to Register so ask your Principal!

ATTENTION
Keep a look out for the upcoming winter and spring technology in-service schedule to be coming out soon!

Contact Information

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Funding Opportunities

Check out this free site for finding all types of grants:

<http://www.grantwrangler.com/index.html>

Toyota Tapestry Grants for Science Teachers is awarding 50 grants of \$10,000 and 20-32 mini grants of \$2500 to outstanding science educators who demonstrate excellence and creativity in the classroom.

<http://www.nsta.org/pd/tapestry/>

Application deadline
January 21, 2009

Muzak Heart & Soul Foundation
Music Matters Grant

<http://heart.muzak.com/what/grants.aspx>

Application deadline is
February 4, 2009

IDEAS Technology grants for use of classroom technology will offer \$2500 to schools that can show how they use technology to improve student learning.

<http://ideas.edresources.com/>

Entry deadline is April 1, 2009

There are new Web Sites to be posted soon on the OCE Teacher Internet Resource Page!

Catholic Schools Week

Don't forget Catholic Schools week is approaching fast! Here are some ways you can integrate technology into your schools' preparation for Catholic Schools Week!

- Have students make candy bar labels with your schools information on it. Tape the schools' label on a Hershey candy bar and pass them out to your visitors at your open house!
- Have students make book marks for visitors to your school.
- Have your older students make a Power Point presentation or newsletter about why they think their school is the best or why Catholic schools are important.
- Have your younger students create a picture in painting and type a sentence about why they love their school.



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