



Technology Newsletter



Office of Catholic Education

NOVEMBER 2008

Feature

Holiday Integration



It's hard to believe it is already November, the beginning of the holiday season. There are so many holidays celebrated during the months of November, December and January. I always tried to take this opportunity to teach the students about diversity and cultural celebrations. Below is a list of some of the holidays/seasons we celebrate as Catholics, but also some other holidays celebrated in other cultures or religions.

- * Thanksgiving
- * Advent
- * St. Nicholas
- * Our Lady of Guadalupe
- * Hanukkah
- * Winter Solstice
- * Little Christmas (Denmark)
- * Christmas
- * Boxing Day (England)
- * Kwanza
- * New Year's
- * Epiphany

And that's just to name a few! This is an easy time of year to integrate technology across many curricular areas.

Lesson Plans & Web Sites

Below are some holiday ideas that worked very well in my classroom. I hope the ideas inspire great ideas in you!

Thanksgiving

http://www.plimoth.org/education/olc/index_js2.html

http://www.scholastic.com/scholastic_thanksgiving/daily_life/index.htm

* These sites go hand-in-hand sharing history and timelines of the Mayflower voyage and life in the 1620s. You can take a virtual tour of a pilgrim home and walk the path of the Waponog Village. There is also a writing center for students to write about what they have learned.

* Have your students complete a webquest of the first Thanksgiving.

* Have your students compare and contrast daily living of the pilgrims to themselves or the pilgrims to the Wamponog Indians. Use kidspiration or Word to create graphic organizers.

Advent

* In primary grades, students can use a painting program, such as Kid Pix, to create a stained glass window using only advent colors. After you print the window, apply a small amount of vegetable oil to the paper (this makes it transparent). In this one lesson, we have integrated religion/art/technology and language arts.

* In 3rd-5th grades, have students draw a cross. In each quadrant of the cross, have them write ways to prepare for Christmas. Place a picture of the nativity scene in the center as the focus.

Family Togetherness



Reflection



Spiritual Growth



Finding the True Meaning



* In 6th grade, create a Jesse Tree in Excel, include the person, theme, scripture and symbol from the Old Testament. <http://www.cresourcei.org/jesse.html> is a good resource.

* Have students research the different names of Jesus. You can vary this lesson for students in grades 5-8 in many ways.

Christmas

* Have students research different Christmas traditions across the world. You can integrate this data into many curricular areas, such as, writing, religion, math and more!

* Have your students compare their family traditions to children of other religions or cultures.

* Have your students draw a candy cane and explain the legend.

* Give your beginning typers a list of Christmas words to type and find clip art to match the word.

* Have your older students create a Christmas storybook in Power Point to share with younger students.

Tech Coordinator's Corner

Planning to attend the e-tech Conference in Columbus in February?

Looking for a discount?

Register online Monday, November 17th for Diocesan Group Discount. The price will be \$187.00 for you to attend all three days. In order to qualify for group pricing, we must have at least 4 people register online that day. This is the only day we can get the group pricing. To register go to: <http://www.etechnology.org/conference/register/index.jsp> click on *register online* and fill in the online form. For school district be sure to list *Diocese of Cleveland*. **Remember this must be done by 4:00pm on November 17th!**

If you plan to register, please email me at dbruno@dioceseofcleveland.org so I am sure we have enough to get the group pricing.

Professional Development

The following workshop is available through the Office of Catholic Education

Effective use of SmartBoard in the classroom

Date: November 10, 2008

Audience: All teachers looking for ways to use the Smart Board in your classroom. There will be two break-out sessions-one for

grades K-4 and one for 5-8.

Location: St. Paschal Baylon School.

Register by fax or Online.

ATTENTION EVERYONE STILL INTERESTED IN ACTIVBOARD SESSIONS! BCL IS OFFERING FREE WORKSHOPS!

When/Where:

November 12, 2008 at Julie Billiard School, Lyndhurst.

November 13, 2008 at St. Albert the Great School, North Royalton.

November 19th at St. Joseph School, Avon Lake.

Agenda for all sessions:

3:00-4:00 Open help-desk both for Mac and Window hardware and software questions.

4:00-6:00 Both Mac and Windows platforms will be addressed. Interact with Activote, Activexpression and Elmo. Observe a classroom teacher to learn a few new tricks. Learn to download and use resources from Promethean Planet Web site. To register, contact BCL at 440-892-8820 by November 5th.

Check out WVIZ Connections

newsletter at www.wviz.org/ education for a list of their in-services for the fall.

Cleveland Video and Podcast Seminar

Date: November 20, 2008

Go to: www.cleveland-podcast.com/ for details **but** go to : <http://www.cleveland-podcast.com/11-20-2008-diocese-discount-registration.pdf> **for special diocesan pricing!**

Funding Opportunities

Check out these free Web resources for finding grants:

<http://www.techlearning.com/resources/grants.php>

or

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

Thank You!!

I would like to extend a special thank you to the following principals who allowed their school to be used for a technology workshop (or two):

John Bednar at St. Paschal Baylon School, *Sharon Fournier* at Holy Family School in Stow and *Joyce Needham* at St. Christopher School.

...and to our wonderful presenters for sharing their knowledge with us:

Roberta Banfield from St. Michael's School, *David Hall* from Immaculate Heart of Mary School and *Nicole Pescatrice* from St. Christopher School.

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