SCCS Library News

Let it snow! Let it snow!

Sandy Creek Central School District

Did you know...

* A sneeze travels out of your mouth at over 100 miles an hour.

* TYPEWRITER is the longest word that can be made using letters only on one row of the keyboard.

* One gallon of used motor oil can ruin approximately one million gallons of fresh water.

* House flies have a lifespan of two weeks.

* An inch of rain water is equivalent to 15 inches of dry, powdery snow.

* Men get hiccups more often than women.

http://www.randomfunfacts.com/

Blogs and Wikis

Blogs and Wikis. Many of you may be wondering what these wacky words are and how you could possibly use something like this. Once you get past the word, it's easy to see how useful these two types of technology can be in the classroom (or for personal use!).

Blogs

This is a shortened version of the word "weblog," or in other words an online log or journal. This resource allows users to create a daily journal of anything they find important from politics, education, sports or daily family life. Readers are invited to read and respond to the daily journal entries. The creator of the blog can add photos, video, links to websites or other blogs to their blog.

There are many ways that you can use blogs in the classroom such as creating a celebration page for your class. This has been done by the 8th grade team. Check out their blog at: http://8cometscorner.blogspot.com. Do you have your students journaling each day or week? Why not have them do it online for a real audience. Try blogging with your students for a real-world learning experience.

Wiki

The concept behind a wiki is that ANDYONE can add and edit the information. Wikipedia is an example of a wiki. This is an online encyclopedia with information that ANYONE can edit. The unreliability of information on Wikipedia is why its use is often discouraged and even banned at the college level.

A wiki can be used for many purposes- a class or individual unit project, professional portfolio, or a method for collaboration. You can do many of the same things with a wiki as you can do with a blog, with a few exceptions. In addition to uploading photos, text, and video, you can also up load documents.

New York Heritage Digital Collections

With the increase in testing, it's helpful to have resources on hand for creating test preps such as DBQs. A recently launched site, the New York Heritage Digital Collections, does just that. This research portal is for anyone interested in learning more about the people, places, and institutions of historical New York State. Through this site, users have access to more that 160 distinct digital collections from libraries, museums and archives across the state. Some of the items included in the collection are photographs, letters, diaries, directories, maps, newspapers, books and more!

Check out this digital archive at http://www.newyorkheritage.org.

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Find anything @ your library!

Catch us online @
http://teacherweb.com/
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Are you an avid   Oprah fan? If so, did you know that in addition to her book club, Oprah also has a "Kids Reading List." These lists, compiled by the American Library Association, are grouped by age level. The categories consist of: birth to two, three to five, six to nine, 10 to 12, and 12 and up. Additionally, a list of classics appropriate for kids has also been included. The site also includes other resources such as tips for making reading fun for kids. Check it out at www.oprah.com. Click on "Book Club" and from there, "Kids Reading List."

Image: http://www.oprah.com/entity/oprahsbookclub

Blogs and Wikis continued.

This is helpful when creating a professional portfolio, which I had to do as a graduate student at Syracuse University. From the statistics kept by Wikispaces, I can see that I've had visitors to my wiki from not only the United States, but also from the United Kingdom, Ireland, Europe, Canada, Germany, Algeria and Pakistan! What an awesome experience for students to know that their work can be seen (and commented on) around the world!   For an example of a wiki, check out http://educationalwikis.wikispaces.com/ which is a wiki of educational wikis.

There are many professional educational blogs and wikis on the web. Many leading educators and researchers have blogs in which they regularly reflect on issues in education. Wikis are also often used for professional

collaboration.

I recently attend a conference where Will Richardson was the keynote speaker. Will is what I would call a "get technology into the classroom" guru. He has extensively studied the use of technology, such as blogs, wikis, RSS and audiocasts, in the classroom. As you would suspect, Will has his own blog and wiki. I strongly suggest

exploring both of these if you are interested in learning more about blogs and wikis as he is the expert and I am not!
His blog: http://weblogg-ed.com/
His wiki: http://supportblogging.com/

At the wiki created by Will Richardson you'll find articles on blogging in education, blogging options for educators, blogs on educational blogging and much, much more!

The final resource I recommend are the "In Plain English" videos. These can be found at the Common Craft website http://www.commoncraft.com/ As the site claims, "We make complex ideas easy to understand using short and simple videos." Be sure to check out the video on blogs, wikis and anything else you'd like clarified!