

bits & bytes

Technology News Update

Niskayuna Central Schools
Technology CORE Team

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www.nisk.k12.ny.us/edtech/bitsandbytes/

Free Teacher Web Pages

Are you interested in sharing information with parents and students on the Web, but don't want to deal with the hassle of learning about Web page development and uploading of files to a server? SchoolNotes (<http://www.schoolnotes.com>) is one of the few free services still available to educators. It's easy to register, and you update your basic Web page from anywhere with Internet access!

Teacher Takes

Leslie Casey has combined technology and reading for her Hillside fifth graders. She has been reading The Ravenmaster's Secret by Elvira Woodruff to her class. It is historical fiction describing life in England in 1735. The story deals with tolerance, prejudice, bullying, compassion, friendship and kindness. All of the above are addressed in our character education program. Once they were familiar with the setting, the class went online to take a virtual tour of the Tower of London. This made the story even more "alive". Photos of the Tower of London were also located using Yahoo's image search feature. Now they are looking for a way to make the actual trip to London!!

The tour site used is: "Tower of London Kids Tour"
<http://www.toweroflondontour.com/kids>



Dear Techie...

I like transferring files to other computers by "burning" them onto CDs. Sometimes, however, certain machines can't seem to read my disks. What's the scoop?

Signed - Despairing Over Disks

Dear Despairing,
Just like other media (e.g. floppy disks), CDs can be "formatted" in a few different ways. The "ISO9660" format is the most universal for CDs. Computers running Windows, DOS, Macintosh, Unix and Linux operating systems can all read these CDs. Unfortunately, not all burning software defaults to this setting. Poke around in the settings/configuration area of your software (or try searching its "Help" feature) to locate where you can choose "ISO9660". For example, many of our new Dell PCs use Roxio's "Easy CD Creator" burning software. In this application, go under File to CD Project Properties. Often the "File System" is set to "Joliet", but ISO9660 is another pop-up selection. Choose it!

A Few of Our Favorite Things:

Check out *The Educator's Reference Desk* (<http://www.eduref.org>), a new resource based at Syracuse University. It has replaced *AskERIC*, which was discontinued by the U.S. Department of Education. It features over 2000 lessons plans, over 3000 links to education sites, and archives to over 200 questions people have asked centering around educational research and programs. This site also provides search capabilities for ERIC documents. This is a comprehensive Web site kept current and timely for all in the education field.

Looking for "copyright-friendly" images to use for educational projects? Try <http://www.pics4learning.com> for a great selection!