

# bits

# & bytes

Technology News Update

Niskayuna Central Schools  
Technology CORE Team

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[www.nisk.k12.ny.us/departments/EdTech/bitsandbytes/](http://www.nisk.k12.ny.us/departments/EdTech/bitsandbytes/)

## 5th Grade Digital Video

The 5th Graders at Glenside have created digital movies! A "Readers Theater" film was produced using poems from *Joyful Noise* by Paul Fleischman. The students filmed each other reading poems with a digital camcorder and transferred the footage to the iMovie software. Working with laptops, students edited the video and added titling, effects and transitions. The movie has been saved in the Quicktime format for universal sharing.



## Teacher Web Sites

The number of teachers creating their own school Web sites is growing all the time! A couple of Birchwood teachers who have recently joined in are Sue Feyrer (1st Grade) and Chris Querbes (2nd Grade). They worked with their building Media Specialist, Beth Disque, through the "Two Teachers Together with Technology" peer support program to develop the skills to create their sites. Check them out!

<http://www.nisk.k12.ny.us/birchwood/grade1/feyrer/index.html>

<http://www.nisk.k12.ny.us/birchwood/grade2/querbes/>

## The Birchwood Scoop



The fifth grade at Birchwood has just finished their first edition of *The Birchwood Scoop*. Every student worked on writing an article for the school newspaper. The students wrote rough drafts and then used the computer lab to type their articles into AppleWorks Draw. Once the articles were completed, several students used a digital camera to take photos to include with their stories.

The finished product is a 10 page newspaper with articles on upcoming events, getting to know teachers beyond the classroom, and classroom news.

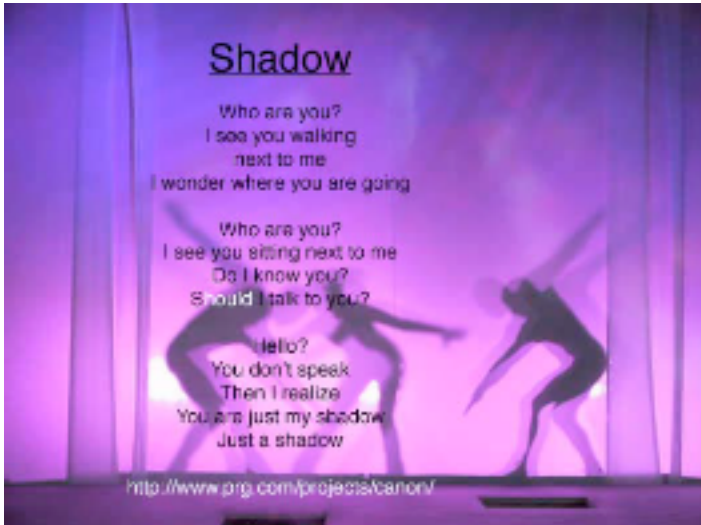
The students are very proud of their work. Please take a look on the Birchwood Web site to see this amazing newspaper written entirely by 5th grade students. The next edition will be out in June!

## (Webopedia)™

Webopedia is a very useful site for looking up technology terms. The information provided is more than just definitions, and generally includes complete explanations of topics covered. Other technology related links are also provided. This site is an extensive resource to help keep you current in the quickly changing world of technology!

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

## Poetry & Digital Images



Frank Adamo's English students at Iroquois have fused their original poetry with digital imagery. During two class periods, students brainstormed visuals that might accompany their poems. After developing mental pictures of what might enhance their writing, they used the "Google Images" search capability to locate graphics online.

Once graphics were saved, students opened them in Photoshop Elements and typed their poems onto the graphics. The resulting ".jpg" files created can be used in many different documents/products (e.g. iMovie, iPhoto, PowerPoint, Word, etc.)

As students finished their newly formatted poems, Frank added them to a slide show that serves both as a screensaver on his desktop computer and a slide show for their "Java Jive" poetry coffeehouse activity.

Of course, students fully cite the sources of their images on both the poems themselves and a works cited page, reinforcing the importance of respecting intellectual property.

## An Email Tip....

There are several reasons why some people tend to get more "spam" email than others. One factor that you can control is the type of activity that you engage in through your email account. If you use an account to shop online, register with organizations/services, download software, etc., often the email address that you provide is shared with others. This results in unsolicited emails to that account. Try to avoid these kinds of activities with your district account. At home, some people even create a secondary personal account for this type of activity. This limits the amount of spam received through their primary email address....

## Colonial Life

Mrs. Herrington's fourth grade class at Hillside is learning about colonial times. Her class used the following interactive Web site to explore a colonial family and their life in Coventry Connecticut:

<http://www.hfmgv.org/education/smartfun/colonial/intro/>

The site chronicles chores and activities of the family and shares copies of actual documents used to publicize community events. Mrs. Herrington's class then studied colonial homes, workplaces, and churches.

Finally, they created their own colonial environments using Tom Snyder's *Diorama Designer* computer program. This application allows a student to create a colonial room, house or church with the appropriate furniture for the time period. After the dioramas were constructed, there was a class discussion about life in colonial times, and a writing assignment to describe the created dioramas.

## Electronic Probes in High School Earth Science



Joe Spollen and Paul Scott have designed a new laboratory activity for their honors Earth Science classes. It is part of a new global warming unit, and the objective is to measure the varying rate of biodegradation using a new carbon dioxide gas probe. Students are trying to determine how temperature affects the rate of biodegradation of leaf litter. They use the CO<sub>2</sub> probe to measure the gas output of the leaf litter at two different temperatures. An increased rate of CO<sub>2</sub> (a greenhouse gas) could potentially contribute to the rate of global warming.