

bits

& bytes

Technology News Update

Niskayuna Central Schools
Technology CORE Team

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

High Tech Career Explorations!

On Friday, March 23, 2004 the Schenectady County Chamber of Commerce held its first annual Career Day for sophomores at SCCC. During the Fall of 2003 in sophomore Social Studies classes, each student completed an online career inventory using Careerzone.org, and recorded their individual data. This data was used to determine career presenters, and to assign students to appropriate panel discussions covering specific careers areas. In spite of a few glitches, the day was a new beginning for career planning throughout the county, and will hopefully be continued and improved in upcoming school years!

Dear Techie...

I get lots of "spam" mail and am also concerned about potentially receiving a virus on my PC through my email. Can you help??

Signed - Maniacal about Messages

Dear Maniacal,

Of course you should have a virus protection program installed on your PC, and update it regularly. Another application recommended by one of our Tech CORE members, Dan Matthews, is *MailWasher*. This is an email program that allows users to see their email while it is still on the server, before bringing it to their own computer. This means that viruses and junkmail can be intercepted before they are brought into your normal email application (e.g. Outlook, Eudora). After weeding through unwanted emails, you can bring the remaining emails into your own mailbox, virus free and streamlined.

This application is only available for the Windows operating system, and the basic version is not compatible with Web mail (e.g. Hotmail), AOL mail and some other online services.

Free download for the basic version:
<http://www.mailwasher.net>

Excellent "Frequently Asked Questions" area:
<http://www.mailwasher.net/faq.php>

Teacher Takes

Let's make a brochure!!!! Several teachers in Birchwood are currently using the AppleWorks Draw program to make brochures with their students.

Mrs. Albanese's 4th graders are using the program to make brochures on facts learned about the Colonial Era. The students are including information on the daily lives of a colonists, and are incorporating images from the Internet.



Kelly Opiela's 4th graders are using the program to make brochures for new students that will be attending Birchwood. Her students read the story, *The Kid in the Red Jacket*, which concerns a child moving to a new state and trying to adjust to a new school. To integrate the computers into Language Arts, the students were put into groups and assigned a grade level. Each group designed a brochure specifically for their grade. They included important facts, curriculum information, staff and pictures. They were also taught how to use the digital camera to take their own pictures.

Mrs. Santandrea's 2nd graders have also learned the AppleWorks Draw program and are making brochures on what occurs in their class. The students are enjoying using this program and creating projects that relate to the classroom.

A Few of Our Favorite Things:

Have you tried *NoveList* yet? It's an electronic database of fiction books provided by EBSCO. You can search by author, title, or genre to find summaries of recommended books. One of the very useful features is the "Find Similar" button, which provides a list of titles similar to the title entered. Reading levels are provided, along with links to author information. See your Media Specialist for details about connecting to this great resource.

Check out www.cyberbee.com for some great educational resources. You'll find curricular ideas, WebQuest development help, super Web links, software "how to's", and more!