
bits

& bytes

Technology News Update

Niskayuna Central Schools
Technology CORE Team

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"School Highlights" Issue #6 Hillside Elementary School

Climb aboard for



www.nisk.k12.ny.us/hillside

Technology Integration in the Classroom

Hillside's Internet use is at an all-time high! Students have been busy clicking on the many pre-screened grade level links provided on our building's website. These sites provide information for research projects, as well as reinforcement & enrichment activities for many curricular topics. Links are added on a regular basis as new and potentially helpful sites are identified.

Here are some good First Grade Links:



[Math](#)

[Bar Graphs](#)

[BBC Science Sites](#)

[Match the Vowel Sounds](#)

[More Vowel Sounds](#)

[Find the Missing Letters](#)

[Making Smaller Words from A Large Word](#)

[Making Sentences](#)

[Sorting](#)

[Phonics](#)

[Plants and Animals in the Local Environment](#)

[PBS Kids](#)

[Letter Sounds](#)

[Build A Bear Math Facts and Games](#)

[Basic Number Facts](#)

[Make a Word](#)

[Spelling Match Game](#)

[Today's Birthday](#)

[Math Facts](#)

[Sesame Street](#)

[Phonics II](#)

[American Library Association](#)

[Building Language for Literacy](#)

[Connect The World](#)

[Earthworms](#)

[Professor Garfield](#)

[Music](#)



[Back To Computer Home Page](#)

Sample Computer Lab Web Links Page

A Couple of Highly Recommended Websites

<http://www.webquest.org/>

Offers free webquests ready to use for all for subject areas and grade levels.

<http://www.timeforkids.com/TFK/hh/goplaces>

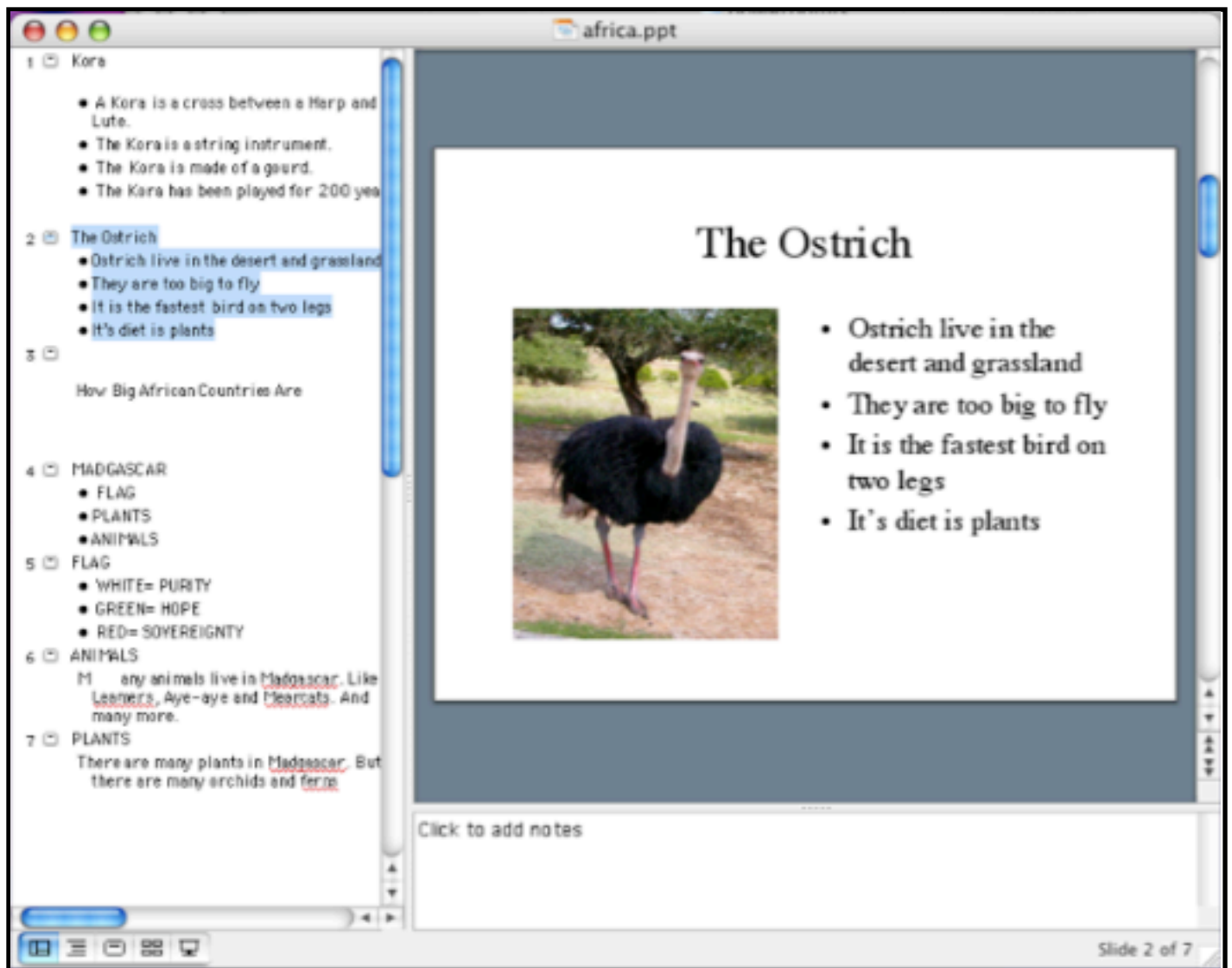
Provides excellent information about countries around the world.



First through fifth graders have been using “Quiz Show”, one feature of the new Scott Foresman math software. It parallels each grade’s math instruction, and poses challenging questions on every level.

A screenshot of the MindPoint Quiz Show software interface. The window title is "MindPoint Quiz Show" and the menu bar includes "Quiz Show", "File", "Edit", "Scores", and "Help". The system tray shows "Wed 8:50 AM". The main interface has a green background with a white question box. At the top left, there is a timer showing "00:09:28" and a "VALUE: 100" indicator. At the top right, there is a player profile for "Joanne M. Z." with "POINTS: 75". The question asks: "Paul cut out different colored polygons to decorate his kite. Which shape is a quadrilateral?". There are four options: A. A heptagon, B. A pentagon, C. A trapezoid (marked with a checkmark), and D. A right-angled triangle. At the bottom, there is a "CORRECT ANSWER: C" indicator, buttons for "FINAL ANSWER" and "SKIP QUESTION", and navigation buttons for "HELP", "END", and "NEXT" with a speaker icon.

Third graders in Mrs. O'Reilly's class have been creating PowerPoint presentations based upon their African research. Much of this research was done using online resources. The students are using images from the internet, and are even creating slide animations, in order to more effectively share their information.



The screenshot shows a PowerPoint presentation window titled "africa.ppt". The left sidebar contains a table of contents with the following items:


- 1 ○ Kora
 - A Kora is a cross between a Harp and Lute.
 - The Kora is a string instrument.
 - The Kora is made of a gourd.
 - The Kora has been played for 200 years
- 2 ○ The Ostrich
 - Ostrich live in the desert and grassland
 - They are too big to fly
 - It is the fastest bird on two legs
 - It's diet is plants
- 3 ○ How Big African Countries Are
- 4 ○ MADAGASCAR
 - FLAG
 - PLANTS
 - ANIMALS
- 5 ○ FLAG
 - WHITE= PURITY
 - GREEN= HOPE
 - RED= SOVEREIGNTY
- 6 ○ ANIMALS
 - Many animals live in Madagascar. Like Leopards, Aye-aye and Meerkats. And many more.
- 7 ○ PLANTS
 - There are many plants in Madagascar. But there are many orchids and ferns

The main slide area displays the title "The Ostrich" and a photograph of an ostrich in a natural setting. To the right of the image is a bulleted list:







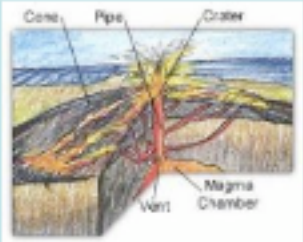



- Ostrich live in the desert and grassland
- They are too big to fly
- It is the fastest bird on two legs
- It's diet is plants

At the bottom of the slide area, there is a text box that says "Click to add notes". The status bar at the bottom right indicates "Slide 2 of 7".

In Ms. Kelley's third grade class, students completed a webquest on volcanoes. The pre-screened linked sites had a lot of great information, including helpful diagrams and charts. Students learned how to navigate through the Internet to find answers to the questions posed to them.

TeacherWeb **VoLcAnOeS** 

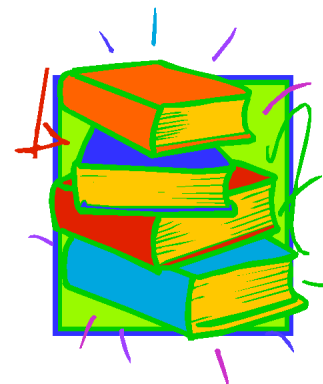
~ * ~ * WE need YOUR help * ~ * ~

 Introduction	 Task	 Process	 Volcano Expert	 Eruption Alerter
 Facts Boy/Girl	 Team Volcano	 Conclusion	 Evaluation	 Standards

Fifth graders have just created personal yearbook pages using an AppleWorks template designed by a fellow classmate. The student pages list memories and current interests, and include a representative graphic.

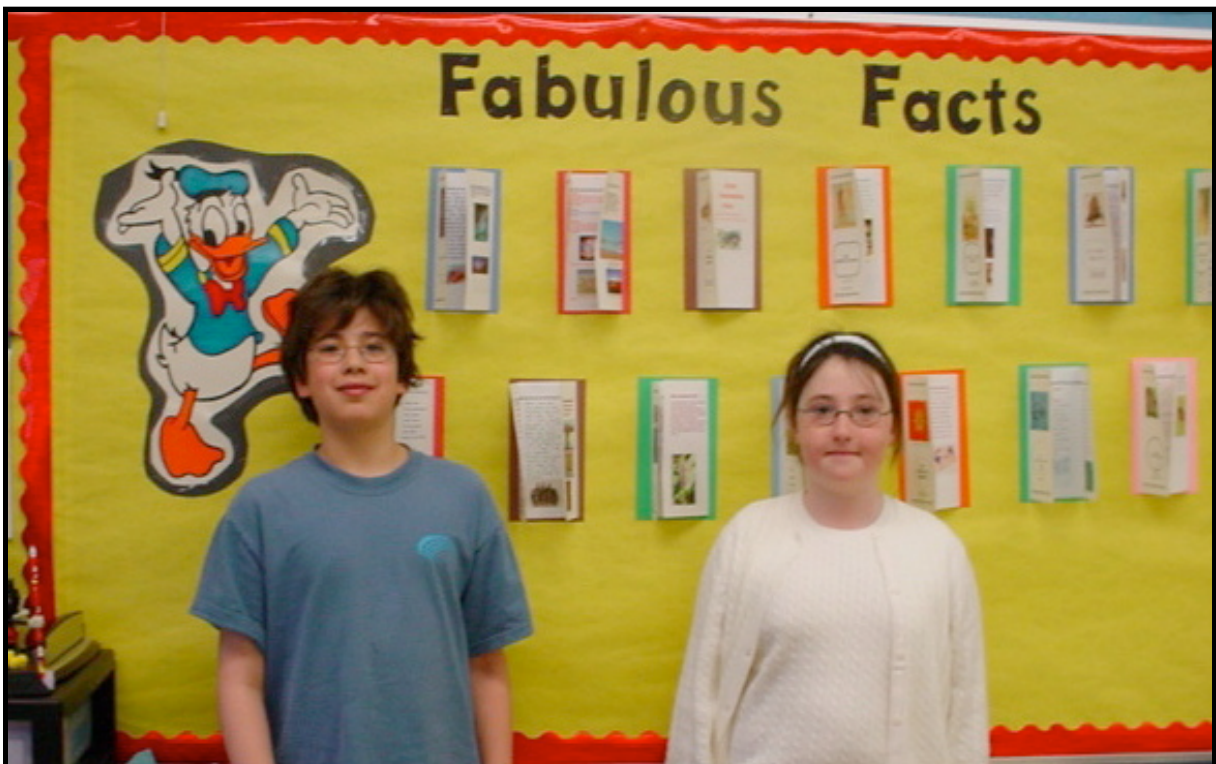
Christine

- Favorite subject: **Language**
- What you want to be: **A Teacher**
- Hobbies: **reading and dancing**
- Favorite book: **The Warriors Series**
- Favorite movie: **High School Musical**
- Favorite color: **Green**
- Favorite food: **Brownies**
- Favorite memory: **The first day of school**





Miss Leder's 4/5 class has just completed tri-fold brochures on Pond Life (5th grade) and Native American Tribes (4th grade). Again, an AppleWorks template was used. Images from the Internet were imported to make the brochure more informative and colorful.



Document Camera: A Great New Tool!



The document camera is the latest technology to be introduced at Hillside. In conjunction with an LCD projector, a document camera can be used to share documents, books, and a variety of 3-D objects (e.g. math manipulatives, cultural artifacts, small organisms, etc.). Hillside teacher Jaime Kean says, "It's such a great tool. It helps visual learners. Every teacher should have one in the classroom!"

It is used in the media center every day, and children love sharing books this way. They follow along as a book is read, and the illustrations are so much larger and clearer. They see details that would have been missed without this type of presentation.

Teachers have also found it useful for creating classroom displays by projecting graphics onto paper to be traced. It's a lot better than the "good ol' days" with those clunky opaque projectors!

Top Ten Reasons Why We Love Our Laptops



- “It’s easy to update a website with photos and newsletters for the class wherever I happen to be with my laptop.”
- “I can work on my progress reports at home and at school, and not have to worry about transferring data and which folder holds my latest revisions.”
- “I can work on IEP's and check email from home.”
- “It’s a great way to show DVDs. Use the LCD projector and it’s like a movie!”
- “It can easily be hooked up to a projector! Documents on my computer or on the internet can be shared with the entire class easily.”
- “I can create handouts, parent letters and lesson plans ‘on the go’.”
- “It’s easy to collaborate with colleagues in other schools.”
- “It’s physically more convenient than a desktop.”
- “I can access the Internet anywhere in a Nisky building.”
- “I can use it ‘anywhere’ , 24/7, and listen to iTunes at the same time!”

