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had such a wonderful time at the SWOW Conference on November 14-15. I am so excited to share what I learned. SWOW stands for Schools Without Walls. This conference centered on mobile technology in the classroom. Next year I want to take some teachers and administrators with me. One of the featured speakers was a college student who is the founder and CEO of the iSchool Initiative. The iSchool Initiative is a student-led, non-profit organization that is dedicated to revolutionizing our education system through innovative technology. Their mission is to inspire and educate students on how to become lifelong digital learners in the information age. I encourage you to visit their website at http://ischoolinitiative.org/ and join the revolution!

ELEMENTARY NEWS!

The entire 1st grade is now complete with their introduction to the iPads! We practiced telling digital and analog time, colors and shapes, simple addition and even illustrated our own little movies! The kids loved it and can't wait until the next time.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS!

December 8 and 13 are scheduled dates for Ms. Cartwright's and Ms. Page's classes to collaborate with different programs. Ms. Page's class will be interviewing a Professional Football Hall of Famer Elvin Bethea who played for the Houston Oilers. Ms. Cartwright will be learning about the 200 Year Anniversary of New Madrid from the St Louis Earthquake Institute. Both are FREE programs from the Center for Interactive Learning & Collaboration website. I encourage

all teachers to visit www.cilc.org to see if there are programs you are interested in collaborating.

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS!

Ms. Myers is having her students create projects using Microsoft MovieMaker! She plans to use this with the 10th grade and later with the 11th grade after their End of Course exams. Ms. Myers states she really excited about the fun inspired in the creation process. She also states that the iPad training inspired her to think of this project. If you haven't had the opportunity to attend iPad training, I encourage you to e-mail me and get a quickie on the iPads and Digital Storytelling. My next scheduled training is on Dec. 5th with "Part 1: iPad Basics and Tips for the Classroom". Dec. 12th is "Part 2: Using the iPads for Project Based Learning and Digital Storytelling." The trainings are held in the Middle School Library from 3:30-4:30 both days. If you are interested be sure to sign up on the PD website.

TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION: IDEAS FOR ANY GRADE

- HTTP://PREZI.COM → Forget PowerPoint use Prezi for your next presentation. Go to the website and sign up for FREE. Students and Teachers receive 500 mb of storage and several features that aren't available to the general public. Prezi is all internet based so your students who have the internet but not Powerpoint could still create a great presentation. Prezi has great tutorials for the beginner and great freedom for the computer expert. Prezi has caught the eye of several big businesses as a professional and modern way to present an idea. Go to the website and watch some Prezi presentations already made to fuel your imagination for your next presentation.
- ► HTTP://GRAPHWORDS.COM → What is it? → It's a FREE online interactive English dictionary and thesaurus that helps you find the meanings of words and show connections among associated words. You can easily see the meaning of each by simply placing the mouse cursor over it.

Usage → To search for a word, type the word in the search box at the top of the window and press the "Draw" button. You may also press the enter key instead. After searching for a word, the main display will populate with many words and meanings. The word you searched for will appear in the center of the display, and will be surrounded with words and meanings that are related to it. It is very similar to visualthesaurus.com but it's FREE! To save what is currently displayed in the Graph Words, you can press the "Save as image" button on the toolbar.

HTTP://WWW.GRAFFITICREATOR.NET → This is a FREE, and super easy online flash application which allows you to design your own name or logotype in graffiti-style. TGC comes with several fonts from throwups to bubble letters to wildstyles. The program also has an array of different tools that will help you further enhance your design. Go ahead and explore the possibilities! Just be informed that you're free to use The Graffiti Creator or even publish your design on your non-commercial website or blog but you're not allowed to sell or use the artwork in promotion for any product or service. This would be great for students to use in their own projects. Below is the design I made using the graffiti creator website. I also made the technology sign on the front of this newsletter with the graffiti creator website. I made a print screen of the graffiti and cropped the edges in Microsoft Word and added a funky border.



iPad Apps U Need to Know!



Photon

Flash Web Browser App → Tabbed and full screen anonymous private browsing plus Flash Player downloader for free video, games, music and news download on iPad with remote cloud browse desktop. Photon Browser allows you to play Flash games but not for free. This app will cost you \$4.99 but worth every penny if you are missing Flash on your mobile Apple device.



PuppetPals HD

Create your own unique shows with animation and audio in real time! This app is as fun as your own creativity. Act out a story of Pirates on the high seas, fight as scary monsters, or play the part of a Wild West bandit on the loose. You can even combine any characters however you want. This app is **FREE** but there is a <u>Director's Pass</u> that gives more character and scenes choices for \$2.99.