Greenland Technology & Learning

Technology Tip

Cloud Computing
What is it?

Modern computing in the age of the Internet is quite a strange, remarkable thing. As you sit hunched over your laptop at home watching a YouTube video or using a search engine, you're actually plugging into the collective power of thousands of computers that serve all this information to you from far-away rooms distributed around the world. It's almost like having a massive supercomputer at your beck and call, thanks to the Internet.

This phenomenon is what we typically refer to as **cloud computing**.

Cloud computing offers other benefits as well. Not too long ago, many of us worried about losing our documents, photos and files if something bad happened to our computers, like a virus or a hardware malfunction. Today, our data is migrating beyond the boundaries of our personal computers. Instead, we're moving our data online into "the cloud". If you upload your photos, store critical files online and use a web-based email service like Gmail or Yahoo! Mail, an 18-wheel truck could run over your laptop and all your data would still safely reside on the web, accessible from any Internet-connected computer, anywhere in the world.

Spring is here! I hope everyone is as excited about this school year being over as I am. It is probably for totally different reasons too. I am excited about the workshops that I have available for this summer. If you haven't started working on your summer schedule please visit the Greenland Professional Development website and look for the workshops available through the school district. There are several listed. The technology workshops available are: **All Things Google**, **iPads and Project Based Learning**, **Technology Potluck**, **SMARTBoard and Mixed Reality Tools**, and **Webpage Design with Edline**. I hope that everyone can get the training they need this summer. The specific locations for the workshops are TBA because of the busy summer clean up schedule. However, please know that all the technology workshops will be held at the school. Hope to see you there!

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IPAD2 CONTEST

All teachers should complete an iPad2 Contest application. Your odds of winning will never be better. You will only be competing with the teachers in your building. Three iPad2s will be awarded the end of this school year to three special teachers who express interest in learning and sharing ideas with an iPad2. The application needs to be filled out and turned into the Administration Building no later than **April 16, 2012 at 3:30 pm.** The application is only two short pages therefore; there is no reason not to try. The applications were e-mailed to all employees. You can request another application be sent to you by emailing, Tiffany at tabner@greenlandsd.com.

TECH DEPT. NEWS

The technology department has been hard at work putting up the new wireless network system in the middle school and high school. This system will give Greenland the capability eventually to be a one-to-one mobile device school. This is very exciting!

The new system is much more manageable and reliable, which will be awesome in the coming school year.

Great Web Resources

1. **Pirate Technology Page**→I couldn't help but include my website in this newsletter. I've been working really hard to get the Pirate Technology page to become a place where any teacher can find great resources to use in their classroom. It is still a work in progress, but my goal is to make searching the Internet easier. Teachers have more important things to do than to waste time looking for something on the Internet.

The site is broken into categories such as: Professional Development presentations, step-by-step tutorials, iPads, website resources, archived technology newsletters, educational video sites and educational games. I've also listed my professional calendar so that people may see my schedule and know if I am available for classroom instructions or any type of integration.

I welcome any suggestions and ideas on how to make it better. Please email me at tabner@greenlandsd.com

2. **http://www.howstuffworks.com/**
→HowStuffWorks, a wholly owned subsidary of Discovery Communications, is the award-winning source of credible, unbiased, and easy-to-understand explanations of how the world actually works. Founded by North Carolina State University Professor Marshall Brain in 1998, the site is now an online resource for millions of people of all ages.

From car engines to search engines, from cell phones to stem cells, and thousands of subjects in between, HowStuffWorks has it covered. No topic is too big or too small for our expert editorial staff to unmask ... or for you to understand. In addition to comprehensive articles, our helpful graphics and informative videos walk you through every topic clearly, simply and objectively. Our premise is simple: Demystify the world and do it in a simple, clear-cut way that anyone can understand.

3. **http://schoolwaxtv.com/** →Teacher Essentials™ was designed with students, teachers, and parents in mind. All uploaded videos are pre-screened and approved by moderators before ever showing up on the site. It may take 1 to 2 days for an uploaded video to appear for that very fact, but they know that being able to guarantee 100% safe educational content makes it worth the slight delay.

There are no accounts to sign up for and they don't keep any data on our viewers. You don't have to give them a thing to get access to our educational content. Nada. Zip. Zero. Your private info can remain just that, private.

They believe that educational videos should be free. For that very fact you will never see third-party advertisers on our site flashing their wares at every possible chance.

APPS U NEED TO GET!

VoiceThread

FREE! Create and share dymanic conversations around documents, snapshots, diagrams and videos—basically anything there is to talk about. You can talk, type, and draw right on the screen. VoiceThread takes your conversations to the next level, capturing your presence and not just your comments, Anyone can join the discussion from their iPhone, iPd, iPod touch Mac or PC—anytime, anywhere.

Great for teachers who want students to comment on a author, book or any other topic the teacher presents.

Comic Strip Designer

$2.99 Create your own personal comic strips, created on your iPad, iPhone, or iPod using just the photos from your photo album or iPhone camera.

Select one of the many included page templates. Insert photos into the cells. Add a couple of balloons with fun words. When you are happy with your new graphic novel, share it.

Teachers can use this in project based learning as a way for students to be creative and accomplish the class objectives.