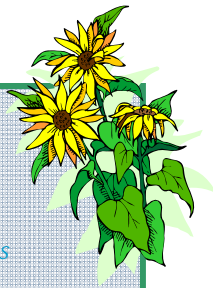




Laptops for 21st Century Learning

Online Newsletter

Spring/Summer, 2009



IT Teachers

- [Linda Cobb](#)
- [Norma Jennings](#)
- [Sue Stevens](#)
- [Peggy Thompson](#)
- [Lauren Thurman](#)
- [Lori Weedo](#)

Participating Technology

Learning Groups:

[Ferry Pass MS](#)

[Ransom MS](#)

[Woodham MS](#)

Enhancing Education Through Technology Grant:

Making the "Real World" Connection

The **grant field trips** provided students opportunities for interaction with experts in the workforce. As the students participated in these field trips their understanding of the connection between the academic content and the real world workforce was enhanced.

Experts from the community also visited the schools to share aspects of their careers. These **guest speakers** emphasized the skills that students will need to be successful as they join the workforce.

These "real world" connections highlighted the importance of learning opportunities which encourage students to develop their skills for gathering and assessing information, collaborating, thinking critically, and solving problems.

"Celebrating Our STARS"

On May 22nd Ms. Wesley and Ms. Martin's sixth grade students presented to their parents and fellow students the documentaries which they had created about Australia and New Zealand. Each student competed to be a STAR (Sixth Grade Technology Award Recipient) as part of an **awards ceremony** modeled after the Academy Awards. Awards given to the competing documentaries included Best Editing, Best Musical Score, Best Script, and Best Documentary.

Innovative Teaching and Technology Summit

Grant teachers participated in the first annual **Innovative Teaching and Technology Summit** sponsored by the Escambia County Instructional Technology Group, April 24-25. On Friday the teachers demonstrated the creative uses of technology currently being implemented with students in their classrooms. They presented and participated in the professional development sessions on Saturday designed to promote the exchange of ideas and information about using technology to increase student achievement.



Be sure to check out the following pages for photos and more information about these topics and other items about students and teachers who participated in the grant!



Podcast Saturday

A group of 24 middle school students chose to spend their Saturday morning collaborating with each other to identify the characteristics of the 21st Century Learner, to expand their technology skills and to make a real world connection that highlighted the importance of life long learning. They were part of the Florida Association for Computers in Education and the Florida Master Digital Educator Program goal “to make history while we have students podcast across the state all the same day at the same time!” through their Student Voices podcasts on Saturday, April 25, 2009.

They participated in a panel discussion about communication and technology in the work place that was moderated by Jeff Elliott from Workforce Education. Panel members included Kate Kemker, Bureau Chief of Technology and Learning Innovation at Florida DOE, Mary Louise Winter of the PJC Instructional Computing Department, Grace White, a reporter from WEAR-TV, and Travis Griggs, a reporter from the Pensacola News Journal. As the panel members shared about their careers, they focused on the use of technology as an important tool for both learning and sharing ideas. They also emphasized that learning is a continuous process.



After a brief break, the students also had the opportunity to develop their skills in the use of audio recording and editing tools before writing and recording their scripts. The focus of the student podcasts was “what makes learning cool in the 21st century”. Although the students worked in groups and developed their own presentation styles, there were some common themes, that included an appreciation for a learning environment that provides them with an opportunity to collaborate, to create, to interact, and to learn using a variety of formats. You can listen to their podcasts at this website:

<http://moodle.escambia.k12.fl.us/blocks/inwicast/rss.php?rssFeed=14&id=348>



Family Nights

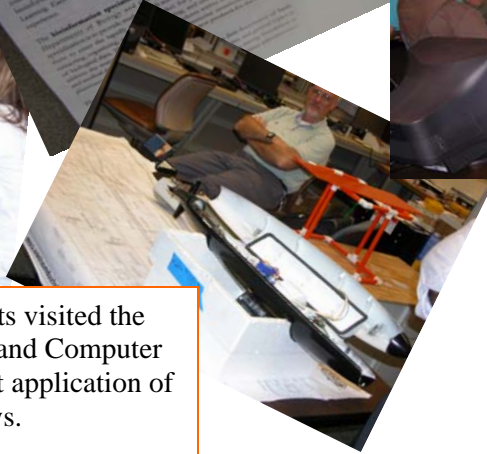
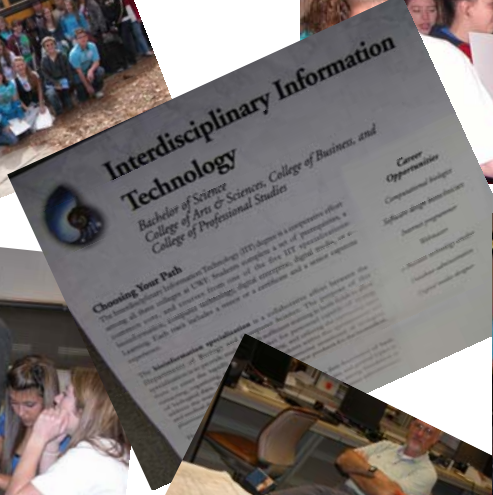
A series of family nights provided parents a variety of opportunities to enhance their understanding of 21st century work place needs, digital citizenship and ICT (information and communication literacy). Students also had the opportunity to share with their parents the projects which they were creating.

Workforce Education Department also provided career and work information about Choices and Ready to Work resources. The Career Van came to the Ferry Pass Middle School Family Night in April to provide parents the opportunity to learn more about careers.

These events at Woodham MS, Ransom MS, and Ferry Pass MS allowed parents to network, to create digital products using innovative technologies and to celebrate their students' successes.



Field Trip to University of West Florida



Ransom Middle School Students visited the UWF Department of Engineering and Computer Technology to find out more about application of the technologies in innovative ways.

The area which the students most enjoyed visiting was a lab where the UWF students and teachers were designing and testing robots.

The students in Mr. Wittstruck's 8th grade science class at Ferry Pass Middle School listened to a presentation by Natalie Bowers (PIO) and Stacy Hayden (engineer) about the process of building a new waste water treatment facility for Escambia County. This prompted a discussion about ecosystems, population, and habitat as well as the role of the consumer and community. The students had the opportunity to apply concepts from their science text to a project in their own community.



Making the Connection

As part of their book study on Escaping the Great Wave by Peg Kehret, the students in Ms. McRae's Language Arts' class investigated the similarities and differences between the emergency warning systems for a tsunami in the Northwest and those for a hurricane here in Northwest Florida. Brad Hattaway, the Planning Manager for the Escambia County Emergency Management System, visited their classroom. The students used the information and materials which he shared to write articles encouraging citizens to be prepared.





“Celebrating Our STARS” at the
Six Grade Technology Award Recipient Ceremony
Woodham Middle School
May 22, 2009



Innovative Teaching and Technology Summit

April 24 – April 25



Mr. Malcolm Thomas, the Superintendent of the School District of Escambia County, welcomed teachers on Friday night to the first annual **Innovative Teaching and Technology Summit** sponsored by Escambia County Instructional Technology. He emphasized the importance of preparing students for the 21st Century. His complete address can be viewed at: <http://moodle.escambia.k12.fl.us/blocks/inwicast/medias/?video=MEDIA090430084913590>



Following the Superintendent's address, teachers who had participated in the EETT Grant shared their lessons and student projects.



On Saturday, April 29th, Summer DeMilly, a Social Studies teacher from Woodham Middle School, presented a session on Digital Storytelling. She shared lessons, skills and knowledge used with her students as part of her participation in Laptops for 21st Century Learning, the EETT Grant, which focused on student creation of multimedia.

