



Friday Focus

April 24, 2009

Volume 6, Number 33

The mission of Eaton Elementary is to develop independent thinkers and problem solvers for life.

The Weeks Ahead...

- April 24 – Elaina Koch's birthday
- April 24 – K field trip to the Knoxville Zoo
- April 27 – Leadership Team 3:30
- April 28 – Third Grade Musical 7:00 CUMC
- April 30 – Maria Warren's birthday
- May 1 – 1st Grade Field Trip
- May 1 – Kindergarten and Pre-K Round-Up
- May 1 – Relay for Life
- May 1 – Recinda Ezell's birthday
- May 4-8 – Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 5 – Deann Nix's birthday
- May 5 – Science Fair Projects Due
- May 5 – Desserts from New Providence
- May 6 – 3rd/4th grade

From Jennifer Malone

www.eatoneducationalinsights.edublogs.org

- **We made it through the formidable "week after TCAP," and hopefully, we have convinced our students that school is not over! Keep to a rigorous academic schedule with challenging and interesting content – it's a sure way to create order from chaos!**
- Congratulations to all our graduating Eaton staff children – from LCHS we have Christopher Peters, Jeremy Buckles, Sarah Cooper, Brett Morgan, Ben Koch, Ricky Moore, Brandon Dishner, and Jordan Wiggins; from UT we have Meredith Amburn and Ryan Hensley, from UT Medical School in Memphis, Kate Bodford Malone; and from University of Memphis, Chase Malone.
- I have had three parents make comments this week about teachers showing "videos" in class. Now, I am not so far removed from the classroom that I do not see the need for the occasional video – particularly for rainy day recess. However, be very prudent in the way you utilize this tool. Try to find educational content for these videos – Reading Rainbow, United Streaming, and Magic School Bus – anything that stresses learning. Again, we want our students and parents to understand we take our professional responsibilities seriously and will continue to educate the children right up until the last day of school.
- This is the last week to get your Belk Charity coupons that benefit the Loudon County Education Foundation. Coupons are \$5, and the private sale takes place May 2. Check with Karen or Sharon in the office to purchase.
- For those completing extended contracts, check my web site under topic of "Important Reminders" for the forms necessary to complete the process. Remember, you must provide data and supporting documentation with your time sheets and activity evaluation.
- Please go easy on the laminating film. We have used a great deal more than last year. I have authorized Sharon to order one more case of film, but that will have to last all summer!
- Check out our beautiful Reading Garden! Thanks to Two Rivers Church small group ministry for weeding, removing debris, and mulching all the flower beds. It is really a beautiful place to take your class to read and enjoy nature at its finest.
- Mitzi Hall, third grade teachers, and our third grade students are working diligently to prepare for their musical next Tuesday evening, 7:00, Central Methodist. After seeing the 4th grade production, I can't wait!
- Just a reminder to teachers and assistants with lunchroom charges – these need to be taken care of in a timely manner. This has been a topic of conversation at Board workshops with one member going so far

Science Assembly Program

- May 6 – Science Fair Judging
- May 7 – Robert Towns Track Meet
- May 7 – Eaton Science Fair and PTO 7:00
- May 8 – Sharon McCarroll's birthday
- May 12 – Loudon County Science Fair
- May 13 – Donnie Malone's birthday
- May 14 – Nan Habegger and Kathy Greene's birthdays
- May 15 – Angela Patterson's birthday
- May 18 – Leadership Team meets 3:30
- May 22 – Last Day of school for students
- May 25 – Memorial Day – no school for staff
- May 26 – Administrative Day for teachers

as to ask for a list of names. When you combine faculty charges with students' unpaid accounts, we are almost \$2,000 in the red!

- Leadership Team will meet next Monday afternoon, 3:30, in the library.
- We will not have meetings next Tuesday afternoon. Any grade levels needing to complete Math Mixed Review sheets will work on completing that Professional Development project.
- Head Start students will be touring our school next Tuesday morning and visiting kindergarten classrooms.
- Kindergarten and Pre-K Round-Up is next Friday. Please look professional as this is the first impression of our school for many parents.
- Do not wait and schedule personal days off for the month of May. I will need to approve days scheduled on or after May 15.
- On to the topic of **Field Trips** – no grade level will take a park trip this year. In years past, Mr. Maynard, bus owner, transported the students for free. This is no longer the case. All field trips must first be approved by me and must be educational in nature and low in cost. In addition, we will need parents to **pay in cash** since it is nearly impossible to collect on bad checks this late in the school year.

Bus Duty next week...

Morning: Hatcher, Tilley, K. Wilson

Afternoon: McKenzie, Talley, Navarro

Technology Integration...

Today's post is another teacher freebie gathered to help enrich learning through multimedia web tools. These links provide your students opportunities to virtually experience some of the world's finest art, science, and historical museums. Some sites are image galleries, some are learning games, and others are unique multisensory journeys through the past.

It's important to differentiate the difference between virtual field trips and online exhibits. Virtual field trips allow the student to explore a museum on the web, as if he were physically at the location. Many museums are now utilizing Second Life for such adventures, and I'll pull a list of those on another post. Online exhibits, on the other hand, are virtual kiosks of learning. Imagine stopping at one of the exhibits in a museum rather than touring the entire building.

The criteria to make the list included:

Interactivity – does the site allow the student to do something other than read text?

Visually Stimulating – does the site draw the student to explore more?

Content Validity – will the content support state standards?

Coolness factor – would this be a site teachers would talk about and share with others?

To help navigate through these links, I've listed curriculum units these links could support in red. Hopefully this will help you discover some new and innovative sites to use with your interactive white board or with students in a lab.

Of course, even with this list, there are probably some that I have missed. If you would like to suggest another link, please post it in the comments. Thank you.

- [American Museum of Natural History Presents Ology](#) (Grades 2-8) *Astronomy, Biodiversity, Genetics, Rocks and Minerals, Water* – Very colorful website that is a slightly tricky to navigate. Once you choose your “ology” on the left, you will need to scroll way down to see what exhibit features are available. Most include video clips and interactive games along with images and text.
- [American Package Museum Art Gallery](#) (Grades 3-12) *Advertising, Art, Graphic Arts, American History* - Only a few of these have 3-D virtual views, but the content is great. Take a virtual stroll through historical product packaging. From Aqua Vella to vintage Wrigley’s Gum take walk down graphic arts memory lane.
- [Benjamin Franklin Interactive Timeline](#) (Grades 5-12) *Founding Fathers, Government, Inventors, Science History* – A remarkable image driven timeline to help students discover the life and times of Ben Franklin.
- [Birth of the Internet from the National Science Foundation](#) (Grades 6-12) *Computer Apps, History, Technology* – Take a multimedia journey through the history of the Internet. From maps on how the Internet grew to photos (yes, an old IBM can be seen) to videos.
- [Churchill and the Great Republic from the Library of Congress](#) (Grades 9-12) *Biography, Cold War, European History, World War II*- This site examines the life and times of Winston Churchill with audio speeches and other multimedia tools.
- [Cite Enfants](#) (PreK-2) *French* – Wonderful interactive site for primary students, but all in French (you might be surprised how well you can navigate even if you don’t know French). This could be a great site for first year French students beginning to discover basic vocabulary.
- [Colonial Williamsburg](#) (Grades 4-12) *African-American History, Colonial America, American Revolution, Native American History* – Truly one of the best websites for education, Colonial Williamsburg has created games, slideshows, videos, podcasts, and more. You will need to look at the links in the sidebar to navigate through the multimedia offerings.
- [Dumbarton House for Kids](#) (Grades 4-6) *Colonial America, Founding Fathers, Post-Revolutionary War* – This excellent site is meant for students to explore where the first nation’s capitol would be held. The online interactive explorations are often built within the images on the site.
- [Exploratorium’s The Science of Music](#) (Grades K-12) *Instruments, Music, Rhythm* – This is pure fun in exploration through video, interactive games, and sound.

- [Field Museum Online Exhibits](#) (Grades 3-12) *Ancient Civilizations, Art, Biomes, Chocolate, DNA, Evolution, Fossils, Genetics, Instruments, Map Studies, Mythology, Natural Disasters, Rocks and Minerals, Scientists, Soil* - With so much here to explore, there is something for practically every teacher. Not every exhibit holds interactive experiences, but you will definitely find some treasures here. Be sure to scroll down to "View More Exhibits".
- [Fire Museum of Memphis](#) (Grades PreK-2) *Fire Safety* – Be sure to locate "Safe, Not Safe Game". This could be an excellent interactive whiteboard activity to support Fire Prevention Week.
- [Frissiras Art Museum of Greece](#) (Grades 6-12) *Art* – What is unique about this virtual art gallery is the ability for the student to see the details of the art work. Simply move the mouse across any image to manipulate.
- [Humanities Interactive](#) (Grades 5-12) *Art, Ancient Civilizations, Exploration, Medieval History, Texas History* – Click on any of the images to begin browsing. Each topic has images, essays and games to help provide more primary resources for your units.
- [Indianapolis Children's Museum Interactives](#) (Grades K-6) *Art, Fossils, Rocks and Minerals, Skeletal System* – A few treasures in here that can be used with interactive white boards and meet state standards. I particularly like the one on bones.
- [Indianapolis Museum of Art's African Life Through Art](#) (Grades 6-12) *African Studies, Art* – This interactive art gallery allows the visitor to explore through a wealth of sculptures, masks, and other artifacts.
- [John F. Kennedy Library](#) (Grades 6-12) *JFK Presidency and Biography* – Explore the life and times of President JFK virtually through this site.
- [Monet's Sketchbooks](#) (Grades 6-12) *Art, French Artists* This site is a wonderful visual tour through Monet's personal sketch books. Students can zoom in and move the drawings around the screen in order to view the detailed artistry.
- [Museum of Advertising and Design Online Exhibits](#) (Grades 6-12) *Advertising, Art, Cultural Studies, Graphic Designs, Journalism, 20th Century Music* - With visuals and sound, you can explore how graphic art have influenced advertising over the years. Be sure to investigate the album cover art.
- [Museum of Glass Virtual Hot Shop](#) (Grades 3-12) *Art*- Discover how glass blowing and glass art is created through these online virtual simulations. If you click the "Watch" tab, you can view live webcam feeds from the museum's hot shop directly into your classroom.
- [Museum of Human Disease](#) (Grades 9-12) *Biology, Health* Click on any title to open the interactive photographs of diseased human conditions such as brain tumors, lung cancer, asthma, and gangrene. Yes, it's that visually appetizing, but excellent for your units.
- [Museum of Modern Art's Online Projects](#) (Grades 3-12 depending on which project you launch) *Art, Biographies, Cultural Studies, Graphic Design, Writing* – Several choices here to explore from an elementary Art Safari to Asian explorations of sound.
- [Museum of Natural History Virtual Exhibits](#) (Grades 2-12) *African Studies, Ancient Civilizations, Atmosphere, Biomes, Exploration, Lewis and Clark, Latin*

America, Mammals, Native American Studies, Rocks and Minerals – Some of these are basic image and text, but others are truly fascinating such as the Vikings. With audio, video, and interactive maps, the content is excellent.

- [Museum of the Moving Image](#) (Grades 6-12) *Computer Apps, Drama, Presidents, Technology, Video Production* – This site is a mixture of video, images, and text that walk you through the history of motion video. From the silent film era to Star Wars to 50 years of presidential television commercial spots, this site has it all.
- [NASA's 50th Anniversary Online Museum](#) (Grades 3-12) *Astronomy, Cold War, History, Space* – This is another brilliant website that offers the best in interactive exploration. From the 1950's through today, you can explore the best of what NASA has to offer through video, audio, games, and more.
- [National Archives Digital Vault Experience](#) (Grades 5-12) *American History 1754-Present* – A truly amazing experience is to be found while exploring here. You can browse through the hundreds of photographs, documents, and film clips. Students can even virtually collect their own documents within the webspace for research. I would recommend looking for the "Educators and Students" section for more information and handouts students can use while navigating the Digital Vault.
- [National Gallery of Art Online Tours](#) (Grades 3-12) *Ancient Egypt, Art, Artist Biographies, Art History, European History, Photography* – Through images, video, and sound, students can explore excellent information on some of the greatest artists of historical and modern times.
- [National Geographic's Map Games created by the Indianapolis Children's Museum](#) (Grades 1-6) *Ancient Civilizations, Map Studies, Presidents, Space, Technology* - Here you will find fun treasures to help teach geography and history. For the wee ones, I highly recommend "Adventure Island". If your students use GPS in the classroom, there is also a GIS adventure that is worth investigating.
- [National Museum of Dentistry](#) (Grades 1-4) *Dental Health*- Great simulation and learning games to help students discover the importance of good dental health.
- [National Zoological Park's Conservation Central](#) (Grades 1-5) *Animal Habitats, Biomes, Conservation* – These interactive learning simulations give you an animated "in the field" experience through a Panda habitat.
- [Neave Planetarium](#) (Grades 3-12) *Astronomy, Exploration, Space* – A truly amazing interactive planetarium. Similar to Google Earth except for constellations, you can easily spend serious time in here playing around.
- [OrgainisMuseum Virtual Photo Art Gallery](#) (Grades 8-12) *Art, Photography, Graphic Design* – You will need to install the video player in order to launch the virtual museum. Using the navigation tools, explore the photographs.
- [Panasonic Design Museum](#) (Grades 5-12) *Advertising, Inventions, Technology*- over 90 years of inventions and products produced by the Panasonic Company. A brilliantly designed interactive website takes you through an interactive timeline.
- [Philadelphia Museum of Art](#) (Grades 6-12) *Ancient Civilizations, Art, Cultural Studies* – Simply type in the name of an artist or any other art

keyword to view several of artifacts within the museum. Each image allows you to zoom in and view details.

- [San Francisco Museum of Modern Art Interactives](#) (Grades 6-12) *Art, Biographies, Culture Studies, Photography* – These interactive exhibits feature a wealth of information and multimedia. Along with the expected images, you'll find some collections with video and audio interviews with the highlighted artists.
- [Smithsonian's The Presidency and The Cold War](#) (Grades 9-12) *Cold War, Desert Storm, Presidents, McCarthyism* – From 1933-1993, this amazing multimedia website stands above the rest. Photos, images, video, and more takes the student on a thorough research journey.
- [Technique Children's Museum Interactives](#) (Grades K-6) *Art, Colors, Culture Studies, Symmetry* – Discover how colors mix or how symmetry works with free hand drawing.
- [Texas Forestry Museum's Life in an East Texas Forest](#) (Grades K-2) *Habitat, Trees, Water Cycle* – This interactive exploration for primary students would probably be best run whole class with an interactive white board. Students will learn parts of tree and the water cycle.
- [The American Image](#) (Grades 6-12) *Art, Photography, World War II* – Discover how photography has changed since World War II and create your own propaganda film online.
- [The Imperialism Museum](#) (Grades 9-12) *Falklands Conflict, History, The Cold War, World War I, World War II* – This British museum is an excellent resource with interactive timelines, diaries, videos, and more.
- [The Science Museum's Learning Games](#) (Grades 3-12) *Energy, Forensic Science, Natural Resources* – These interactives are rather fun to explore for your interactive white board activities to use with environmental science units.
- [Try Science](#) (Grades 3-8) *Computer Apps, Environmental studies, Technology* Click on the pink "Adventure" tab to get started. The two adventures I recommend for classroom use are "The Grid", which shows how networks are built, and "Power Up" which focuses on environmental awareness. Also click on "Live Cams" to see current museum webcam streams from all over the US.
- [Virtual Hampson Museum](#) (Grades 5-12) *Art, Native American Studies* – Click on browse the collection to get started. Here you'll be able to rotate and manipulate Native American artifacts found in and around Arkansas.
- [Virtual Museum of Canada Interactive Games and Simulations](#) (Grades K-12) *Biomes, Gold Rush, Human Body, Magnetism, Music, Mystery Fiction, Space, World War I, World War II, Yukon* – Simulations and games to help teachers provide enrichment activities for their units. Many of these would be excellent for interactive whiteboard activities.
- [Virtual Museum of Textiles and Costume Design](#) (Grades 9-12) *Art, Drama, European History, FACS* – A truly remarkable website that encompasses the best of virtual reality. Scroll down to see the navigation buttons to discover all the hidden treasures of this site.
- [Women of Our Time from the National Portrait Gallery](#) (Grades 7-12) *Biography, Culture Studies, Photography, Women's Studies* – This amazing

photo gallery feature over ninety 20th century photos of women who have made remarkable accomplishments.

Hot Topics for Teachers.....

Common Sense Change

In Gary Kandel



In 1905 a young engineer named Henry Ford invented a strange looking box with four wheels known as the Quadricycle. This creative engineer was able to accomplish this feat of industry using the skills he obtained while learning in the city of Detroit as an apprentice machinist. Even then the skills he obtained and mastered were based on the knowledge, technology, and equipment of the time. Without his knowledge of the present he was unable to invent the future.

While history's lessons are invaluable, current technology, skills, and concepts are a necessity for today's engineers and inventors. Are educators are much like engineers? They are given materials and asked to create an object or device that works, and performs better than older models. Teachers are given students with a variety of skills, needs, and wants and are asked to create a learner that can accomplish more than last year's model. Sounds pretty much the same to me.

I am frightfully discovering that many of our educators beginning their careers in classrooms are lacking the inventive spirit and 21st century skills that improve education and reaches the present day child. We continue to use old practices on "new" kids and our teachers continue to get more frustrated when they don't work or their students are not engaged. Today's learner continues to be less engaged in traditional teaching. I believe not because they have a bad attitude but because they learn in a culture that speaks a new language and uses new skills. The system of instruction we have today is grounded in tradition and convenience. Worksheets haven't changed. We've just discovered ways to

make cleaner and faster copies.

Teachers are not necessarily to blame. They have a workday and calendar that does not provide for systemic building wide training of these skills. Instead we train one or two people by sending them away while the rest never have the ability to obtain that talent due to inadequate planning and collaboration. The future of education doesn't lie in the results of a standardized test but in the inventive spirit of creative teachers, administrators, and school staffs around the world. Beginning in college future educators must be given the opportunity to invent new ways to teach and learn. They must learn the skills and makeup of the 21st century child and obtain the tools to inspire them. School districts must give their teachers the time necessary to relearn what type of child they are teaching and be given the freedom to meet their needs through new ways of learning while holding onto the caring student teacher relationship that makes kids want to come.

Our nations schools are filled with teachers that have a deep passion for learning and a caring heart for children. They also have a mounting frustration with trying to engage kids that have no interest in school. Just like the technology and skills that have changed throughout the history of the automotive industry, the needs, skills, and learning styles of our students has changed. From the age of birth our students are immersed in a digital world with digital equipment. We cannot continue down the path of expecting them to adjust to what works for tradition. Every day we sell our product of knowledge and skills. The question is not if they need what we are selling but whether they are willing to buy our Quadricycle.