



Technotes



The Three Village Technology Newsletter

Spring 2008



Celebrating Technology Integration

On March 11, 2008 our annual "Technology Fair" was held at Murphy JHS just prior to the Board of Education meeting. Teachers and students demonstrated some of their technology integration projects for parents, students, administrators, board members and the public. Elementary and secondary schools were represented. Some of the elementary projects were:

- **Mr. Brian Harvey's** (Minne) class demonstrated using the video editing software Moviemaker to create beautiful visuals of original

student poems and stories. Mr. Harvey and his students also created a companion class book of poems to go with the videos.

- **Mr. Schlank's** class (Mount) with the assistance of Mr. Weik displayed their MP4 podcast/videocasts that they created using the Audacity software program. The podcasts are posted to the school's webpage where students can download and play them on their MP3 players.
- **Ms. Tammy-Ann Oestreicher** and **Mr. Dan Walsh** (Arrowhead) showed us how videoconferencing and Moviemaker



are used in their classes to solve simulated, problem-based scientific learning adventures. eMissions is a unit sponsored by the Challenger Learning Center where students work in groups on real world problems.

- **Ms. Darlene Lange's** (Nassakeag) 5th grade students used a variety of technology resources in their creative project. They combined the use of digital photography, photo editing software and Microsoft Publisher to create their electronic scrapbook projects.

- **Ms. Patti Mastropierro** (Setauket) made the Renaissance unit come alive using SMARTBoard technology. She also had her students show us how they are using a new electronic textbook and quiz software program.

- At the secondary level, **Mr. Kevin Sihler** (Murphy) illustrated how SMARTBoard technology could be applied to junior high school math classes making them much more engaging and visual for students. **Mr. David Miller** and **Mr. Warren Dennington** (WMHS) described how blogging has become an important tool in information management and gave us some great examples of resources on their Ward Melville HS weblog. Also on hand to lend their support were the MST's (Math, Science and Technology coordinators) **Mr. Andrew Weik**, **Ms. Maria Elena Mazza**, **Mr. Eric Gustafson**, **Ms. Barbara Kmiotek**, and **Ms. Chris Maffia**.

The presentations were excellent examples of the integration of course content and technology, and the teachers and students were quite articulate in discussing the technology used in their projects with an authentic audience. It is clear that students are using technology

and gaining important life-long skills.



Instructional Technology Staff: **Kerrin Welch**, **Jim Fargione**



*Murphy
English
Students*

Get Published on the World Wide Web!

English teacher, Jacquelyn Pardi, covered a mystery unit earlier this year where 8th grade students read and analyzed how mystery stories work. All of her students, both in Honors and Regents classes, wrote their own stories and submitted them for publication to writer **Joan Lowry Nixon's** website. Nine of the students got published. They are: Marisa A., Catherine C., Paul F., Paris O., Megan D., Danielle G., Liz H., Tae Sung K., and Eddie M. You can see their work at this address: http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/mystery/biography_readall.asp. The stories are listed in the 13 and 14 year-old sections.

Podcasting at Three Village

Students in **Mr. Michael Schlank's** class, (**6th grade Mount**) engaged in an activity that allowed them to share original poetry and accompanying illustrations. These original pieces were the culminating work product of a two week introductory unit on poetry that began with a visit from Poet Julie Sheehan. With assistance from **Mr. Andy Weik, Mount MST**, students read their poems into the computer using a microphone and the software program **Audacity**. Audacity is a free, open source software for recording and editing sounds. They then scanned their poem illustrations into the computer and saved them. Students then combined the audio file (WAV) and the picture file (jpeg) together and exported it as an MPG file. Lastly, students used the free website Zamzar (<http://www.zamzar.com>) to convert the MPG file to an MP4 file for posting on the web. The MP4 file can be downloaded to iTunes and viewed on an iPod. <http://www.3villagecsd.k12.ny.us/Schlank%20podcast/index.htm>.



Dr. Elizabeth Kelso, WMHS, had her senior English class create poetry podcasts. Her students also used Audacity software and a microphone to record their voices reading the poems. Students then used their iPods to put background music to the reading for dramatic effect or to evoke the mood of the poetry. In groups, the students developed a script for a conversation about the poem and recorded it as a podcast. The podcasts were posted to Moodle, the district's online classroom software, to be shared with the class. The students also created a writing piece about the poems and their experience using Audacity and podcasting.



Lori Dropp, Gelinis, represented Three Village at the **ASSET** (Association of Suffolk Supervisors for Educational Technologies) *Bright Lights Winter Luncheon* on January 16th, 2008.

ASSET highlights classroom teachers who are integrating technology and seeing positive results for their students. Sharing her achievements using technology, Lori spoke about what she has been doing in her English classes. Lori talked about how integrating **Study Island** and **SMARTBoard** into her lessons helped students be more engaged and successful. She also spoke of how sharing this information with her colleagues has helped her fellow teachers and their students as well.



Lori's closing remark to the **ASSET** membership was, "If there is more technology out there for educators – bring it on!" Lori has a great sense of satisfaction knowing that making connections with technology and using it creatively is truly transforming the future of education for students.

Thank you, Lori, for sharing your experiences with Long Island educators.