

Electronic Educator

Connecting Technology Educators in Maine

A Publication of the Association of Computer Technology Educators of Maine January 2016

A message from the PRESIDENT

Michael Richards, Wells-Ogunquit C.S.D

I'm driving around "Northern Massachusetts" looking for a Christmas present for my daughter, don't tell her about the iPad Air 2, it is supposed to be a surprise. I felt like listening to the Rolling Stones, so I set my iPhone on shuffle and the first song that comes on is, "You Can't Always Get What You Want." The idea for the president's message came to me, as the message of the song feels like the story of education and technology.

These days with all of the advances and technology figuring out the right device to pick has become more and more challenging. Choosing between mobile technology, laptops, and desktops is a difficult choice. Making decisions about Macs, Windows, Chrome, or a Linux distro bring a level of frustration deciding which one is best for the population you work with on a daily basis. If you looking at mobile devices then what size is best. Then you have to decide the operating system which

becomes
another
layer of

(Continued
on page 11)



Michael Richards,
ACTEM President

Shana Goodall, ACHIEVE Award Winner

By Jessie Walker,
Orono High School 2018

Throughout the course of her career as an educator, Shana Goodall's love and use of technology has been ever present. Walking into her classroom at Orono High School on any given day, one could see a student film festival, a digital slideshow presentation, or an engaging online lab occurring amongst the students. Many of these assignments have been selected by the students themselves, and the products prove the interest that follows behind Ms. Goodall's open-ended assignments is incredibly heightened. This technology has opened many creative and intellectual pathways for all of Goodall's students, many of whom state that the availability of technology in her classroom has been a huge tool in the promotion of their academic success. Besides being a technology pioneer in the school environment, Goodall promotes a positive and riveting learning environment for all of her students, making her various courses at Orono High School both entertaining and enjoyable.

Ms. Goodall, <http://www.shanagoodall.com>, has been involved in technology for many years, having worked for five years in various IT positions (including a system administrator, help-desk specialist, trainer, and programmer,)



in various academic settings across Maine. In Ms. Goodall's classroom, technology is used in a variety of ways that engage and encourage students to set their own path towards academic success. Videos are a common occurrence in many of Ms. Goodall's classes, and are an informing and appealing way for students to grasp crucial study materials and information. Student collaborations are also highly encouraged in many of Ms. Goodall's classes, and digital tools like Google Drive and Google Docs provide ease for students to work together when they are not all physically present. Google Docs allows Ms. Goodall's students to have constant access to study materials and class documents, making it easier for students to perform class assignments and activities even when they are unable to attend class. Ms. Goodall also utilizes social media to keep her students informed on real-



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Educators that Value Excellence



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ACTEM Business Meetings

All Members Welcome!

March 4th 2016

May 9th 2016

September 15th 2016

We meet from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon on
Monday mornings in Room 103A/B,
First Floor, Cross Office Building,
Augusta. Remote sites are generally
available for these meetings. Check the
ACTEM website for meeting details.

Winning Again

ACTEM honors Maine County Teachers of the Year with a complimentary conference registration each year at the annual awards celebration. Four of the 2014 Maine County Teachers of the year attended the ACTEM 2015 conference at the Cross Insurance Center in Bangor this past October.

Vicky Grotton of Glenburn Elementary School was one of those County Teachers of the Year that attended. Vicky is a Pre-K Teacher and the 2014 Penobscot County Teacher of



the Year. Not only did Vicky attend the conference as ACTEM's guest, she left with a major door prize - an OfficeJet Pro 8620 printer donated by HP.

Congratulations Vicki!

First State Micro-Credential Initiative Launched

The iLearnMaine Educator Micro-credential Program was announced recently, by ACTEM and the Maine's Learning Through Technology Team of the DOE.

What if schools and teachers had support for professional learning that met their needs and was on their own terms? This is the kind of support iLearnMaine Educator Micro-credential Program is designed to provide.

iLearnMaine was announced at the recent ACTEM 2015 Conference (Maine's education technology conference) in Bangor, ME. ACTEM and the Maine Department of Education's Learning Through Technology Team are collaborating on the creation of micro-credentials. They are working in partnership with Digital Promise, a national non-profit organization working

Laurie Underwood of HP, Vicky Grotton and Amy Dupuis of HP

SAVE THE DATE

ACTEM 2016

October 13-14, 2016 | Augusta Civic Center | Augusta, Maine



FOX interviews Mike Muir from the Department of Education after he announced the first state micro-credential initiative at the ACTEM 2015 Conference

to empower educators to use technology to engage, motivate, and personalize learning for all learners.

iLearnMaine Micro-credentials will become a collection within the Digital Promise Educator Micro-credential Program. The iLearnMaine collection will focus on the educator skills that have been shown to lead to a high-impact, learning-focused technology program.

According to Digital Promise's Jennifer Kabaker, "Micro-credentials, a system that provides educators with competency-based recognition for their skills and competencies, could help shift professional learning structures to focus on competency rather than seat time, and give educators a chance to get recognized for that professional learning journey, regardless of where or how they learn."

iLearnMaine represents the first state initiative to use micro-credentials as a systemic approach to supporting educators. This is also the first formal partnership between a state and Digital Promise.

The iLearns program's website is <http://ilearnmaine.org/our-projects/ilearnmaine-educator-microcredential/>

The great news is that we now have more than 10 educators and organizations that would like to co-design micro-credentials with us!

Also, last week, Digital Promise rolled out their platform (powered by Bloomboard). Go here to explore more than 100 micro-credentials

already available:
<http://microcredentials.bloomboard.com/>

Is your ACTEM Membership Current?

ACTEM's membership year runs from July 1st through June 30th annually. Have you renewed your membership yet? Many people join at conference time as that is included with their registration. If you missed this year's conference join or renew today online at: <http://actem.wildapricot.org/join>

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

\$20 annually

Member benefits includes:

- Quarterly newsletter "The Electronic Educator"
- Lunch at quarterly business meetings
- Discounted registration fees at the annual ACTEM conference and other sponsored PD
- Opportunity to apply for Professional Development reimbursement
- Educational discounts on software & other items (as permitted by vendor)

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP

\$50 annually (\$25 for small, single school districts)

- Gives school and districts the opportunity to purchase software and other items at our low educational, volume pricing. Some of ACTEM's vendor partners also provide special benefits to our institutional members.

December Trivia Question

The ISTE 2015 Conference was in Philadelphia in June; ACTEM sponsored a bus to help get members to this national conference. One of our longtime supporting vendors sponsored a Duckboat tour of Philadelphia for our members attending this conference.

What was the name of the vendor that sponsored the Duckboat tour of Philadelphia for ACTEM members attending ISTE 2015 last June?

Go to www.actem.org to submit your answer. All correct answers will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 Amazon Gift Card. The deadline to submit answers is February 15, 2016.

September Trivia Winner

The last issue we wrote: *This month's trivia question asks you to decipher the numbers or letters below written in binary ASCII code.*

01000001 01000011 01010100
01000101 01001101

The answer to the above binary ASCII code spelled out the letters - ACTEM.

The winner chosen from those submitting correct answers

Sandra Rockett

From Gorham High Schools

MakeTechHuman Podcast

The MakeTechHuman Podcast is presented by WIRED magazine and explores where technology is heading and how it is impacting humanity. Topics include Cyberbullying, AI, the future of work, etc. Check it out at wired.com/maketechhuman

Bob Sprankle 2015 John Lunt Award Recipient

By Alice Barr & Cheryl Oakes

Editor's Note: Just prior to the publishing of this issue we heard the sad news of the passing of Bob Sprankle on Dec 8, 2015. Bob struggled for many years with serious health issues that ultimately forced him to retire from the classroom that he loved. Bob will be sadly missed but his impact on the lives of his students and educators in Maine will endure. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bob's family and friends.

The John Lunt Friend of Technology award was established by ACTEM in 2006 as a way to recognize individuals that have made a significant contribution to education and technology in Maine.

The award is named after John Lunt - one of the founding members of ACTEM. John served as president of ACTEM for six years and also chaired our annual MAINEducation conference for over ten years. John Lunt and former Governor Angus King were the first recipients of the Friend of Technology award in 2006.

It was with great honor that Alice Barr and Cheryl Oakes could celebrate their colleague and friend, Bob Sprankle, with the John Lunt Award at the 2015 ACTEM conference. The theme of the conference was super powers, and so the topic of the speech was Mr. S! His superpower is Student Scholars!

Since Bob was unable to make it to the award ceremony, his wife Jody and daughter Zoe filled in and really wowed the crowd with their poise and stories that Bob had blogged over several years about his Room 208, third and fourth

grade podcasters who came back and met with him prior to their graduation. Bob's has been a leader in using tech-

Bob couldn't make it to the award ceremony, but he joined in spirit, his image held here by **ACHIEVE** award winner Shana Goodall



nology for student centered learning. His dedication to authentic learning, preparing students for the future, and skills as a storyteller are all part of the reasons he was named as the John Lunt Award.

Mr. S! His superpower is Student Scholars!

For those of you have yet to meet Bob Sprankle and want the details, all that information can be found at bob-sprankle.com or you can google him and in 43 seconds- faster than a speeding bullet 101,000 hits will be displayed.

Bob Sprankle is a pioneer in the world of education technology. Early on, he understood that student voice and technology were a powerful mix for learning. He is passionate about how technology positively impacts students and learning.

Bob always thought the lines between online and face to face conversations are blurred because meaningful conversation can take place miles apart or face to face. Kern Kelly said "My favorite quote from Bob was when Vicki Davis was speaking at the ACTEM conference and he said how driving with her to the conference that morning, at one point he reached over to turn up

the volume to hear her better, suddenly realizing she was actually speaking in the back seat!"

The year Bob co-won the ACTEM teacher of the year, he used his award to purchase audio equipment for podcasting. His students were writing newsletters at the time. Bob wondered if he could make an audio version of those newsletters. Bob saw the opportunity that technology could bring to his students to leverage their learning. He says, "The students just saw that this was part of their work. They had already found purpose to everything they were doing. They had listeners and this was part of learning-people engage with you and carry on the conversation."

Faster than a speeding nanosecond, the scholars of Room 208 sent breaking news over the airwaves and into homes and classrooms around the world. These third and fourth graders went from being consumers to producers in light-speed fashion. Technology helped Bob amplify their voices from Wells, Maine to a global audience - something that had never been done before. These students went from being consumers of content to producers of multimedia.

Bob's teaching style supported putting his students in charge of their learning. He believes that students are

Are Your Online Accounts Secure?

By Gary Lanoie

This Saturday morning began with a planned trip to visit our son and his family in NH. Early December each year, my wife and I plan a trip to get a christmas tree with the grandkids. The annual visit usually ends with bringing that perfect tree into the house, stringing the lights and then hanging the christmas ornaments. Little did I know that while this was going on someone had taken over one of my online accounts and would cause me much grief.

On the ride home from NH I noticed a strange message on my iPhone. Something about the phone being put in "Lost" mode along with a strange email address. I was driving so I put the phone aside and decided I would deal with it when I arrived at home that evening.

Many people know me as a Tech guy with some skills and knowledge with technology as a former Director of a school district. I thought that I had taken precautions to protect my accounts. I certainly know about passwords and using complex ones and was sure that I was in control of my accounts and nothing could happen to me. I was wrong!

Someone hacked into my Apple ID and changed my password. Then this person then changed my ID (email address) and then put all my devices, my iPhone, iPad and MacBook Pro in lost mode. Not only did this person put my MacBook Pro into lost mode, they also put a firmware passcode on that MacBook. How could this happen to me?

Have you ever received an email

like this,

"Dear Gary Lanoie,
The following changes to your Apple ID, glanoie@maine.rr.com were made on December 5, 2015 at 1:43 PM: Password

If you did not make these changes...
Apple Support"

I'll never think of these emails as annoying again! I received several of these emails notifying me of the many changes to my account and that all my devices were in "Lost" mode and basically locked.

In tried logging into my Apple account - no success. Eventually I decided it was time to call support to get some help. I was greeted by a friendly, knowledgeable english speaking tech support representative. This person soon realized that I needed some higher level help and escalated my case up the channels to a person that could help me through my security issue problem. This person verified that I was who I said I was, and then helped me take back my Apple ID and account. We worked to unlock my iPhone and iPad and he also helped me set up an appointment at the local Apple Genius

Bar to get my MacBook Pro unlocked. I've dealt with many companies for tech support over the years and this support experience was excellent and extremely

helpful. **Thank you Apple Support!**

So what do I take away from this experience? Passwords are important and a necessary evil that we need to deal with on all our technology devices these days.

Don't be cavalier about your passwords.

- Heed the many suggestions, like the ones below, that we know will help to keep your accounts secure.
- There are people out there looking to cause problems and gain access to your accounts

Here are some password tips that you have probably heard before, but believe me it can happen to you.

From StaySafeOnline.org by the National Cyber Security Alliance
Passwords: When creating a password, make sure it is long and strong, with a minimum of eight characters and a mix of upper and lowercase letters, numbers and symbols.

You should also remember:

- Not to share your password with others.
- Make your password unique to your life and not something that is easily guessed.
- Have a different password for each online account.

- Write down your password and store it in a safe place away from your computer.

- Change your password several times a year.

You may think it won't happen to you as I did - but it can happen, so please be smart and follow these suggestions to keep your online accounts secure!

Dear Gary Lanoie,
The following changes to your Apple ID, glanoie@maine.rr.com were made on December 5, 2015 at 1:43 PM: Password
If you did not make these changes...

Apple Support

ACTEM 2015

Reconnecting in the Queen City and the Twittersphere

By Barbara Greenstone

The Cross Insurance Center in Bangor was the setting for the 28th annual ACTEM Conference, October 15 and 16.

This was a new setting for the conference and judging from the Twitter feed (#actem15) everyone enjoyed the new venue (other than a few wifi glitches).

Day 1 be-



Leslie's tour of technology's evolution over the years made some of us feel ancient. (I recognized those punch cards from a programming class I took in 1971.) The resident tweeters went crazy, showing their love for the old and the new. @andrewtwallace tweeted: Who wants to go halvesies on a @PlayOsmo? I am certain my kids will behave just like in that commercial! and @jbailey8 added: When tech meets openness and human empathy, you get awesome things like this openhandproject.org 3D printed prosthetics exchange. @mspahr summed it up with: #ACTEM 15 Keynote w/ @lesliefisher takes a tour of tech from punch cards to 3D printers & wearable tech.

I wish I had known about this iPad App in September, the rest of the year is going to rock :)

Bonus points for Atari 2600 shoutout and @jennygr4 tweeted: If the Keynote speaker is any indication of how awesome this day is going to be, I think we're all in for a real treat.

The Thursday sessions proved to be instructive for most, including @GeoffCyr who tweeted: Learning about 3D printers at #actem15. I've had a printer since May, so it's about time I learn how to use it. Others learned about new tools like @debwhite: Another great Chrome Extension: Dualless splits your browser windows into 2. Thanks to @kernkelley at #ACTEM15. @Fream-Kf3985 gave a shout out to her presenter: Thanks Mauri for sharing tiggly and



Cosmo that helps to teach foundational skills with iPads. And in keynoter Leslie Fisher's session the Twittersphere got meta with tweets about tweeting like @nshuman78: There is certainly a lot of positive 'zinging' going on w/ @lesliefisher and talking about Twit-



gan with a keynote speech by Leslie Fisher, *The Technology Time Machine*.





in the Twittersphere with several tweeters mentioning new ideas like @trzimmerman: Teachers building learning apps

for their students using @PencilCaseHQ no code required! and @elawson1977: Take "Shelfies" in the library, attach a QR code with media/student reviews of the book. Great idea from @MaineSchoolTech. Most interesting

were the shout-outs (with pics) to @PondCoveTech who created a piano from sticks of gum in Jeff Bailey's Step into STEM session.

Of course we saw several tweets with pics of the food (we all love whoopie pies!) and lots of interesting photos posted by presenters trying

out their new selfie sticks. It ended with folks tweeting requests for t-shirts and many

goodbyes and expressions of thanks. If you missed the conference, do a twitter search for #actem15. As @MsGoodall_Riots says: Wow keeping up with all the tweets from #ACTEM15 - nearly like being there!

...I NEED to get a 3D printer!!

SAVE THE DATE
ACTEM 2016
October 13-14, 2016
Augusta Civic Center



...who knew you could use a smart phone as a secondary light source to enhance your photos??!

ter. #zing
#actem15. Thursday afternoon brought an announcement by

Mike Muir, summed up by tweeter @pls217: Anytime anywhere #teacherlearners earn micro credentials w/ #actem15, #MLTI & new partner Digital Promise & their network. This was followed by awards (with superhero capes!) described by @Sirtimwhite: Third generation teacher. Shana Goodall - ACHIEVE Award recipient. Congratulations! #heyorono and @DavidBridges9: Kudos to Bob Sprinkle recipient of the Lunt Award (great tribute from friends & family).

Friday began with several tweeted pictures of Paul Bunyan looking out upon a gorgeous sun-

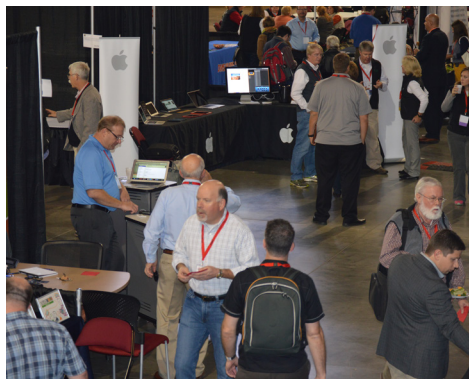
Finally! I now know how to make forms that are ADA compliant!

rise. Jaime Casap, Chief Education Evangelist at Google, Inc. opened the day with his keynote where he suggested, according to @GeoffCy: Instead of "what do you want to be when you grow up?, ask "what problem do you want to solve?" Many other Jaime Casap quotes (and photos) appeared with the #actem15 hashtag including @jenstanbro's tweet: Jaime

Casap: "Technology is not a silver bullet. Great education is the silver bullet." Culture shift.

The Friday sessions got their share of attention





Maine Teacher of the Year Gala

Everyone remembers at least one of their teachers." That's what Senator Susan Collins told those at the Maine Teacher of the Year Gala held recently in Bangor, ME at the Cross Insurance Center. She recalled her second grade teacher Mrs. Winslow who inspired the Senator's love for reading. That was just one of many stories shared throughout the evening as the 2015 County Teachers of the Year and the 2016 Teacher of the Year were honored.

Maine's Teacher of the Year is a program of the Maine Department of Education, administered by Educate Maine, a business-led organization whose mission is to champion college, career readiness and increased education.

The Teacher of the Year program

does not attempt to single out any individual as the best teacher in Maine; rather the County and State Teachers of the Year represent the thousands of excellent educators in Maine.

Cape Elizabeth's Cove Pond Elementary School's third grade teacher Talya Edlund was recognized as Maine's 2016 Teacher of the Year. Talya Edlund teaches third grade at Pond Cove Elementary School, a position she has held since 2004. She has also served as a Literacy Teacher and Team Leader. Talya holds a Bachelor of Arts in Humanities from University of Michigan and a Masters of Science in Elementary Education from Brooklyn College.

ALSO RECOGNIZED WERE THE 2015 COUNTY TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

• *Androscoggin* - Debra Miller,

Raymond A. Geiger School, Lewiston

- *Aroostook* - Susan Beaulier, Ashland District School, MSAD 32
- *Cumberland* - Talya Edlund, Pond Cove Elementary, Cape Elizabeth
- *Franklin* - Brenda LaVerdiere, Academy Hill School, RSU 9
- *Hancock* - Mickie Flores, Deer Isle Stonington Elementary School, CSD 13
- *Kennebec* - Gretchen Nickerson, Helen Thompson Elementary School, MSAD 11
- *Knox* - Fallyn Adams, Union Elementary School, MSAD 40
- *Lincoln* - Jennifer Wright Gregg, Great Salt Bay School, AOS 93
- *Oxford* - Laurie Catanese, Oxford Hills Middle School, RSU 17
- *Penobscot* - Angela McLaughlin, Glenburn Elementary School, Glenburn Public Schools
- *Piscataquis* - Mia Morrison, Foxcroft Academy, RSU 68

Pingree invites Maine high school students to participate in Congressional App Challenge

Competition puts STEM education into action

Congresswoman Chellie Pingree today invited high school students in Maine's 1st District to participate in the Congressional App Challenge. Students have until January 15, 2016, to develop and submit their apps, which will be judged by a panel of experts convened by the Maine Technology Institute.

"I applaud how Maine schools are using STEM education to prepare our students for the jobs of tomorrow. This competition is an exciting opportunity to put those skills to the test while learning how to develop the smartphone apps we use every day," said Pingree. "I hope students give it a shot—I can't wait to see what they come up with. My thanks to the Maine Technology Institute for their help in connecting Maine's tech community with the competition."

Students must live or attend a high school in Maine's 1st District to be eligible for the competition. They can participate as individuals or in a team of up to four. In addition to the app, students must also submit a 3-4 minute video explaining their app and how it works.

The deadline for submissions is midnight on Friday, January 15, 2016. A winner for Pingree's District will be announced in February.

The apps can cover any topic. They will be judged on 1) the creativity and originality of the app idea; 2) user experience and design of the idea's implementation; and 3) quality of coding and programming.

Information about the competition—including links to coding resources and submission instructions—can be found on Pingree's website, www.pingree.house.gov/appchallenge.

This is the second year Congressional offices around the country are participating in the challenge, which is coordinated by the Internet Education Foundation.



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Check out the autodesk website for information and restrictions.

Maine Teacher of the Year

(Continued previous page)

- *Sagadahoc* - Johnna Stanton, Morse High School, RSU 1
- *Somerset* - Deb Tanner, Skowhegan Area Middle School, RSU 54
- *Waldo* - Kate Foran, Leroy H Smith School, RSU 22
- *Washington* - Ben Brigham, Shead High School, Eastport School Department
- *York* - Nick Wilson, Biddeford High School, Biddeford School Department

ACTEM was represented at the awards gala and provided Talya Edlund, the 2016 Teacher of the Year, with a gold iPad Mini. All county Teachers of the year are provided a gift certificate to attend the ACTEM 2016 conference.

Save With a Case

By David Bridges

SeDoMoCha teaching staff, administrators and 7th and 8th grade students are all using MLTI MacBook Airs. During the first two years of MLTI Phase IV, we have observed that while the devices endure impact and continue to operate, they are showing wear with a growing number of dents and “dog-eared” corners. While we did not have the funding to equip all of our devices with protective cases, we thought we might be able to leverage the significant discounts offered by MaxCases and ACTEM. By offering to students a discount on protection plan enrollment when they purchase a MaxCase Extreme Shell, we know their devices will be better protected and less likely to require repair from impact damage.

Rather than \$25 for protection plan enrollment, students were offered a package including a MaxCase in their choice of color and protection plan enrollment for

\$39.00. Out of approximately 140 7th and 8th graders, 83 11-inch cases were purchased. 7th graders took advantage of the two-year benefit of having a case as we will honor a discount on next year’s enrollment as long as the case remains on the device. We also offered cases to staff members, and several took advantage of the deal.

As we embrace modern digital devices, personalization is becoming increasingly important to many users (just look at the variety of smartphone cases on the market). I know of one teacher who even found a keyboard cover that coordinates with her new red MaxCase. We have also given students the freedom to decorate their cases with the understanding that decoration cannot cover the name or asset tag or impede device operation.

I also see users taking advantage of the fold-out legs to both elevate the display and angle the keyboard.

We managed orders through a Google Form that tallied requests based

on case size and color, and collected orders via direct form submissions from staff members. Our middle-school office processed protection plan forms and payments and submitted student orders via the same Google form.

Thanks to Gary Lanoie’s assistance at the ACTEM office, we were able to process the orders and get the cases out to students within just two weeks of the order. Our protection plan form including the case option can be found here: <https://goo.gl/5s70yq>



Nominate an inspiring educator that you work with for the ACHIEVE award. Email Deb: flickatomte@gmail.com or Jaime, jsteward@carrabec.org for more information

Bob Sprankle

(Continued from 4)

superheros perfectly capable of creating, editing and producing. He views them as authentic artists and authors whose work is to be valued and shared to a wide audience. For example, the Superhero Scholars blogged poetry and artwork in a safe space created by Bob. He instituted protocols that are still in use in many classrooms around the world today and oh yes, this was all BEFORE GOOGLE.

Message from the President

(Continued from cover)

complexity as each of them have their advantages and drawbacks. In the end, hopefully, you get what you need.

The same can be said about programs to use in the classroom. Deciding what program may be a good one to use. In some cases it can be a free version vs. paid version of software. In other cases it could be deciding which application might be the best one. All of these can be a tough decisions. Then add differentiation and your software challenge becomes even greater.

Speaking of programs, how many times are people getting a phone call or an email letting you know that their program can solve the world’s problems. Okay, that may be a bit of an exaggeration, but people are told that their technology can increase student’s ability. Doesn’t it seem like people want to replace good teaching with a piece of technology. If we have learned anything since 2002, we know that good teaching trumps a piece of technology. Good teaching with technology can create global citizens ready to take on the world.

In the end, if we spend more time listening and not worrying about making the right decision, you just might find you get what you need, oh yeah.

Teaching and Reaching Every Child

Thanks to Vicki Davis, from the Cool Cat Teacher blog, at <http://coolcatteacher.blogspot.com>

In *A Story of a Young Life Turned Around by Great Teachers*, Kevin Honeycutt shared, "I believe you can flip a kid on any given day in one hour." I've been thinking. Can you?

Well, when something horrific happens: death in the family or other trauma — maybe not. But on most days with most kids, I think this is true. I had an upset child just yesterday. We had a private talk as she was coming into the classroom (*straggling behind everyone else*). And yes, she was flipped. My words and our interaction FLIPPED HER and changed her day. When I saw that happen, I realized that it is true. We can flip kids (and perhaps each other) if we pay attention and notice.

Here are some ways you can flip a kid. Please share yours in the comments. Let's get this kid flipping conversation going!

1. Rebelieve in a child. Kevin Honeycutt talks about rebelieving *on the show*. Give the child another chance. Decide you're going to rebelieve in them and show it with your actions. It can be hard, but it is necessary. (*Sometimes we need to rebelieve in colleagues too.*)

2. Stand there and care as

they enter the classroom. Stand at the door, look them in the eye and call them by name as the day begins. If you look at their eyes, you can tell if

classroom is filled with wonder. But the most wonder-FULL thing is them. They are full of wonder. Talents they haven't discovered yet. Strengths

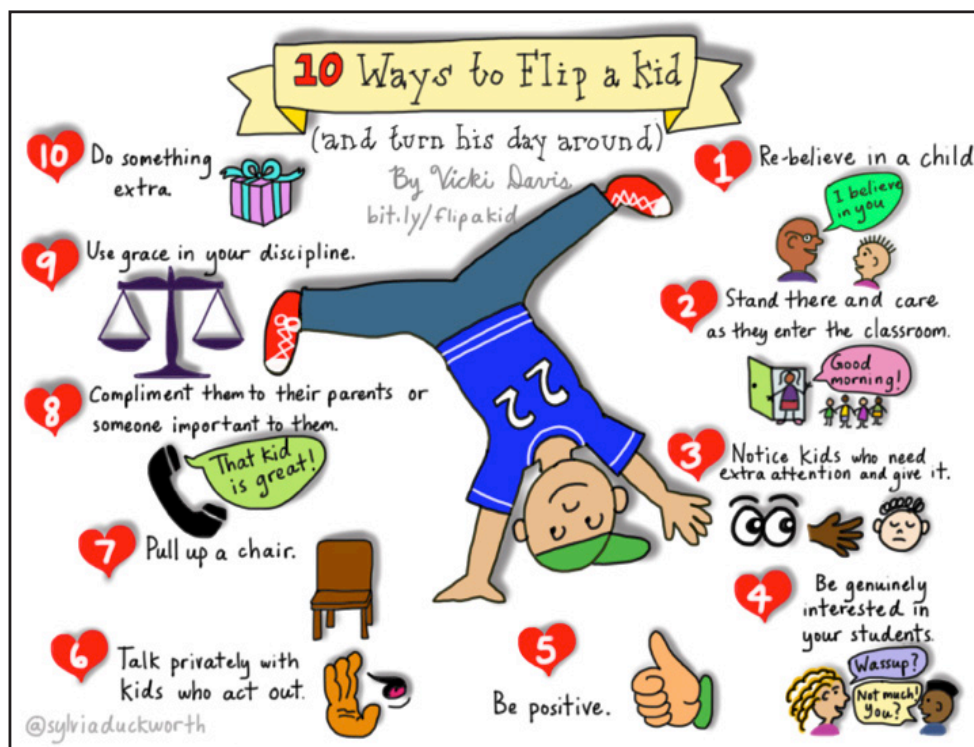
they don't even know are there. So, I have play dough under these pirate bandanas (hat tip Teach Like a Pirate – oh yeah) and ask the students to uncover them.

Step 2: Model their Wonder. I ask them to model something out of

the play dough that is one of their wonderful things. I play "What a Wonderful World" and they make their wonderful item. They take pictures and upload them to our private site. (They are also learning how to take pictures and upload them.)

Step 3: Share their Wonderfullness with Parents. I take pictures with their face in the picture. They explain why this is something wonderful about them. I share these pics with parents on Bloomz, giving them a quick reason to go ahead and join our parent-teacher communication system. Plus, the first pic parents see is of their child smiling in my classroom.

Classroom activity 2. Great teachers unleash learning that feeds off student curiosity. Students write down "three things I wonder about in technology" on an index card. Now, as the teacher, I customize the classroom based upon their



they've slept. You can see stress. You can figure out all kinds of things. Call them by name. Ask them how their weekend was or if they're doing ok.

3. Notice kids who need extra attention and give it. When you notice kids who are having a bad day (as they enter your room), ask them how they are. Connect with them on a personal level. Talk to them.

4. Be genuinely interested in your students. Know what the student likes, ask them about their hobby or interest. If you can know about these ahead of time (see the 2 activities below), then you're ready. Here are two classroom activities to uncover their interests:

Classroom activity 1. (Adapted from Dave Burgess.)

Step 1: Set the Stage. I call my Computer Lab the "Wonder Lab." I talk to students about how this

curiosities. It makes for a more engaging classroom.

5. Be positive. If someone wrote down everything you say in a class period, would it be positive, negative, or neutral. Positive people promote growth and change. Learn how to give compliments. “High five.” “Fist pump.” “Knuckle punch.” “Oh yeah!” Try one of the *growth mindset statements I’ve shared on my blog*.

Awesome teachers celebrate wins. When I’m 100, I pray to have lots of laugh lines and no frowny ones. How about you? Are you positive?

6. Talk privately with kids who act out. When the student seems to be having a difficult time often, they’ll act out. Talk privately and ask how they are doing and if something is wrong. Don’t give kids who are acting out an audience. After taking a child aside, I often like to say, “This is not like you. Today is not who you are. What is happening that is causing you to act this way?”

I learned this early on in my teaching career. A normally docile student suddenly lashed out at me and said something awful. At first, I thought I should send her to the principal. Instead, I took her outside my door and said five words, “What on earth was that?”

She burst into tears. Her parents had told her they were getting a divorce. She hadn’t told anyone. Her profanity-laden outburst was a cry for help. There’s no excuse for profanity, but sometimes, you have to be the adult and know that they are still young. Sometimes they just want your attention.

If you respond poorly to acting out, you can permanently destroy a relationship with a child. You can also lose the respect of the entire class. Remove the class or remove the student. Either way — get rid of the audience and handle this privately. Because when you have a confrontation with a student in front of

the class isn’t just you and them but a powerful third party called peers who will make them act differently than if it were just a one on one chat.

When you finish having the discussion, always make sure you address the inappropriate behavior. I typically say something like: “Now, if you look me in the eye and I know that we have an understanding that isn’t going to happen again, we can both move on.”

We talk about the behavior. Every single time, the child has apologized, we’ve made peace, and we have come out stronger. Every single time it has flipped their day (and often mine.) Teaching isn’t easy, it is worth it. Acting like the adult in hard situations always makes you feel like a pro when you’re a teacher.

7. Pull up a chair. To interact with a child on an even level, pull up a chair. They are sitting, you’re sitting. Sometimes a conversation or a little extra attention lets them know how important they are.

I teach quite a few introverts who don’t like extra attention, so while projects are going on, I’ll roll around and spend time with everyone. I never stop first at the introverted child’s desk who I know needs time. Some students who are tremendously introverted will blush if I start with them.

So, as kids work on their projects, I’ll roll my chair and spend time with each student. We’ll talk about what they’re doing. If a child is tired, ask if they feel ok. Sometimes a quick question will open up a conversation.

8. Compliment them to their parents or someone important to them. Genuine compliments are my favorite type of thing to communicate to parents. As Joe Sanfello and Amy Fadeji said in 10 Awesome Ways to Build Parent Partnerships, the first contact with a parent should be positive. Then, after that we need positives to keep

flowing. You can do that several ways:

Pictures of kids succeeding in the classroom (I post them just to the class in Bloomz as I don’t like these pics to be on the public web.) Genuine compliments of something a child is mastering quickly or excelling at doing. (I text them to parents via Bloomz.)

A funny story of their child’s personality that also shows my appreciation of their individuality. Notes on report cards or progress reports about each child’s strengths. Think about it. When a child goes home, and someone says, “Mrs. Vicki says you are good at doing ____” or “Mr. Smith says you did a great job at ____ today.” Your name has just been said in a positive way. That, my dear teacher friends, is a good thing.

9. Use Grace in your Discipline. Monday morning I was furious. I have a special chair that Kip bought for me that I sit in at my desk. It is expensive because I was having knee problems and I needed one with the right ergonomics for me. (See 5 Great Ways to Make Your Classroom a Healthier, Happier Place.)

So, I have one big rule — no one sits in my chair. Ever. The kids all know it. Several weeks ago, my own son and another boy broke the rule. My husband had to come in and fix the chair. I reminded my classes just last week.

Someone let three boys into the Wonder Lab last Friday. They sat in my chair. When I came in Monday, it was messed up. I was furious. I found out who they were, and I admit, I was angry. I communicated but I did not discipline them. I, literally, sat on it for a day. Instead, I went back to each of them on Tuesday and said this, “I am sorry I was so angry yesterday. Mr. Kip had to come in last night and fix the chair. I know when you sit in the chair, you don’t feel like you’re messing it up, but it does. So, I have a rule that no one sits in my chair. My husband bought me that chair

two years ago for my birthday so I wouldn't come home with my back and knees hurting. Now, whether you agree with it or not, do you understand the rule that no one sits in my chair?" Each boy said yes.

"Now, I was pondering what to do on this because you broke a rule in my class. My question is: Do you understand the rule or do I have to put you in break detention so you remember it?" "Mrs. Vicki, I promise that I will not break the rule, and I understand it." each boy said to a T.

"Well, here's what I'm doing, then. I believe your word and that you'll do as you say. If you don't keep your word, you won't just have one day, you'll have three, but I don't think it will come to that. Let's move on with this understanding."

We end with reinforcing the rule. Reinforcing that they are going to be men of their word and that I believe in them. I believe none of the three will break that rule again. You can call me naive but in 14 years of teaching, this discipline with grace always works. I've never had to go back and put them in detention for the three days.

Kids who are spoken to with respect like adults often act like functional adults. Also, note that I handled it privately and discussed it when I wasn't furious. You will be respected when you behave respectfully.

In the end, handling disciplinary issues with tact and wisdom improves things. It also flips their day when you are one adult who believes in them and lets them work situations out like adults. Certainly there are times I might send a child to detention but I can count them on one hand for the past two years.

10. Do Something Extra. Kids notice when you go over and above. Here are just a few ways to be a little extra noticing:

Follow up. If you see a child early in the day, and they are having a hard time – try to find them in the hall or

after school and check on them.

Do Things Related to What They Love. If a child says they love something, and you have it in your power to give them that thing or something related, do it. (For example, I had a student who loved a certain old SNL character. I used the clip and mentioned their name in a lesson plan. I'm celebrating that child!)

Talk About What They Love. I have a student who loves skeet shooting. No one else does this sport, but she loves it. Every time I see her, I ask her about the sport and what she's doing next. Another student loves her horse. I ask about the horse! New siblings. Favorite sports. Big accomplishments. Let them tell the story they love to tell just one more time. Laugh with them. Make time for laughter.

A funny story from yesterday Yesterday in class I had some old dry cookies I was about to pitch. Some of my kids said – oh, could I have one. I said, "sure, they're dry — you can eat it over the trash can."

Well, they put it in their mouth, and they were so dry that they'd have little crumbs fly into the air like steam out of your mouth on a cold day.

So, two of them looked at each other, and one said to the other 'let's have a cookie-off'. The understood (somehow) and said, "let's do this." So, they squared off like the old-timey cowboys having a gunfight over my trashcan. Each looked at the other and put the whole cookie in their mouth. I laughed when I realized what they were doing. It was kind of like the cinnamon challenge – dry dry dry – but it was hilarious.

Now, some of you will fuss at me for having sugar (gasp) in my classroom. But we laughed our fool heads off for the 2 minutes at the beginning of class, and they sat down to work for the next 50.

You can't make this stuff up, and you can't make laughter happen except not to be so stiff and rigid

that no one cracks a smile in your classroom except when you trip on a pencil and almost fall.

Plan Memorable Things. We to anticipate fun. Events. Activities. Trips. I want to be the one who has these things, but you can even have them with no notice. If the kids come in dragging, I'll pull out my costume kit (see Drama in the Classroom: 2 Examples with Bellringers), and we'll act out scenes. Memories and laughter can always turn the day around.

Stop Everything when a Crisis Happens. I had a child in a wreck a little over a month ago. The kids had just found out and came into my room with blank faces. I didn't know what happened, but I know my students enough to know something was up. I always ask where every student is and when I came to her chair — they told me. I stopped class and changed the lesson plan on the spot – We made get well cards on their computer for her. They needed to channel their skills into something constructive that would help them deal with their emotions. Believe it or not, this flipped the attitude of the whole class. While they were still upset, they smiled as they laughed about things that they could write to make her laugh. It changed the whole relationship for me with that class because they know I hurt when they hurt. I love them.

Be a Human Being Not Just a Human Doing. I could teach like Einstein and preach like Martin Luther King Jr. but it would mean nothing without love. Love stops what it is doing when there is crisis.

Love looks people in the eye. Love believes in people. Love knows that relationships trump everything. Love — LOVES PEOPLE. And in the end, flipping a kid is the same as flipping any person — showing love.

AVIEVE Winner Goodall

(con't from page 1)

world events in relation to lesson plans. Her Twitter account has amassed nearly 300 followers, most of which are students, and is frequently updated with articles and videos relating to in-class subject matter.

Ms. Goodall does not shy away from incorporating technology outside of her classroom, being the founder of the Orono High School "Geek Squad," and helping students engage in outside activities through apps like Skype. Using Skype, Ms. Goodall facilitated a meeting between the Orono High School Speech and Debate team and Maine Senator Angus King, which allowed the students to prepare for nationals and ask Senator King questions regarding government politics and public speaking technique. The Geek Squad has had a monumental impact on the population of Orono High School, helping peers get assistance with technological troubles, as well as allowing students to engage in individual projects outside of a traditional classroom setting. The Geek Squad regularly attends MLTI conferences, presents to the school on a variety of topics, and repairs and creates their own technology, even building a 3D printer that allows students to utilize the latest in technological advancements.

Many of Ms. Goodall's fellow educators have commented on her ability to assist others, and to

inspire the use of technology in her colleagues as well as the students. Jim Chasse, the principal at Orono High School, has spoken about Ms. Goodall's technology assistance and



leadership, saying " Ms. Goodall works well with our district-wide initiatives by managing our Gmail domain, assisting colleagues with our student information system, serving on our technology committee, and promoting our student experts through our Geek Squad."

One of the most important aspects of Ms. Goodall's teaching style is her ability to get to know and understand her student's individual strengths and weaknesses, as well as listen to their thoughts regarding academics and assigned work. She has shown her ability to be open to opinions regarding digital assignments, and is willing to work with her pupils in a productive and collaborative way. Emily Witham, a sophomore at Orono High School, was grateful that she was given the ability to choose different assignments and suggest new ones; " She gives us many options of what

to do for projects, as well as listening to our ideas and suggestions for new projects and assignments." This attitude in the classroom creates a positive environment for all of Ms.

Goodall's students, and shows through in the creativity and interest the students take in their assignments. She is very accessible, and always willing to meet with students requiring extra assistance. Whether it be studying for an AP exam or correcting a homework assignment, Ms. Goodall is always there to encourage her students by assisting them and promoting their academic growth and development.

Without her positive attitude and outlook towards learning, the atmosphere at Orono High School would not be the same.

Whether it's incorporating technology inside a class assignment, creating interactive online homework problems, or setting up a Skype session for the speech and debate team, Ms. Goodall's sunny personality and love of technology is ever-present. She has been commended by both students and peers for her technological abilities, as well as her ability to assist others and improve class assignments through technology. Her approach has provided ease and accessibility for both students and educators at Orono High School, and has changed the technological culture at the school forever.

SSG NOTE - it would be nice to feature a link to my ACHIEVE Award video in a highlight box or something..., thanks!



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Upcoming Events

Jan. 21-22 LearnLaunch - Harvard Business School <http://learnlaunch.org/conference-2016>

Jan. 30 ConnectED Coast – South Portland High School <https://goo.gl/HxR01S>

Feb. 6 EdCampWestern ME, (Snow Date Feb. 7th) Mt. Blue High School, Farmington

Feb. 18 MassCUE Winter Camp: Featuring Google Apps for Education, at Manchester-Essex Regional Middle School. http://www.masscue.org/pages/Mass-CUE/MassCUE_Winter_Camp_x3a_Feat

March 5 EdCamp Maine - Sat., Waynflete School, Portland. <http://edcampmaine.org>

March 11 MooseTech 2016 Foxcroft Academy, Dover-Foxcroft

March 11 Leading Future Learning 2016, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA

<http://leadingfuturelearning.org>

March 12-13 4th Annual EdTechTeam New England Summit featuring Google for Education, Marshall Simonds Middle School -Burlington, MA, <http://ma.gafesummit.com/2016#overview>

April 1 NEISTE Vendor Summit – Gillette Stadium, Foxboro, MA

April 4-7 CoSN 2016 Annual Conference - 2016 - Washington DC

April 29 7:00 am – 3:30 pm Tech & Learning Live @ Boston: Insight and Innovation for Technology Leaders, Boston Marriott Newton, MA

May 23-24 Dynamic Landscapes Conference - Champlain College, Burlington, VT <http://vita-learn.org/save-the-date-dynamic-landscapes-at-champlain-college-is-may-23-24-2016>

May 26 2016 MLTI Student Conference, at the University of Maine

June 26-29 ISTE 2016 Conference. Denver, CO

Ongoing MLTI & Other PD Opportunities

MLTI Professional Development (**Apple Solutions**): <http://maine.gov/mlti/events/apple.shtml>

MLTI Professional Development (**HP Solution**): <http://maine.gov/mlti/events/hp.shtml>

Tech Sherpas - <http://www.techsherpas.org/> Tuesday 3pm

#EdChatME - <http://www.greatschoolspartnership.org/edchatme/> Thursdays 8-9pm

Southern Maine Integrators - Now TechConnectME - Join our Google+ Community

About Time and Beyond - Join Susie Simmons and Mike Arsenault as they chat about all things technology integration in Maine (& beyond). <https://plus.google.com/events/c7t3atf0tsfcijk7qkankp7164s>

