

Tolleson Techno-News

Tolleson Union High School District Spring 2009

Welcome to the new Tolleson District Technology Newsletter. If you have suggestions for columns or want to comment on the newsletter's new look, please contact the editor at mich-ele.mosco@tuhsd.org

TUHSU has outgrown our current student information. On last report the district was surveying two very distinct software systems that manage ALL student information. Of the two systems the district is pleased to announce that the Genesis Student Information System has been chosen to usher in a new era in TUHSU technology.

STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS

By Angela Sandoval



Genesis is a web-based student record application that will manage our district's current year and past historical student data. We as a technology team are extremely excited to integrate this software into use, district wide. This will however, be happening in stages - so for those who feel less than comfortable with technology, FEAR NOT!

As always, training will be provided as well as opportunities for teachers to take on leadership roles to facilitate a smooth transition.

If you would like to check out some of the exciting things that our new system will be able to do check out their website - <http://www.genesisedu.com/modules/> - each module is explained and outlined for ease of use; and as always consult your site technology liaison.

Internet Safety by Scott Schall



i-SAFE was founded in 1998 to educate students how to avoid dangerous, inappropriate or unlawful online behavior. i-SAFE is a non-profit organization whose mission is "To educate and empower youth to make their Internet experiences safe and responsible." i-SAFE accomplishes this through programs to parents, law enforcement, community, and school leaders and teachers by using a dynamic k-12 curriculum for this outreach program.

The education program consists of i-LEARN and i-Mentor. Both i-LEARN and i-Mentor offer online education for the teacher and their students to help teach online safety and security. The community outreach program uses

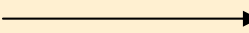
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Technology Tips by: Andrea Goodwin

This issue's tech tip is the Format Painter.

This tool allows you to copy the formatting of any text and apply it to another block of text.

The Format Painter looks like this: 



You can find the Format Painter on the Standard tool bar. If you do not have any toolbars open, go to View/Toolbars and select Standard.

There should be a checkbox next to the word Standard.

In 3 easy steps your formatting will be complete.

- Select the text that has the formatting you like in your document.
- On the Standard toolbar, click the Format Painter button.
- Select the text that you want to apply the formatting to.

To apply the formatting to *more than one item*:

- Select the formatting you want.
- Double click* the Format Painter.
- Select each text area you want to format, press Esc when you are finished formatting.

Permission granted to distribute this document to classroom teachers as long as credit is given to Marilyn Western. More fantastic tips available at <http://www.edzone.net/%7Emwestern/tutorials.html>

Tech Trends

By Michele Mosco

Checking for understanding in a classroom of more than 30 students is difficult. As a teacher, you want to know if your students understand the concept. The problem lies in a method of assessing this quickly and without more papers to grade.

The answer is interactive response systems. You may have heard them called clickers, Turning Point, Senteo, or Class Performance Systems (CPS).

Each student uses a handheld remote device to respond to multiple choice, true/false, or multiple answer questions displayed on the white board, Smart Board, or given verbally. Their response is captured by a central receiver using specialized software. The student responses are tallied automatically and can be transferred to a grade book.

Many universities and colleges require students to purchase one of these devices as part of their supplies. At the high school level, most schools opt to purchase sets of the devices that are distributed and returned during each class session. In this case, students are assigned a specific device that is connected with their ID number.

Interactive response systems have been shown to increase student engagement and achievement. Each student knows that s/he will have to answer questions during class time instead of just a few students. Teachers know which students missed the concept and can intervene quickly instead of waiting to grade a set of quizzes.

To learn more about interactive response systems:

<http://www2.smarttech.com/st/en-US/Products/Senteo/>

<http://www.sps.lane.edu/IT/integration/cadres/clickers.html>

<http://www.turningtechnologies.com/>

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Internet Safety (continued from page 1)

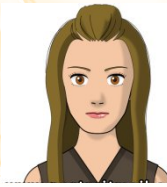
student mentors along with i-PARENT and i-SHIELD programs to work with communities to help make the Internet a safe place for the entire community.

i-SAFE is dedicated to educating and empowering the youth of America to safely and responsibly take control of their online experiences.

Click on the link for the latest newsletter.

<http://www.isafe.org/imgs/pdf/newsletter/2008/i-educator-12-08.pdf>

Welcome to the Blogosphere!



Technology Integration by Jennifer Crowell

Webster defines *Web 2.0* as “the second generation of the World Wide Web in which content is user-generated and dynamic, and software is offered that mimics desktop programs. Web 2.0 encourages collaboration and communication between users.”

Webster's New Millennium™ Dictionary of English, Preview Edition (v 0.9.7)
Copyright © 2003-2009 Dictionary.com, LLC

One of the first Web 2.0 applications I used with students was a *blog* or *weblog*. A blog enables teachers to distribute information to a selected group instantly. The group can access the information from school or home. It's easy to manage access to that information through passwords.

A blog can help you replace your class newspaper, host online discussions, create a class publication, share your lesson plans, and stay organized.

For more information on using blogs in your classroom or to create your own educational blog, visit: <http://edublogs.org/>

For a peek at my Sierra Linda blog, visit: <http://sierralindalibrary.edublogs.org/>