

The I. C. T. Chronicle

March 2006

Hello everyone,

"A master can tell you what he expects of you. A teacher, though, awakens your own expectation."
~Chinese Proverb



English Language Arts

Discover the world of Dr. Seuss through a web quest. This web site links to the sites students will need to access in order to solve the webquest. The students will listen to songs, play games and work through challenging puzzles. It is designed for cycle 1.

<http://www.harwich.edu/depts/lmcelm/seussqst.htm>

The "For Educators" section of Poets.org, also known as the **Online Poetry Classroom**, will provide a wealth of resources, including Teacher Forums where teachers can share ideas and seek help from colleagues; Pedagogical & Critical Essays about poetry; extensive links to relevant websites; Curriculum Units & Lesson Plans; biographies of hundreds of poets; and nearly two-thousand poems housed.

<http://www.poets.org/page.php/prmlID/6>

The Neverending Story will have you choose your own path through a story. The site has readers adding to stories, hopefully leading to independent learning of reading and writing.

<http://www.coder.com/creations/tale/>

March 2nd was Dr Seuss' birthday and what better way to celebrate than doing a unit of study honouring him? The Teacher Planet has done just that. Their list includes lessons, units,

worksheets, online resources and clipart and images.

<http://www.teacherplanet.com/resource/drseuss.php>

I've also found a Dr. Seuss WebQuest. You can find the link on my website at <http://www.wqsb.qc.ca/staffdevelopment/RECIT-resources-webquest.htm>

Northern Virginia fourth -and fifth- graders and their parents meet bimonthly in the evening with teacher/writer Donna Sacco to work on their memoirs. To unleash her young students' creativity, Sacco suspends all rules except "Respect your fellow writers and their work."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/03/27/AR2006032701657.html>

Do You Speak American? *This companion website for a film takes us cross-country to examine the dynamic state of American English and asks: Why do Maine lobstermen and Texas cowboys speak English so differently? How many varieties of American English are there? Is TV making us all sound the same? Topics include 100 common mispronunciations, how language is changing, local color in American literature, and regional writers. (MacNeil/Lehrer Productions, supported by National Endowment for the Humanities)*

<http://www.pbs.org/speak/>

Narrative vs. Expository Texts. *This Peace Corp site is written for students with limited English language skills, and uses the vignettes*

from Peace Corps Volunteers to compare and contrast expository and narrative texts. Students then go on to write essays of both types.

<http://www.peacecorps.gov/www/water/africa/lessons/HSlang01/>

Artifact Road Show. Lesson, Learning Page. This outlines a staff development workshop and offers lessons designed to help students put historical events in context and see them as a part of a larger story. Use of primary resources is the focus—where to find them, what they are, how to examine them, and how to "construct the context" to tell the whole story. (Library of Congress)

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/lessons/99/road/intro.html>

Between the Lions is based on the PBS children's TV series, and presents a new story each week with related interactive games and activities for kids 4-7. It also recommends books for each episode and offers more than 300 tips and resources for helping kids learn to read.

(WGBH, supported by Department of Education)

<http://pbskids.org/lions/>

A Child Becomes a Reader tells what parents can do to help children (ages 0-4 and 5-8) become readers. It includes suggestions about what to look for in day care centers and preschools, and a summary of scientific research on how children learn to read and write. (National Institute for Literacy, supported by Multiple Agencies)

http://www.nifl.gov/partnershipforreading/publications/html/parent_guides/

Center for the Improvement of Early Reading Achievement (CIERA). This site generates and disseminates theoretical, empirical, and practical solutions to persistent problems in the learning and teaching of beginning reading.

(University of Michigan School of Education, supported by Department of Education)

<http://www.ciera.org/>

LEARNS. This offers literacy training activities for tutors and mentors, a literacy assessment profile, and information for volunteer programs that help children in primary grades improve

their reading. Its winter 2002 newsletter, "The Tutor", looks at the five skills identified by the National Reading Panel as key to literacy development during kindergarten to third grade.

(Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, supported by Department of Education)

<http://www.nwrel.org/learns/>



Etc, Etc

Parents, teachers and students using this educational site will find many free unique teaching tools, online interactive activities, projects, worksheets and many other resources to help with the daily educational learning adventure. They offer resources in facets of the curriculum and have many printables.

<http://teachingtreasures.com.au/>

The Christian Science Monitor just wrote an article about debunking the popular myth that dropouts leave school because they can't do the work. A new survey by Civic Enterprises finds the vast majority of those who leave had passing grades, but left school because they found classes too boring. The study's authors recommend schools adopt more engaging curricula and set up early-intervention systems to identify and support children at risk of dropping out.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2006/0303/p01s02-legn.html>

Parents and law enforcement officials nationwide are increasingly concerned that the exploding popularity of MySpace.com with teenagers will make the social networking site — with postings full of provocative photos and personal information — fertile ground for sexual predators.

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/3698069.html>

One Johns Hopkins study found that after urban youngsters were paired with senior-citizen volunteers in the classroom, the children had

higher reading scores and improved behavior while the tutors reported a greater sense of well-being. With the number of older Americans projected to grow from 35 million today to about 54 million by 2020, The Christian Science Monitor says policy makers should consider expanding the Experience Corps program.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2006/0309/p08s02-comv.html>

In his short video, Colton McGrath, 9, describes what cerebral palsy is, how he loves recess and what he feels when kids tease him about his speech. His teacher says now that his classmates and other students at his school have watched the video, they've become much more welcoming and more sensitive to Colton's needs.

http://www.boston.com/news/education/k_12/articles/2006/03/09/boy_just_wants_to_be_a_regular_kid/

AOL School provides educator-reviewed classroom resources for K-12 students and teachers. There are activities, research materials, lesson plans for math, science, language arts, social studies and more.

<http://school.aol.com/>

Study: TV not linked to ADHD

After reviewing data on 5,000 children over a two-year period, Texas Tech University researchers have concluded that children who watch a lot of TV do not develop ADHD. The finding, published in the March issue of *Pediatrics*, conflicts with a 2004 study in the same journal, perhaps, researchers say, because the methodology differed.

<http://www.nzherald.co.nz/section/story.cfm?cid=2&ObjectID=10372049>

British exam agency issues teachers' guide on plagiarism. A new downloadable pamphlet from the British Qualifications and Curriculum Authority suggests various strategies teachers can use to thwart student plagiarism. The brochure's tips include checking for consistent spelling and grammar and using Web-based writing services that can help catch work downloaded from the Internet.

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/schools/story/0,,1722139,00.html>

Educators take hard line on pushy parents.

Some parents are so hyperinvolved and overly protective of their children that they flood teachers with e-mails and phone calls, turn confrontational during conferences and sometimes must be banned from schools. Some colleges are now holding workshops to teach parents to back off and let their children be independent.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/03/20/AR2006032001167.html>

The McREL (The Mid Continent Research for Education and Learning) has a great collection of lessons plan ideas organized by subject. They also offer interdisciplinary links as well as behavioural science. They are a U.S. organization so a lot of the lessons have an American flavour.

<http://www.mcrel.org/lesson-plans/index.asp>

Just as the CBC has a kids link, so does the BBC. In fact, they also offer news briefs in "kid friendly" language, games, chat, international events, to mention but a few.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/default.stm>

Ever since it went online in 1993, the Exploratorium science museum has been a pathfinder for its quality virtual exhibitions. Robert Semper, overseer of the museum's Web programs, says designers hope to expand interactive technologies through such means as sending pictures to hand-held devices and e-mailing content to mobile phones.

<http://www.exploratorium.edu/>

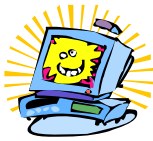
Only one in five teens is getting the recommended nine hours of sleep on school nights, reports the National Sleep Foundation. One sleep expert says adolescents with four or more electronic devices -- such as TVs, computers, music players and phones -- in their rooms are twice as likely as their peers to fall asleep in class.

http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/education/2002894011_sleepy28.html

Picture this: Full-colour posters of National Geographic's classic photography are yours for the taking. Just pick a poster and download it.

Then print, assemble—and watch your walls go wild! There are landscape posters and animal posters. It's worth taking a look at if you plan on doing an animal theme or project

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/printaposter/>



I.C.T.

After nearly a decade of service, Jeeves is retiring from his duties at the search engine, which will assume the long used but little promoted name "Ask."

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

Blogging enters mainstream education
As the "blogosphere" continues its rapid expansion, more teachers are using Web logs to engage students in the world at large. Experts offer their list of favorite edublogs and note that teachers and students have yet to exploit the new medium to its fullest.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/chi-0603130006mar13.1.6691250.story?ctrack=1&cset=true>

Philadelphia's Wi-Fi- Takes Shape. The city of Philadelphia is moving forward with its plan to have a low-cost wireless network covering the entire 135 square miles of the city. The city announced that it selected EarthLink to build and maintain the network, which will not depend on taxpayer money. The city will use about \$2 million of the streetlight fees to fund programs that address the digital divide for city residents.

http://news.com.com/2100-7351_3-6045261.html

Internet connectivity in educational settings provides opportunities for interactive exchange and collaboration between students living on other sides of town or the other side of the planet. These synchronous, real-time discussions using free software like "Skype" can tangibly expand the walls of the traditional classroom and engage students to write, share,

and communicate with an authentic audience inaccessible just a few years ago. Educators interested in helping motivate students to develop both traditional as well as twenty-first century literacy skills in the classroom can and should use audio conferencing technologies like Skype to literally plug their students into collaborative exchanges with global partners on a variety of projects.

http://www.wtvi.com/teks/05_06_articles/skype-in-the-classroom.html

Online since 1993, the Exploratorium was one of the first science museums to build a site on the World Wide Web. Our site now contains over 15,000 Web pages exploring hundreds of different topics. We currently serve eighteen million visitors a year. That makes us one of the most visited museum Web sites in the world.

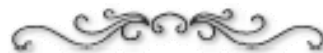
<http://www.exploratorium.edu/about/index.html>

Classroom teachers are using technology more than ever before to improve teaching and learning. But even as their sophistication with computers and the internet grows, other barriers are keeping them from using technology to its full potential. Which barriers are they? This articles covers just that.

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStory.cfm?ArticleID=5131>

Online learning has moved beyond the realm of home schooling and is now an integral part of some traditional high schools' curricula. Online courses have numerous benefits, from giving students more course options to freeing up time in their schedules to do other activities. Michigan, which is pushing to require all students to take at least one online course to graduate from high school, is a leader in the movement.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2006/0330/p14s02-legn.html>





Mathematics

The *Aplusmath.com* web site was developed to help students improve their math skills interactively. Visit our [game room](#) and play exciting games like "Matho" and Hidden Picture... Test your math skills with our [Flashcards!](#) Try out the [Math Word Find](#) puzzle. Create and print your own set of flashcards online using the [Flashcard Creator!](#) See the [Worksheets](#) section, where you can print worksheets to practice offline. Try the [Homework Helper](#) to check your homework solutions.

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

Math Playground is an action-packed site for students in grades K to 6. Practice your math skills, play a logic game and have some fun!

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

British scientists identify part of brain involved in arithmetic. British researchers from University College London have found that the intraparietal sulcus part of the brain uses one function to count "how many" and another to determine "how much." Researcher Brian Butterworth hopes the discovery will lead to better understanding of the math learning disability dyscalculia.

<http://www.999today.com/education/news/story/2842.html>

Colorado sixth-grader scores 800 on math SAT. After a month of dedicated study and practice tests, 12-year-old Tae Kim achieved a perfect score on the SAT math section in January. The Colorado boy's honors geometry teacher said he "about fell over" when he heard the news.

http://www.rockymountainnews.com/drmn/local/article/0,1299,DRMN_15_4558197,00.html

April is, as it turns out, Math Awareness Month. In honour of that, Teacher Planet has put together a collection of resources to help support the teachers. Their list includes lessons, units, worksheets, online resources and clipart and images.

<http://www.teacherplanet.com/resource/mathmonth.php>

*There is considerable concern about, and pressure on, improving student mathematics performance. **The Teaching of Mathematics for Understanding** website was developed to support teachers (especially for urban and rural schools) in helping students understand basic mathematics concepts.*

<http://mathed.smart-science.org/MathematicsforUnderstanding/MathforUnderstanding.html>

Build Your Own Worksheet allows you to do just that. The link below allows you to create a "telling time" worksheet. It has many options including word problems, by the hour, half-hour, quarter- hour, as well as the size of the questions.

<http://www.mathfactcafe.com/time/?vid=260>



Personal Development

I have just found a number of links dealing with promoting peace and tolerance in our schools. Hope they help!

- We are family- Resource Guide
http://www.courtvtv.com/saferworld/resource_guide.htm
- Educators for Social Responsibility
<http://esrnational.org/home.htm>
- The Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning
<http://www.casel.org/home/index.php>
- Character Education Partnership
<http://www.character.org/site/c.qwKUJhNYJrF/b.993253/k.CB9C/Home.htm>
- The Miller Early Childhood Initiative
<http://www.adl.org/education/miller/>
- World of Difference
http://www.adl.org/awod/awod_institute.asp
- Antisemitism Resources
<http://ddickerson.igc.org/antisemitism.html>
- USC Shoah Foundation
<http://www.usc.edu/schools/college/vhi/>





Physical Education

As baseball season begins (UG), Teacher Planet has a new unit of study covering just that. The unit includes the history of the sport, baseball math, the rules of the sport, to mention but a few. It is designed for students from K-12.

<http://www.teacherplanet.com/resource/baseball.php>



Science & Technology

ISAW (pronounced "I saw") is a project to develop web-based activities that are interactive visualizations of scientific concepts. While designed primarily for high school and college students, these activities are also written for the lay person with some scientific literacy.

<http://www.bridgewater.edu/departments/physics/ISAW/>

Learn about the environment through interactive, educational games and activities on this award-winning website that encourages learners to form opinions and get involved.

<http://www.ecokidsonline.com/pub/index.cfm>

Wow - Mars is getting the red (planet) carpet treatment from Google today! LOL!

<http://www.google.com/mars/>

The demand for technology-savvy entrants in the workplace is growing three times faster than all other occupations, while enrollment in science-related courses is declining - particularly among young girls. In an effort to change the current perspective of science, engineering, and technology fields among girls, beginning on March 8, 2006, The Society of Women Engineers will celebrate Develop, Design, Discover: Women Innovating with Technology, honoring the achievements of women and girls as they develop and discover the future through technology.

http://www.developdesigndiscover.org/news_events/about.html

Owned and operated by the U.S. Department of Defense, **global positioning system (GPS)** satellite technology is used by scientists, surveyors, delivery drivers, firefighters, pilots, and anyone who needs precise reference points for location, navigation, tracking, mapping, and time. Increasingly, K-12 educators are harnessing the power of GPS and GIS technology to support standards-based math, science, and social studies curricula. Read more about it at;

<http://www.techlearning.com/showArticle.ihtml?articleID=179100742>

Students Race to the Future in NASA's Great Moonbuggy Race. It's not common knowledge, but high school and college students across the country know it is quite possible to ride across the surface of the moon without leaving Earth. The event, which is open to the media and public, runs April 7-8 at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Ala. Teams have spent countless hours working on their designs. They had to find parts, manufacture and fine-tune their vehicles to ensure they survive the rough terrain of the race's half-mile obstacle course. Along the way, students learned valuable lessons about teamwork, engineering and overcoming various challenges to reach their goals. For event details, race rules, information about the course and photos from previous competitions on the Web, visit:

<http://moonbuggy.msfc.nasa.gov>

March 22 was Water Conservation day. Its goal is to help all Canadians and people of the world to truly understand the need for water conservation. The Teacher Planet has a great collection of resources on Water Conservation. Their list includes lessons, units, worksheets, online resources and clipart and images.

<http://www.teacherplanet.com/resource/waterday.php>

With the sweet smell of spring in the air (or the stink of icky mud), The Teacher Planet has a great collection of resources on Spring. Their list includes lessons, units, worksheets, online resources and clipart and images.

<http://www.teacherplanet.com/resource/spring.php>



Social Studies

April 22nd is Earth Day and with it comes a whole collection of activities from Teacher Planet. They contain the usual lessons, units, worksheets, online resources, online activities as well as clipart sites.

<http://www.teacherplanet.com/resource/earthday.php>

*In spring we think of the beauty of nature as trees sprout leaves, flower buds bloom and caterpillars become butterflies. The life cycle of the butterfly is a process analogous to child development. The transformation from infant to child to adolescent to adult follows the same changes as the butterfly. Where do butterflies come from? shows the life cycle beautifully. Our project, **A Dance With the Butterflies** invites participants to interpret the butterfly's metamorphosis. Students are given the opportunity to develop a culminating project of their choice.*

<http://www.comsewogue.k12.ny.us/~ssilverman/butterflies/>

Rock'n Metal is a bilingual Quebec site created in conjunction with the virtual Museum. Its focus is, as the title would explain, rocks and minerals.

http://www.mcq.org/roc/index_eng.html

This Social Studies In Flight Education Package Celebrates the centennial anniversary of the Wright brothers' first powered flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. In this package you will learn about the Wright brothers, their contribution to flight, and what happened from there... There are timelines, puzzles and tons of information on the history of flight!

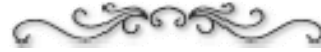
http://www.classbrain.com/artteach/publish/article_127.shtml

K-8 Physics activities is a great set of resources from the Franklin Institute Online. The resources are organized by bioscience, communication, computers, earth sciences, energy, mathematics, oceanography, physical sciences, space and transportation.

<http://sln.fi.edu/tfi/activity/physics/>

Did you know that March was Women's History Month? These links can help with highlighting the role of women in history.

<http://www.teacherplanet.com/resource/womenshistory.php>



Pour les profs de français

Etc, Etc

Dans un article publié dans le quotidien La Presse du 27 mars, la journaliste Louise Leduc rapporte que des élèves de LaSalle vendent du chocolat pour financer l'achat de mobilier pour leur école. Une situation que dénonce la CSQ.

<http://www.infobourg.com/sections/actualite/actualite.php?id=10542>

Une récente étude, menée par Charlotte Barrow et Gary Heywood-Everett, de l'University of Central Lancashire, en Angleterre, conclut que « là où les élèves sont informés des risques liés aux TIC (*Technologies Information Communication*), tous les usages interdits diminuent ». Les deux chercheurs dressent une liste de ces risques en plus de formuler des recommandations.

<http://www.infobourg.com/sections/actualite/actualite.php?id=10534>

C'est le temps des sucres : la sève des érables commence à couler mais il y a aussi plein d'autres découvertes à faire sur cet arbre . Et puis c'est la venue prochaine de Pâques avec son chocolat, ses poules, lapins et oeufs en chocolat, mais aussi des informations sur ceux qui sont réels. Tous ces thèmes présentant tout d'abord des scénarios et activités pédagogiques

<http://www.csdm.qc.ca/recit-adapt-scol/coffre/coffre.htm>



Français

Il y a une belle ressource sur le site du RÉCIT des langues (pas un logiciel mais plusieurs outils et une démarche).

<http://www.recitlangues.org/projets/tachcom.htm>



Mathématiques

Calculatrice pour un budget d'étudiant. Utilisez cette calculatrice pour vous aider à analyser votre budget d'étudiant à temps plein. Cette calculatrice est spécifiquement conçue pour aider les étudiants et étudiantes à comprendre leurs dépenses et leurs revenus pendant qu'ils suivent des cours à l'université, au collège ou à d'autres établissements d'enseignement à plein temps. Cette calculatrice vous permet d'inclure vos dépenses et vos revenus d'une année scolaire de huit mois allant de septembre à avril.

http://argent.canoe.com/calculateur/calc_budget_etudiant.html



Science & Technologie

Tu es à l'école primaire et tu désires connaître les bonnes façons de manipuler et de conserver tes aliments? Hygi, Fribouille et Vigil t'invitent à parcourir leur site pour trouver réponse à tes questions! **Mes aliments, j'en prends soin!** vous offre des ressources pour les profs et les élèves.

<http://www.mapaq.gouv.qc.ca/Fr/coindesjeunes/MesAliments/>



Univers Social

Situation d'apprentissage sur l'exploitation forestière sous la forme d'un site Internet avec une trame narrative. L'élève travaille sur l'exploitation forestière à travers les aventures de Robin Dubois. Robin est un étudiant qui a trouvé un travail d'été comme planteur d'arbres en Abitibi. À son retour à l'automne, il sera un citoyen transformé.

<http://foret.recitus.qc.ca/>

