

Quick Tips

Make First Class work for you...

- Make a mail list of all your students' parents' email addresses. Then you can quickly email class announcements and updates to everyone. Parents love this!
- Instruct your students to use the word "homework" in the subject line when they email work to you. If you create a folder for homework in your First Class mailbox, you can create a mail rule that will send all messages with the word homework in the subject to that folder. Check the First Class help for instructions.

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Missing Something?

If you've been searching for the December issue of *MLTI Update*, you can stop looking now. There wasn't one. December was a slow news month so we took a much-needed vacation, but we're back now...

Spring Content Meetings

Professional Development has always been a top priority for MLTI and we continue to provide opportunities for teachers to become more proficient in using technology as a tool for teaching and learning. This month we begin our Spring 2005 round of MLTI Content Meetings. As in the past, we will offer a series of four sessions in each of the nine regions. Each session will focus on a different topic and teachers should choose the session that best meets their needs.



The *Information Literacy* session is for teachers who want to develop strategies for leading students through the research process in the digital age. The primary presenters for these sessions will be Library Media Specialists.

In *Best Practices in the 1-to-1 Computing Classroom* teachers will learn how to use technology to maximize effectiveness in teaching content and how students can use technology as an effective learning tool to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate content to create knowledge.

We will offer two Math/Science days in each region. In *Intro to Teaching Math and Science with Technology*, participants will share resources, use organizational tools, and develop strategies for using technology to advance teaching and learning, using an MLR Content Standard as a focus. The second day, *Math/Science Developing Materials for a Unit of Study* is to assist those who have attended previous math/science Content Meetings in applying what they've learned to create a technology-rich, content-rigorous unit of study around a MLR Content Standard.

For more information about the Content Meetings, visit *MaineLearns*. The link at the top of the front page will take you to a comparison chart for the four sessions with links to agendas and registration pages.

Got Pictures?

MLTI has given teachers and students the tools they need to effectively communicate using images. The question now is - where will students go to find those images?

Many of us have struggled with the issues associated with students using pictures from the Web. Searching for images can be perilous and many schools have blocked access to *Google Images* and other image search engines for fear that students will find inappropriate material. When students do find appropriate images, there



are always questions about copyright and fair use.

Jim Moulton has proposed a way that we can all be a part of the solution to this problem, especially when we're

seeking images of Maine. What if we pooled our resources and created an image bank of our own photographs or artwork? Visit the Community section of *MaineLearns* to read about Jim's proposal and learn how you and your students can get involved.



Click on Community

Jeepers Peepers

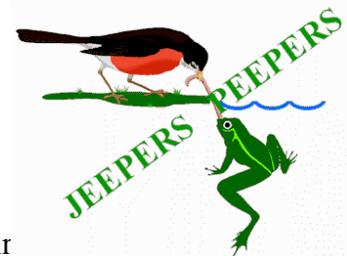
Is spring weather coming earlier each year? That's the question 7th and 8th graders will try to answer in this year's *Jeepers Peepers* essay contest sponsored by the Department of Environmental Protection.

Students who participate in the contest will graph and analyze USGS data collected from various lakes around the state. The graphs they create will show trends in ice out dates and average spring temperatures. Students will use these graphs as supporting evidence for whatever conclusions they draw about spring

weather.

This is a wonderful opportunity for students to use their

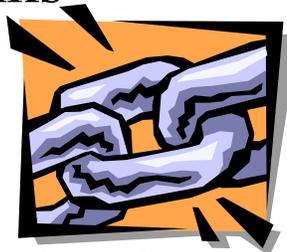
laptops to help them answer a real-world question. Visit the Jeepers Peepers web site at <http://www.state.me.us/dep/blwq/doceducation/jeepers/index.htm> for details about the contest and other resources and activities you can use to help your students understand the effects of global climate change.



Making Hyperlinks

One of the advantages of working with digital text is the ability to make hyperlinks so readers can jump from one part of the text to another. You undoubtedly have experienced this when reading Web pages, but have you or your students tried creating your own hyperlink documents?

There is a new tutorial on *MaineLearns*



that gives step-by-step directions for making hyperlinks in an AppleWorks word processing document. You might want to try creating a document with hyperlinked words that link to the word's definition on a vocabulary list. You could also have your students annotate a poem with hyperlinks. The tutorial offers other suggestions for ways to use hyperlinks with your students.

This tutorial is available on *MaineLearns* only as a pdf document but if you would like an AppleWorks version that you can edit to use with students, contact Barbara Greenstone, bgreenstonemam@middlemaine.org



Click on Tutorials

Ecology Day

MLTI and the Maine Math and Science Alliance are offering a professional development session for teachers who are interested in designing a unit that will help students meet the Ecology standard of the Maine Learning Results.

This day-long session will be held on Wednesday, March 30 at the Maine Math and Science Alliance office in Augusta. Participants will explore simulation software and gain



experience using WISE, a Web-based science inquiry learning environment. Activities and assessments will also be provided

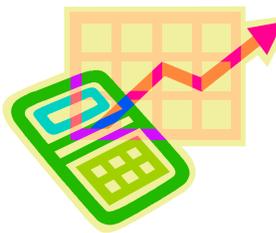
and participants will be eligible for free training sessions in assessment scoring as a member of a local assessment pilot group.

For more information, contact Chad Dorsey at the Maine Math and Science Alliance, cdorsey@mmsa.org.

Pasco Probes

Are you looking for ways to collect data and “spice-up” your science curriculum? Then why not borrow some Pasco Probes from the Maine Math and Science Alliance to help your students visualize and understand science in action!

Pasco Scientific, the company that donated the *DataStudio* software for all MLTI iBooks, has also given a number of scientific probes to be used by Maine teachers and students. Henrietta List, of the Maine Math Science Alliance, has volunteered to coordinate the lending of these tools.



available probeware, can be found by going to *MaineLearns-Tutorials-DataStudio*.



Click on Tutorials - DataStudio

Earthwatch

Earthwatch Institute (EWI) is looking for adventuresome, k-12 Maine educators from diverse disciplines to work with EWI researchers at field sites in Florida, Brazil, and Maine.

Training is provided and priority will be given to applicants who are able to bring the experience back to their schools and communities via the web, who are part of team effort with colleagues to enhance science/geography education, and who engage students in related local projects. Fellowships cover room, board, and travel stipend to the

field site. Non-formal educators may apply. For further information, contact Ann Cohen by email at acohen@earthwatch.org or by phone at 1-800-776-0188 x118. You can download a fellowship application from the Earthwatch Web site at:

<http://www.earthwatch.org/education/educator/apply.html>. Hurry!

Applications for spring projects are due February 1.



MLTI Update

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Read MLTI Update online!
<http://www.mainelearns.org>



Click on About Us

Kudos to...

... all the high school teachers in Presque Isle, Oak Hill, Guilford, and Freeport who gave up planning time or prepared sub plans so they could attend some extra MLTI training during the months of December and January.



Quote of the Month

"The real revolution [today] is [in] information and communication, not technology."

Alan November

Barbara's and Kelly's Favorites

Kelly's first favorite this month is *Tapped In* at <http://tappedin.org/tappedin/>. If you are looking for a SECURE and FREE place to create an online classroom, this is the place to go. *Tapped In* not only has many resources for educators, but also allows for the creation of private groups for posting documents, discussions, and online chatting that is emailed to the group's creator (you). Nothing can go on without your knowledge in your domain. The instructions are clear and there is online help available via the site's chat function. Create an account, take a look around, and try out some of the tools.

Another favorite is *Read-Write-Think* at

http://readwritethink.org/student_mat/index.asp.

This site is not for English and language arts, only! *Read-Write-Think* "offers a collection of online student materials to support literacy learning in the K-12 classroom. These interactive tools can be used to supplement a variety of lessons and provide an opportunity for students to use technology while developing their literacy skills." Many of these tools are applicable in a number of curricular areas and you can search for materials by grade and literacy strand. Bookmark this one!

Next Month: Barbara's Favorites.