

Quick Tips

- Give your students some technical writing experience. Ask them to write step-by-step directions for a computer task. Have other students test the directions for accuracy.
- Students can use *Sound Studio* to record voice annotations for their AppleWorks documents or MacJournal entries.
- Do your science students have trouble remembering how to write a lab report? Make a template for them in AppleWorks and email it to them, post it on your school's file server, or distribute it with a USB pen drive.

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Happy New Year!

It's January and time for some New Years resolutions. We hope one of yours is to read this newsletter every month and pass it on to at least one other person: a parent, a community member, or maybe even a legislator. Let's spread the word about MLTI and what it means to us. You might even consider giving a copy of this issue to a high school teacher.

Upcoming Content Meetings



The next round of content meetings will begin with the Kennebec region on January 27. Teacher leaders and principals should have received a notice with all the dates and locations. We will be using an online reservation system for this round. You can find links to it at <http://www.state.me.us/mlti/events/2004Mtg.htm> as well as driving directions to the sites and other basic information.

The dates and locations are also posted on the *MaineLearns* calendar.

The organization of this round of Content Meetings will be a little different from past rounds. Instead of offering separate meetings for each content area, we will offer two days for humanities and two days for math/science. Teachers can choose any one of the four days. We are asking teachers to prepare for the day by choosing one standard from their curriculum to work with. The chosen standard will help teachers decide whether they should attend a humanities meeting or a math/science meeting.

Teachers attending the math/science meetings will be involved in an immersion experience using tools for collecting, analyzing, and interpreting real world data for science and math classrooms. The day will include model strategies for effective instruction and collecting evidence of student learning.

The outcome for the humanities sessions is that participants will have a better understanding of how the MLTI software, iBooks, and connectivity support meaningful student assessment. We will help teachers identify the essential learning for their chosen standard and discuss ways the iBooks can help students create, collect and organize their evidence of learning. Participants will also learn how to make a simple web page that can be used as a publishing tool for teacher-created units and as an organizing tool for electronic portfolios.

The Maine Event at GLEF

Last spring a team from the George Lucas Educational Foundation came to Maine to learn more about MLTI. They visited schools, spoke to principals, teachers and students, and documented what they saw and heard.

The results have recently been published in their web newsletter, *Edutopia Online* at <http://www.glef.org> in an article titled, "The Maine Event." This multimedia article gives an excellent overview of what one-to-one computing is all about.

At this site you can watch a video about MLTI, hear interviews with some of the key players, or click on "Laptops at the Lake" to see how students at Nobleboro Central School are working with the Maine Lakes Conservancy Institute to learn more about Pemaquid Pond.

This is just another example of how everyone is watching Maine, hoping that as Maine goes...

Maine Student Web Design Awards

Teachers, here's a challenge to pass on to your students. The 2nd annual Maine Student Web Award Design Awards contest has officially begun.

These awards are intended to encourage Maine High School and Middle School students to explore, experience, and one day enter the thriving high-tech industry here in Maine. Students are to design a website with the theme/subject of the site to be anything related to the State of Maine: outdoors, sports, recreation, family, school, business, music, wildlife, etc.



We think this is a great opportunity for Middle School students to use their laptops to show what they've learned. This would make a great class project for Social Studies classes who are working on Maine Studies. Students can use *Netscape Composer*, a web editor that is available on all the MLTI laptops and if they need a little help getting started, they can download the tutorial from *MaineLearns*.

For more information, read the article we posted on *MaineLearns* or go directly to <http://www.MSWDA.org>.



[Click on Community](#)

Time For Reflection

Now that we've had one-to-one computing in our 7th grade classrooms for more than a year and in 8th grade classrooms for a few months, it may be a good time to reflect on what this has meant to us. Three teachers at the William S. Cohen School in Bangor have done just that.

Anna Bragg, Carolyn Vose and Pat Shulman (left to right in the photo) have taken some time to reflect and write about how the



laptops have affected teaching and learning in their classrooms. Pat and Anna are 7th grade English teachers and Carolyn is an 8th grade Science teacher. All three describe changes they have seen in student engagement and achievement. We've posted their writings on *MaineLearns* and hope to share them with anyone who doubts that one-to-one computing makes a difference.

We also challenge **all** 7th and 8th grade teachers to take some time to think about how MLTI has changed their classrooms. Send those thoughts to us and we will share them.



[Click on What Works](#)

PortaPortal Redux

Last month we asked you to share your PortaPortal guest log-ins with us. We didn't get a huge response so we're sending the request out again. We'd really like to start sharing all the resources you're using in your classrooms.

The teachers who did respond have some great collections of URLs. Science teachers should definitely visit Chris Beckwith's page (log-in "beckwith"). He has links for Life Science, Physical Science, Astronomy, etc.

Chris' wife Rachel (log-in "mrsbeckwith") has a lot of good social studies sites as well as some for reading and health. Julia Michaud's site (log-in "jmichaud") is a "must see" for language arts teachers with links related to various novels, short stories, poetry, grammar, etc.

Check these sites out. There's probably something there that you can use with your students. And, we're waiting to hear from you about your own PortaPortal site. Send your guest log-in and categories to Barbara or Kelly.

The Web Wanderer

Last summer, Mainers in the mid-coast region were disappointed to learn that they could no longer read Jim Moulton's "Web Wanderer" column in the *Coastal Journal*. Some of us didn't know what we would do without our weekly fix of Jim's musings until our friends at SEED came to the rescue.

SEED has started publishing the column on their web site at <http://seed.mainecenter.org>. Now readers across the state can enjoy Jim's wit and wisdom and find a few good web sites along

the way. His stories about family, friends, life in Maine, and life on the road are always interesting and thought provoking and, like any good teacher, Jim uses them as a springboard for further learning on the Web.

Jim's January 8 offering, "Thinking Like an Entrepreneur" is of special interest because it reminds us of what the MLTI is all about. In fact, we like it so much we decided to start archiving the Web Wanderer columns on *MaineLearns* as well.



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Visitors From Thailand

We often tell our students that the whole world is watching Maine and the MLTI. Most people "from away" are watching via the Internet and news media but some choose to see it "up close and personal." Last month six visitors from Thailand got a taste of Maine education and Maine winter weather.

The visitors were two teachers and two parents of students at the Darunsikkhalai School for Innovative Learning in Bangkok, Thailand and two visitors from the Suksapattana Foundation that started the school in June 2001. The school

offers constructionist, project-based learning based on the philosophy of Dr. Seymour Papert and the visitors came to see one-to-one classroom computing



first hand as they work to incorporate it into their teaching. While here, they visited schools in Bar Harbor, Guilford and Portland and worked with David Grant to learn about video editing with iMovie.

To read more about the Thai visitors, go to Judy McGeorge's article on *MaineLearns*.



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MLTI Update

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Read MLTI Update online!

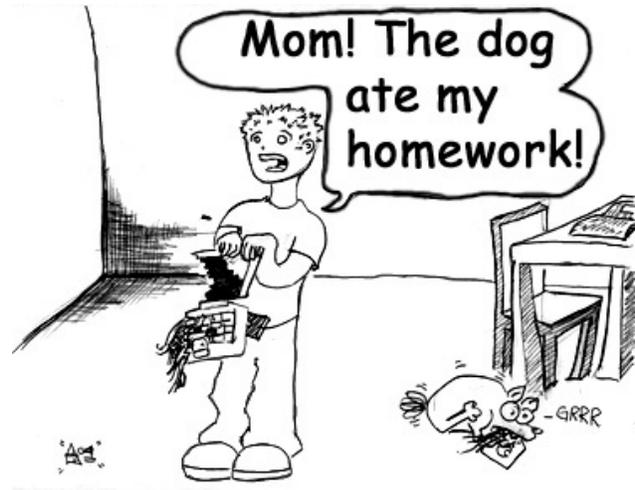
<http://www.mainelearns.org>



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Kudos to...

... **Molly Ockett Middle School** students and staff for their wonderful community webzine, *Raiders' Rendezvous*. Check it out at <http://www.ockett-ms.sad72.k12.me.us>



Quote of the Month

I want to see "VACATIONLAND" off the car license plates. I want to see it replaced by "The Learning State." Of course the point is not about license plates, which I suppose could be changed by decree from Augusta. It is about how we in Maine think of ourselves and our state, something that cannot be changed "top down" by government. It has to be created "bottom up" by the people of the state. By you and me and all of us.

Seymour Papert – "The Learning State." *Bangor Daily News* 2001.

Barbara's and Kelly's Favorites

Here are **Barbara's** favorites for January:

If you are a Visual or Performing Arts teacher or you're looking for ways to integrate arts into your curriculum, you must visit ARTSEdge at <http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org>.

ARTSEdge is a cooperative effort of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the US Department of Education.

As the front page says, "ARTSEdge helps educators to teach in, through and about the arts." Here you will find arts news, lesson plans, curriculum resources and professional resources.

If you're looking for something a little different to share with your students, go to the *Visual Thesaurus* at <http://www.visualthesaurus.com>. This one is difficult to describe; you just have to see it. Click on *Online Edition*, type in a word, click *look it up* and, as the intro says, "you'll be rewarded with an interactive map showing the meaning of your word."

This could be a fun way for kids to look at their vocabulary words. It's especially effective when you want them to see the relationships between words and, for some kids (and adults) it may be more engaging than a traditional thesaurus.

Next Month: Kelly's Favorites.