

## Quick Tips

- Tired of those pop-up windows on web pages? You can block them in *Safari*. Go to the *Safari* menu and choose Block Pop-Up Windows.
- Need a spell checker for another language? In *AppleWorks* go to Edit-Writing Tools – Select Dictionary. Click on the Choose button and select French, Italian or Spanish.
- If you have a video camera, hook it into your projector and set it on camera mode to show your class pictures from a book or details of an artifact. Use the macro focus feature to show extremely small items.

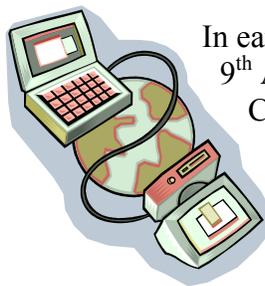
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## March Madness...

...and we don't mean basketball (although that may contribute to it). It seems to us that March is the busiest month of the school year. There's just so much going on: MEAs, music festivals, sports tournaments. March is often the month when we take stock of what we've accomplished and realize how much we still need to get done before the end of the school year. It can be a stressful time but we hope you'll pause for a minute to catch your breath and catch up on all the MLTI news that's fit to print in this month's issue of *MLTI Update*.

## The 2004 CoSN Conference



In early March we traveled to Arlington, Virginia for the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual CoSN (Consortium for School Networking) Conference, Personalization & Empowerment: *No Child Left Behind* and Technology. Our trip was sponsored by the WIN-WIN Strategies Foundation, an organization devoted to building Communities of Practice that advance K-12 education through technology.

When we weren't attending sessions or visiting exhibits, we had the opportunity to network with educators from other locations around the country where one-to-one computing initiatives are in place. Comparing notes and sharing stories was a valuable experience for everyone and made us realize how much we have accomplished with the MLTI and how much we have learned. These conversations made it clear to us that we are involved in something unique – a program that is about so much more than just purchasing hardware and software and placing it in our classrooms. We're in the business of transforming teaching and learning.

It became apparent to everyone that the success of MLTI has more to do with the human network we've built than with which device was chosen, which platform we use, or which software was installed on each laptop. Without the strong leadership, commitment to staff development, and focus on teaching and learning that we have here in Maine, MLTI would be just another "tech buy."

To read Kelly's thoughts on the CoSN Conference, visit the About Us section of *MaineLearns*.

## NHF's Digitized Collection

Many of us who teach Maine Studies are familiar with the Northeast Historic Film collection at <http://www.oldfilm.org>. In fact, most middle school libraries across the state have copies of *From Stump to Ship* on their shelves as a resource for Social Studies classes.

In the past, these old films have been available to schools only as VHS tapes. Recently NHF has begun to convert some of its collection



Click on Community

to Mini DV tapes. This is a format that will allow students to import this rights-released footage into iMovie and use it in their own productions. NHF also provides text credits for students to use in their source citations.

For more information and a list of titles, see the article about NHF's digitized collection in the Community section of *MaineLearns*. For ideas for using this footage with your students, contact Barbara (contact information on page 4).

## Read Any Good Books Lately?

Some times we get so caught up in our new technologies that we forget about some of our older ones. We've been suggesting good Web resources for teachers, but there are also many good print resources that can help us in our teaching and learning.

So... Have you read any good books lately? Is there a book that inspired you to reflect on your classroom practices or that gave you great ideas for lessons or units? Would you be willing to share your favorite titles with MLTI colleagues?



Click on Educator Assistants – Across the Curriculum

We've added a document category to *MaineLearns* that will include teacher-written reviews and recommendations of good professional resource books. We've posted some guidelines for writing a book review and hope that you'll take a look at it and consider writing a review to share some of the professional reading you have done.

As we receive your reviews, we'll post them in the *Educator Assistants* section, on the *Across the Curriculum* page..



## Free Educational Technology Publications

One of the best ways we've found to keep up with what's new in educational technology is by reading magazines and journals. Many of these publications are free to educators.

Kelly has compiled a list of free technology publications and we've posted it on *MaineLearns*. We have found these magazines and journals to be a good source of ideas for using technology in our teaching. Some of them showcase successful programs in schools around the country where

technology has enhanced teaching and learning. Others provide tips and tricks for teaching with technology. You can also find articles discussing some of the current issues and hot topics in education today, such as copyright, assessment, and *No Child Left Behind*.

If you know of other publications that might interest our readers, please let us know and we'll add them to the list.



Click on Educator Assistants – Across the Curriculum

## Students Investigate Wind Power

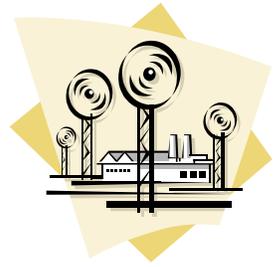
Should windmills be built on top of Mars Hill Mountain? That's a question that students at Skyway Middle School in Presque Isle have been investigating.

Laura Chase, RIM for the Aroostook Region, reports that Skyway's 7<sup>th</sup> grade team used their iBooks to research the issue, create presentations about what they learned, and write letters to their legislators. This was an integrated project, incorporating Social Studies, Math,

Language Arts and Science.

One student summed up the experience this way, "Usually those people who are in favor of something only tell you what they want you to hear and vice versa. It's up to each individual to make the decision based on facts from a variety of sources."

To read more about this project, visit the What Works section of *MaineLearns*.



Click on What Works

## Jim Visits Tokyo

Jim Moulton has recently returned from a trip to Tokyo where he was a speaker at Japan ASCD spring conference.



While there Jim met and worked with educators from US Department of Defense schools and private International Schools in

Japan. Whenever we venture outside of Maine we naturally compare schools in other locations with Maine schools. Jim has written a report about some of the similarities and differences between the schools he visited and our schools in Maine. He also describes a nifty online tool for teachers and students that was developed by a teacher in one of the international schools.

To find out more about Jim's trip, download his report from the About Us section of *MaineLearns*.



Click on About Us

## MLTI Success at GBSD

We've seen how successful one-to-one computing can be in regular 7th and 8th grade classrooms but how effective is the MLTI with special needs students? According to Rob Gillies at the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf, one-to-one computing has made a big difference in classrooms there.

One challenge these students faced before MLTI was working in a computer lab setting. Students at GBSD use American Sign Language (ASL) and therefore must be seen to be heard.

This was not easy in a lab where students were seated behind big monitors. The compact design of the iBooks allows student to communicate and collaborate in ASL while they write in their second language, English.

These students have moved well beyond mere word processing. Rob cites several other examples of how the laptops are helping his students to learn. To learn more, read Rob's article in the Featured Profile section of *MaineLearns*.



Click on Featured Profile

## MLTI Update

Published Monthly  
by the MLTI Staff

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Read MLTI Update online!

<http://www.mainelearns.org>



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## Kudos to...

... **Becky Turner** of Scarborough Middle School for introducing her colleagues to *Nicenet*, <http://www.nicenet.org> Teachers are using the free Internet Classroom Assistant found here as a communication and collaboration tool.

## Quote of the Month

“The student knows more than the teacher about what and how he has learned – even if he knows less about what was taught.”

*Peter Elbow*

## Barbara's and Kelly's Favorites

Barbara's first favorite for March is *Cyber School Bus* (<http://www.un.org/Pubs/CyberSchoolBus/> ). This site was developed by the Global Teaching and Learning Project whose mission is to provide information and materials to promote education about international affairs and the United Nations.

This site contains information about UN member countries as well as teaching materials to jumpstart your teaching about various issues including human rights, world hunger, workers' rights, etc. You will also find an excellent introduction to the UN itself, student art galleries, “Ask an Ambassador” and much more.

Barbara's second favorite this month is *The*

*Center for Media Literacy* (<http://www.medialit.org>)

According to this site, “Media Literacy is a 21st century approach to education. It provides a framework to access, analyze, evaluate and create messages in a variety of forms — from print to video to the Internet. Media literacy builds an understanding of the role of media in society as well as essential skills of inquiry and self-expression necessary for citizens of a democracy.”

This site offers interesting articles, teaching materials and other resources that educators in all subject areas will find useful.

**Next Month: Kelly's Favorites.**