

Quick Tips

Start the year off right...

- Make sure you and your students have the latest MLTI image.
- Create your own Student Information System for your classes with an AppleWorks database so you have easy access to phone numbers, addresses, etc.
- Have your students create an electronic assignment book using iCal.
- Establish procedures for naming, saving, organizing, and backing up files and give students time to practice them.

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Welcome Back...

We will spare you the usual clichés about how the summer was too short and just assume that everyone is back in school and excited about the new year. We're excited because **MLTI Update** is back from its vacation and ready to publish **volume 2**. This month we bring you news of some events from the summer and some to look forward to this fall. Of course, if you want to reminisce about last year, back issues are posted on *MaineLearns* in the About Us section.

...And Welcome High Schools

If you read the newspapers or listened to the news this summer, you're aware that MLTI will expand into many high schools this year. In fact, every region of the state has high schools moving forward with a one-to-one computing program. Teachers in these schools will be receiving their iBooks soon and will be offered professional development sessions. Student iBooks will also arrive this fall.

The MLTI staff is making plans for supporting these schools with professional development opportunities, school visits, regional meetings, etc. Each high school has named a teacher leader who will be receiving copies of this newsletter each month and distributing it to staff, parents, board members, or anyone else who is interested. We're hoping this means that *MLTI Update* will have a broader distribution across the state.



So... we'd like to welcome high school readers and invite you to send us feedback about this newsletter and how we can improve it to better meet your needs. Send your suggestions to Barbara Greenstone or Kelly Arsenault. You will find contact information on page 4. We hope you enjoy reading about MLTI events and success stories and that you find the tips, quotes, and cartoons useful and inspirational.

MaineLearns

Each new school year brings some new teachers and administrators to Maine Schools. If you're new to MLTI, you may not be aware of our professional development web site, *MaineLearns* (<http://www.mainelearns.org>). This site is where the MLTI staff posts resources and documents to support your work with one-to-one computing in the classroom.

This newsletter serves as a companion to



[Click on About Us](#)

MaineLearns, bringing you information about what's new on the site. Look for the *MaineLearns* logo at the end of an article for directions to the accompanying on-line information.

We like to think of *MaineLearns* as "one-stop shopping for all your MLTI needs" so we hope you will bookmark it and refer to it often. If you need help navigating the site, check out Kelly Arsenault's article, *Navigating MaineLearns* in the About Us Section.

Maine Student Film & Video Festival

We know there are many budding Spielbergs out there in MLTI land and here's an opportunity for them to receive some recognition for their creativity and hard work.

The Maine Alliance of Media Arts hosts the Maine Student Film & Video Festival each year. This festival is open to Maine residents 19 years of age or younger. The movies are judged in grade level categories and finalists and winning movies are screened at the Waterville Opera House



in conjunction with the Maine International Film Festival. A grand prize is awarded and this year's winner was a student from Waterville High School.

To learn more about this festival, read the report by filmmaker Huey in the Community section of *MaineLearns*. We hope you will encourage your students to begin working on their entries for the 2005 contest. The deadline for submission is June 1, 2005.



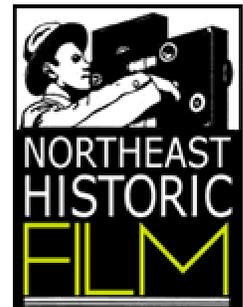
[Click on Community](#)

NHF Roundtable III

On July 28 Northeast Historic Film hosted its third annual educators' Roundtable. The purpose of the roundtable is to support MLTI by bringing together educators and digital medial professionals to discuss relevant issues.

This year's program included presentations and discussions about Maine Studies and Native American Studies, student video production and sharing, and copyright issues. Participants learned about the Open Video Project, Creative Commons licensing, University of Maine's Native American

Studies Program, student video production at Blue Hill and Oxford Hills schools, best practices for sharing student work, metadata, Apple Computer's classroom documentary package, and ideas for using archival footage in student productions. We have collected some documents from the Roundtable and posted them on *MaineLearns* where you can find them in the Documents Index.



[Click on Documents – Northeast Historic Film Roundtable III](#)

Every Four Years

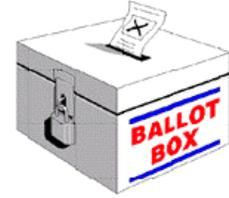
Good teachers take advantage of “teachable moments” and every four years another of those moments arrives - the presidential election. The Web offers resources to keep everyone up-to-date on events on the campaign trail and to inform teachers and students about the issues and where the candidates stand.

We have created a *PortaPortal* page (<http://www.portaportal.com>) to help you make sense of the overwhelming number of web pages



Click on Educator Assistants – Across the Curriculum

devoted to this election. To access the page, type election2004 in the guest log in box. You will find links here to the



candidates’ campaign sites, the major (and some minor) political party sites, sites about the issues, local elections information, teaching materials, and much more.

For ideas for using these resources, download Barbara’s article, *Every Four Years*, in the Educator Assistants section of *MaineLearns*.

Content Meetings

Once again this fall, MLTI will be offering professional development workshops in each of the nine regions. This round of Content Meetings will begin with the Aroostook region on September 13 and continue into early December.

We will again offer four sessions in each region but each session will have a different topic and we are asking teachers to choose the day that best meets their needs at this time. The topics for the four days are Professional Electronic



Click on Calendar

Portfolios, Information Literacy, Developing a Unit of Study, and Math/Science Resources. For more detailed descriptions of the sessions, please visit www.maine.gov/mlti/events/2004Mtg.htm



You will also find links there to our online registration page. If you have any questions, contact Barbara or Kelly (contact information on page 4 of this newsletter).

MLTI Personals

Now and then we get requests from schools for referrals to other schools that would like to collaborate on various projects or just share information or lessons learned. Those requests started sounding a lot like personal ads, so we were inspired to start a “personals” section of *MLTI Update*.

Are you looking for someone to share ideas about using probeware in your science classes? Are you looking for a school that would like to collaborate through video conferencing? Are you looking for someone who uses a Smart Board so you can learn from their experiences?

Send your personal ads to us at bgreenstonemam@middlemaine.org and we’ll play matchmaker. Be sure to add a contact person’s name and email address. To get the ball rolling, here’s our first personal ad:

- Teacher at East Grand School seeks communication and potential collaboration with teachers and classrooms that have experience with journalism and/or student created newspapers. Contact Chris Philips, cphilipsegs@middlemaine.org

MLTI Update

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Read MLTI Update online!

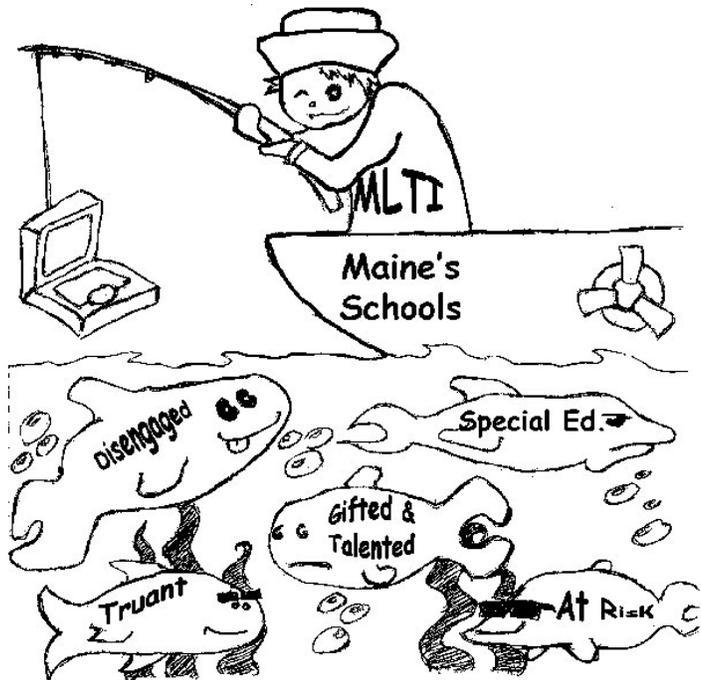
<http://www.mainelearns.org>



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Kudos to...

...the **PRISM** program at **Acadia University** and the teams from **Lake Region Middle School**, **Wescott Junior High**, and **Noble Middle School**. Watch for the community web sites they are developing,



Reel 'em in!

Quote of the Month

“The success or failure of technology and its integration into the instructional program is more dependent on human and contextual forces than on hardware, software or connectivity.”

Dr. Sylvia Charp, Editor-in-Chief, T.H.E. Journal

Barbara's and Kelly's Favorites

Barbara's back-to-school favorites are two web-based communication tools for teachers. Both offer free basic features that can be upgraded with a paid subscription.

SchoolNotes, <http://www.schoolnotes.com> offers teachers a place to post information for parents and students. It's very simple to use and does not require any knowledge of html. Many teachers use *SchoolNotes* to post homework assignments, announcements, and important dates. Parents and students can easily locate a teacher's page by going to the *SchoolNotes* home page and typing in their zip code.

Another useful communication tool for teachers is *QuickTopic* <http://www.quicktopic.com>. This site is a bulletin board service where teachers can start a discussion and students can contribute to it. Set up is easy and requires very little technical skill. Once you have registered and started a topic, you simply give the URL of your discussion board to anyone you would like to invite to participate. As the administrator of your discussion, you can monitor it and delete any inappropriate content.

Because both of these tools are web-based, they can be accessed from any computer with internet access, anywhere in the world.