

Quick Tips

Take advantage of universal access features in OS X...

- Connect your digital video camera to your laptop and connect the laptop to a projector to share a paper document or small object with your class. Use the zoom feature to show details.
- In Safari, select some text from a Web page. From the Safari menu, choose Services – Speech – Start Speaking Text to have the text read to you.
- In AppleWorks, go to the button bar preferences and find an icon that looks like a pair of lips. Drag it to your button bar. Then select some text and click on the lips icon to have the text read to you.

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March: In Like a Lion, Out Like...

...a slightly smaller lion? But, the days are longer; snow has turned to rain; we're making progress. Speaking of progress...

How's it going?

March is a good time for reflection. As we head into the last months of the school year, it's time to take stock of how we're doing and what we want to do next. As individuals we often reflect on our progress toward our personal goals and make adjustments accordingly, but how often do we do that as a team, a department, a grade level, or a whole school?

As we finish our third year of MLTI implementation, no one can deny that this initiative has had a profound effect on 7th and 8th grade classrooms across the state and is beginning to have an impact on the high schools that have chosen to try 1-to-1 computing. Take a few minutes to look at where you've been and where you're going.

A place to begin this kind of reflection is with the *Strategies for Successful Schools* that have been compiled by the MLTI staff. You can find a link to this annotated list on the front page of *MaineLearns*. This list of strategies grew out of observations and conversations we had (and continue to have) with principals, teacher leaders, and tech coordinators. Comparing your school's practices with this list can help you focus on what you're doing well and areas you want to target for improvement.

Another excellent resource for schools that want to look at the impact 1-to-1 computing has on teaching and learning is a new Web site created by Mike Muir at UMF. Point your browser to <http://www.mcmel.org/MLLS/1to1PR/>. The purpose of this page is to provide ammunition for justifying and defending 1-to-1 computing in your school but it also provides food for thought about how it actually affects teaching and learning. As Mike says, "Do laptops improve learning?" is not, nor should it ever be, the right question. The right question is "How are teachers using technology to improve learning?"



Windows on Maine

The University of Maine's Fogler Library, Maine Public Broadcasting Network and the Maine State Museum have created a new Web-based archive of material of interest to Maine teachers and students.

Windows on Maine can be found at <http://windowsonmaine.library.umaine.edu>. This collection includes video clips, audio clips, photographs, documents, animated simulations and other digital artifacts that teachers and students can download and use in their work.



Windows on Maine makes available clips from two Maine Public Television series,

HOME: the Story of Maine, and *QUEST: Investigating Our World*. Also available are materials from other organizations including Northeast Historic Film, the Maine State Archives, the Maine Historical Society and the Maine Folk Life Center. For more information, read Marilyn Lutz's article in the Community section of *MaineLearns*.



Click on Community

Wescott Jr. High iTeam

If you're wondering exactly what a student tech time does, ask any member of the Wescott Jr. High iTeam in Westbrook.

Wescott's iTeam, under the direction of Steve Moulen and Joe Axford, has been very busy. All iTeam members receive training in basic technical skills and troubleshooting and in the past have manned a help desk to support students and teachers.

Four iTeam members participated in the



PRISM program at Acadia University and are working on a community Web site.

The iTeam

has also been involved in fund raising. They've raised money and solicited donations to build a multimedia lab for the school. Read more about Wescott's successful iTeam in the Featured Profile section of *MaineLearns*.



Click on Featured Profile

iTeam Conference

Mark your calendars! Back by popular demand, the 2005 MLTI iTeam conference will be held on Friday, May 13 at the University of Maine at Orono. This year's conference is cooperative effort between MLTI and the New Media program at UMO.

The purpose of the iTeam Conference is to provide support to schools that have established student tech teams or are planning to do so in the near future. The program will



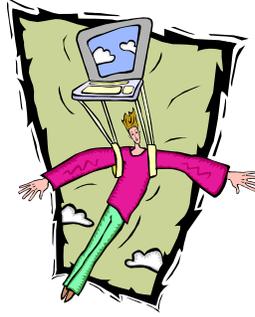
include sessions for student tech team members and their adult leaders. These sessions will focus on helping schools organize new teams or improve established teams by gaining the technical and interpersonal skills they need to be successful.

The conference is still in the planning stages but details should be available soon. For more information, or if you would like to volunteer to be a presenter, please contact Kelly Arsenault, karsenaultdoe@middlemaine.org.

Tech Integrators' Meeting

The MLTI team is making plans to host a meeting of Technology Integrators who are involved in MLTI. These plans are not firm yet but we hope to have the meeting in late May or early June,

Sometimes the position of Technology Integrator is difficult to define. For our purposes, a Technology Integrator is a teacher whose role includes working with faculty and students to develop instructional uses for technology to enhance the curriculum and help students meet



the Maine Learning Results.

The purpose of this meeting is to help Technology Integrators better understand their roles and to share ideas and successful practices. Watch

MaineLearns for an announcement about the date and place for this meeting. If you have questions or suggestions for agenda items, contact Barbara Greenstone, bgreenstonemam@middlemaine.org

21st Century Teaching and Learning

A group of middle and high school teachers have been involved in an exciting new class sponsored by MLTI, the Center for Inquiry in Secondary Education, and the Southern Maine Partnership.

The purpose of the course is to assist teachers in developing student-centered curricula for technology-rich classrooms, incorporating literacy strategies and universal design.

Participation in this class has allowed the group to form a community of learners, working collaboratively as they learn literacy and technology strategies and begin to develop a unit

of study that focuses on an essential question and includes performance-based assessments. They will be using Blackboard, an online collaboration tool, for discussions and reflection.

The class has met twice for day-long sessions at the Hutchinson Center in Belfast. They will meet again in April and then follow up with a three-day institute this summer.



PRISM Program

Acadia University's highly praised summer professional development program, PRISM, will be hosted this summer at the University of Maine at Farmington. Teams (two teachers and two students) from Maine will attend a one week training program from July 31-August 5, 2005.

In the course of developing curriculum-based projects, each team will collaborate to enhance the environment for teaching and learning with technology at their school. The Acadia Institute for Teaching and Technology (AITT) team and a team from University of

Maine at Farmington, will support each of the teams in this endeavor. During the week, participants will bring their iBook computers and be exposed to various graphic, web design, animation and video editing and audio software.

PRISM is sponsored by the Libra Foundation. Application materials will be available soon. Check <http://aitt.acadiu.ca/prism/> for more information.



MLTI Update

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by the MLTI Staff

Editors *Barbara Greenstone*
Kelly Arsenault

Contributors *Mike Muir*
Marilyn Lutz
Steve Moulen
Andrew Greenstone

Comments or suggestions? Send them to
BGreenstoneMAM@middlemaine.org or
KArsenaultDOE@middlemaine.org

Read MLTI Update online!

<http://www.mainelearns.org>



Click on About Us

Kudos to...

...King Middle School, Freeport Middle School and Lewiston Middle School for welcoming visitors (often on short notice) from around the world into their classrooms.



Quote of the Month

"Once a new technology rolls over you, if you're not part of the steamroller, you're part of the road."

Stewart Brand

Barbara's and Kelly's Favorites

Kelly has two favorites this month. The first is *Nobelprize.org* found at <http://nobelprize.org>

This is an incredible resource, provided by the Nobel Foundation, that not only has information and resources on Alfred Nobel and Nobel prize winners, but also online, interactive games and simulations that relate to the work done by winners of the Nobel Prize.

Click on the Explore and Learn link to find activities related to biology, physics, peace, literature, and more. There is also extensive information and resources on Nobel laureates in all Nobel Prize categories.

Kelly's second favorite is *Ology*, found at

<http://ology.amnh.org/>. This is a great interactive Web site created by the American Museum for Natural History. Topics include biodiversity, genetics, marine biology, paleontology, astronomy, archeology, and the earth. Click on the *For Educators* button to go to the museum site where you can download guides for some of the topics. There's also a *Hall of Fame* where students can submit projects they have created using informational "cards" collected from the site.

Check out this detailed, informational, and fun site.

Next Month: Barbara's Favorites.