

Quick Tips

Ideas for using databases...

- Teaching genetics? Have students make a database of classmates' and their parents' traits (e.g. eye color) and look for patterns.
- Use a database to create a reading log. Fields might include date, title of book, pages read, summary, questions, connections, etc.
- Create a field guide to all the flora and fauna in a habitat you are studying. Include pictures, classification, etc.

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Happy Summer!

There are only a few days left. Take a break from finishing report cards, cleaning your classroom, or putting the iBooks away and read this month's MLTI Update.

Eyes on Maine

As our third year of MLTI and one-to-one computing comes to an end we are, more than ever, aware of our roles as pioneers in educational computing. There are many other one-to-one initiatives around the world, but ours is the only fully-realized statewide project.



For this reason, the world is watching Maine. We receive visitors regularly from all over the world. They come to visit classrooms, to speak to teachers and administrators and to pick our brains about professional development.

Our US visitors have come from the states of California, New Mexico, Texas, Vermont, and Pennsylvania, to name a few. We've met many Canadians from Alberta, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. Other international visitors include educators from Australia, Ireland, Scotland, England, France, Singapore, Ukraine, and Costa Rica.

MLTI has also been written about in many major publications including *Edutopia* (a publication of the George Lucas Education Foundation), *THE Journal*, and others. Recently it was the subject of a story on National Public Radio's news program, *All Things Considered*.

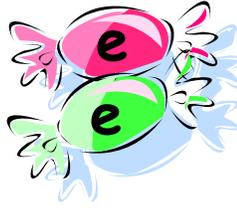
We're also doing our part to let people know about MLTI. Bette Manchester and other members of the MLTI team are often asked to speak, present, or otherwise contribute to technology conferences and forums all over the world.

Whatever the future brings, we think that every student, teacher, technology support person or administrator who has participated in MLTI should be proud to have been a part of a truly trail-blazing initiative.

MLTI/eMints

With funds from the *No Child Left Behind Act Title IID* Enhancing Education Through Technology initiative, the Maine Department of Education is awarding eight regional training grants to support the integration of technology in education to improve student learning. The grants will support the hiring of regional trainer/mentors who will work directly with individual teacher-leaders in thirty-eight school districts.

Maine is incorporating a proven training model from Missouri, known as eMINTS, to



support the expansion of MLTI from middle schools into elementary and high schools. The MLTI/eMINTS training model supports educators in integrating technology and best teaching practices.

Trainer/mentor positions remain open in four of the eight regions. For more information, read the article in the Professional Development section of MaineLearns. Contact information for each of the eight regions is included there as well as a job description for the trainer / mentor position.



Click on Professional Development

Summer iBook Storage

This is the time that most schools are putting away their student iBooks for the summer. It's a good time to remind everyone of the guidelines for summer storage that the DOE and Apple have recommended

Batteries may be damaged if stored for prolonged periods with a closed circuit. The environmental temperature also affects the storage life of any battery. Cool, dry environments are best. Since you are unlikely to be using your iBooks during the summer,

schools should remove the batteries from the iBooks, and store them in a cool location for the duration of the summer.



iBooks should also be stored in a cool, dry environment. We recommend that you do not stack the iBooks more than 5 high because of the weight placed upon the iBook in the bottom of the stack. (At 4.9 lbs each, the bottom iBook has nearly 20 lbs resting on it.)

MLTI Top 10 List

Here are our top 10 reasons you should take your laptop home this summer. You can:

10. Sell your yard sale stuff on EBay.
9. Find a great drive-in movie by looking up movie listings using Sherlock.
8. Figure out if your Aunt Kate's potato salad recipe really is the best - visit Epicurious.com
7. Make a family documentary using old photos and video with iMovie.
6. Calculate the profits from your kids' lemonade stand with Quicken.

5. Create great playlists for your BBQ's and block parties with iTunes.
4. Get a jump on looking at colleges with your fifteen year old with the College MatchMaker tool at Collegeboard.com
3. Find some new wheels - Compare new and used cars at Edmunds.com
2. Write the great American novel...

...And the number 1 thing you can do with your laptop this summer: Forget about losing that last 15 lbs before your class reunion. Catch up with old friends with iChat instead and have another ice cream cone.

SubEthaEdit for Assessment

SubEthaEdit is a collaborative text editor that many high school teachers are beginning to use with students. Most often it's used with a group of writers who wish to create a document collaboratively, but it can also be used as a controlled chat environment. In one case, it was used as an assessment tool to check students' understanding of the elements of fiction.

Emily Ellis, an English teacher at Hall Dale High School, in collaboration with



Technology teacher Lydia Leimbach, used SubEthaEdit to assess how well her students could assume the identities of characters in the play *West Side Story* and demonstrate their

understanding of character, setting, theme, etc. To read more about this activity, go to the What Works section of *MaineLearns*.



Click on What Works

Farewell MLTI, Hello King Middle

Kelly Arsenault will be leaving the MLTI staff to take a position as a 7th grade science teacher at King Middle School. Here are her thoughts about this transition:

“Schedules, correcting papers, hallway monitoring... Do I miss it? No way! Do I miss exploring new ideas with students, sharing those “Ah-hah” moments, and being part of a child’s growth? Yup, you bet! My experience as an MLTI Statewide Integrator has been incredible however, it is time to get back to my roots and to

the true reason I became a teacher: the kids.

My return to the middle school classroom next fall will include a monthly column in the

MLTI Update. We’ll see if I can “walk the talk” in my own implementation of one-to-one technology. I’m excited about the possibilities and challenges. Best wishes to all for a restful and relaxing summer! “



Help for New Hires

Being the new kid on the block is always a challenge, and when you are a Principal, Teacher Leader, Tech Coordinator, or Librarian who is a new hire at an MLTI school, and the MLTI is new ground for you, whoa... Lots of new stuff!

Recognizing the special need to inform these new members of a school’s MLTI leadership Team about the MLTI and their roles in it, we are beginning the process of creating a set of documents, based on the Successful Strategies for MLTI Schools, which we are confident will be a big help. There will be

overviews of issues, questions to ask, and specific responsibilities, all written from each of the four different perspectives.

If you have come into an MLTI school as a newbie, and there are things you, “wish someone had told you...” please send your comments along to Jim Moulton via the Contact Us area at www.maineLearns.org, and remember - together we help each other grow and all of our schools improve.



MLTI Update

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by the MLTI Staff

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



Click on About Us

Kudos to...

... Kelly Arsenault for taking her years of MLTI experience back to where it matters the most – the classroom.

Farewell, Andrew



Quote of the Month

The problems that exist in the world today cannot be solved by the level of thinking that created them.

- *Albert Einstein*

Barbara's and Kelly's Favorites

Barbara's favorites this month are just for fun (suitable for casual summer browsing).

If you are a word lover and a punster, point your browser to *Richard Lederer's Verbivore* at <http://www.verbivore.com>. As Lederer explains, "Carnivores eat meat; herbivores eat plants and vegetables; verbivores devour words." You may be familiar with Richard Lederer's writing from his "Looking at Language" column that appears in many newspapers. Those columns are archived here, along with links to interesting "word" sites and a reading list for wordoholics.

Some of us may remember *Tom Swifties*, those adverbial puns we thought were so funny

when we were in middle school. There's a wonderful collection of them at <http://thinks.com/words/tomswift.htm> including such gems as, "It's between my sole and my heel," said Tom archly.

At the end of the summer, when you're ready to get back into a "school" frame of mind and start planning your lessons and writing new units, check out this *Authentic Assessment* site, <http://www.middleweb.com/gradexam.html>. Every now and then, we need something like this to put it all in perspective...

See you in September!