

Quick Tips

Avoiding Plagiarism

- Start with an essential question. A good question requires students to use higher level thinking skills rather than copying and pasting an answer.
- Teach students a research process and have check points along the way.
- Teach students how to quote paraphrase and summarize and how to cite their sources.
- If you suspect a piece of writing is plagiarized, try typing a block of the text, surrounded by quotation marks, into a search engine.

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March Madness

Once again the muse has let us down. (It had nothing to do with basketball...really.) We didn't quite manage to get a February issue out so we've combined issues this month. We figure, if the New Yorker can do it now and then, so can we...

A New Deployment

The bidding process for the deployment of new laptops has been completed and Apple Computer, Inc. has been selected as the top-scoring bidder. The Department of Education issued a request for proposals on January 13, 2006 for a four-year agreement to provide personal, portable computing devices with suitable basic applications for all 7th and 8th grade students and teachers, along with upgraded wireless networks for all participating middle schools, appropriate server capacity, training and technical support.

The DOE will now enter into negotiations with Apple to draw up a contract for the next 4 years. To learn more about Apple's proposal and see an overview of the components of their bid, please visit <http://www.maine.gov/mlti> or contact Jeff Mao, jeff.mao@maine.gov



Preparing for this new deployment will be a high priority of the MLTI team in the weeks to come and we strongly urge every middle school to send its leadership team to the MLTI Regional Meetings to be held in early May (see related story on page 3). Information about procedures for ending the current deployment and beginning the new one will be available then.

We are very excited about continuing MLTI for the next four years and we know you are too. The comment we hear most often from teachers around the state is, "I don't know how I could teach anymore without the laptops."

The Middle Level Education Institute

The 22nd Annual Middle Level Education Institute will be held June 25 - June 29, 2006 at the University of Maine, Orono.

The theme of the institute this year is *Simple. But Deep.* The institute is intended for schools that are ready to improve and participants are encouraged to attend in school teams. Considerable time will be devoted to teams working together with consultants on a project. Afternoon sessions will be based on topics



suggested by the teams. The MLEI will also feature extensive use of technology. Participants are encouraged to bring their laptops and wireless internet access will be available in all meeting rooms and residences.

For more information, contact Cindy Plourde, Institute Coordinator, at (207) 581-2412 or cindy.plourde@umit.maine.edu



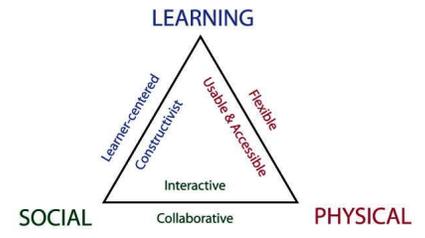
Click on Professional Development - Maine Events

Universal Design Workshops

Universal Design for Learning workshops are currently being held in each of the nine regions. MLTI has received a grant from UNUM to provide this training for all MLTI Teacher Leaders and other interested educators.

Universal Design for Learning provides a “framework for integrating flexible, usable, and accessible teaching and learning technologies with inquiry- and standards-based curriculum.” These workshops help teachers combine

universal design with backward planning and differentiation principles to



meet a wide variety of student needs and minimize the need for accommodations and modifications of curricula. For more information, click on the registration and agenda links on the front page of MaineLearns.



Click on Universal Design for Learning Workshops

Understanding Canada

Are you interested in learning more about maritime Canada?

The Canadian American Center at the University of Maine is sponsoring a week-long institute, *Understanding Canada -Focus: Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.*



The institute is open to any K-12 educator who is seeking professional development in Canada Studies. Participants will travel to Halifax, Nova Scotia and

Fredricton, New Brunswick to explore Canadian Immigration, Maritime History, Provincial and National Government, Native Studies, African-Canadians, Natural History, Literature, and Geography.

Contact hours will be awarded and graduate credit can be obtained through an arrangement with Plymouth State University.

For more information and to apply, visit the Canadian American Center web site at <http://www.umaine.edu/canam/teachingcanada.htm> or contact Betsy Arntzen, Education Outreach Coordinator. (207) 581-4225

3rd Annual Student Tech Team Conference

Partnering with the USM School of Applied Science, Engineering, and Technology (ASET), MLTI is pleased to announce that the 3rd Annual Student Tech Team Conference will be held Thursday May 25 at USM's Gorham Campus. Presenters are lining up sessions that range from the arts to virtual worlds to science probes to collecting oral histories to trouble shooting to podcasting to iMovie... and more! There will even be a session dedicated to giving participants



the most up to date information possible about the next generation MLTI iBook and some of the software that will make up the image. For the \$10 registration fee participants, both adults and students, can get a real "college experience" – from choosing sessions presented by students and staff of ASET to being treated to a continental breakfast and full lunch in the college dining hall – all included! This is going to be a great conference – make sure your students get a chance to be a part of it by registering today.



Click on MLTI Events

Internet Safety

We've heard a lot of talk lately about student blogging and social networking sites such as *MySpace*. Many teachers and administrators have asked our advice about how to cope with it.

We'd like to take this opportunity to remind you of the *NetSmartz* materials that are available to Maine educators who want to work with kids on internet safety. They are available at <http://netsmartz.org/education/me>



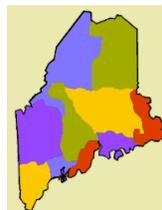
Of course, keeping kids safe on the internet is the responsibility of parents as well as educators. Parents should be made aware of potential problems with these social networking

sites. For a story about how one father dealt sensibly with his 12-year-old daughter's use of *MySpace*, please visit <http://netfamilynews.org/nl050304.html#1>

Regional Meetings

We invite all Principals, Teacher Leaders, Librarians, Technology Coordinators, Tech Leads, Curriculum Coordinators and Business Managers, to attend the MLTI Spring Regional Leadership Meetings. This meeting is critical for all of those who are planning to continue to participate in the Maine Learning Technology Initiative

The agenda for the regional meetings includes an update on MLTI procedures for the end of the year, as well as an overview of what the next four years will look like. There will be information about the buyout timeline, responsibilities at the



state, district and building level, professional development, and much more.

These meetings will be held during the first two weeks of May at locations in each of the nine regions. Each meeting will start at 9:00 am. and end at 3:00 pm. with an hour break for lunch.

For a complete list of dates, locations, and registration information, please visit

<http://www.maine.gov/mlti/events/regional>



Click on Front Page-Regional Meeting Registration

MLTI Update

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



Click on MLTI Newsletters

Kudos to...

Eric Chamberlin for his WebQuest *Is Latin Really Dead* featured on the front page of the WebQuest Portal,
<http://www.webquest.org>

Barbara's and Phil's Picks

In honor of Bernie Dodge's recent visit to Maine, Barbara's picks are all about *WebQuests*.

WebQuests are inquiry-based units of study that help students use web resources effectively. This model was developed by Bernie Dodge and Tom March at San Diego State University. To learn more about *WebQuests* and see some examples visit the original *WebQuest* site at <http://webquest.sdsu.edu/webquest.html>

In the past few years, Bernie Dodge has published a blog about *WebQuests* at <http://www.webquest.org>. Here you can read news about *WebQuests* and how they are being used and

you can use Bernie's new *WebQuest* writing tool, *QuestGarden*.

There are thousands of *WebQuests* posted on the web. To find them you only need to type a topic + *WebQuest* into any search engine. You'll find that the quality of these *WebQuests* varies greatly. If you want to really understand what makes a good *WebQuest*, get a few colleagues together and try the *WebQuest About WebQuests*,
<http://webquest.sdsu.edu/webquestwebquest-hs.html>

Next Month: Phil's Picks.



Quote of the Month

On technology professional development... "It is imperative to change teachers' practices: Therefore skills training, although important, can no longer be the sole focus of learning opportunities for teachers."

Larry Howard (McREL Podcast)