

IN THE MIDDLE

MOUSE CLICKS



Just a reminder about our **Scheduling and Technical Support Procedure**. Please call Vicky Beardsley at x. 2651 to schedule classes, laptops carts, and other computer center equipment. Also, call Vicky with all tech. support concerns. We feel we can do a better job addressing every problem if she can log the call and forward the problem to the right one of us.



This year's budget has made it possible to provide **laptop computers** to approximately 50 teachers. Our expectation is that next year's budget should allow us to provide laptops to the rest of the teaching staff.

We will have a second laptop users meeting later in the school year. At that time we're hoping to be able to share laptop strategies and successes. In the mean time, see us with questions and concerns.



Several teachers have already made use of our **laptop carts**. (We could use a collective noun to refer to laptop computers... Pride? Parliament?) The school now has four carts (!): collections of 10 in Butler, Cooper, and Popham, as well as a new cart of 20 in Popham (see picture, below right). The carts bring computer resources directly to students in the classroom. Sign up now (and help us with that name).



We have set up several computers in the new **Teacher Work Room**. Take a look; you will find two iMacs on the Network and an inkjet printer (all wireless by the way), an iMac off the network (in the finder for iMovie), and the Dell from the Teacher's Dining Room (also now with a wireless card).



Looking for a field trip? (well, maybe a weekend outing.) How about the new **Apple Store** at Tice's Corners in Woodcliff Lake, NJ. Take a look on the Apple Web Site (<http://www.apple.com/retail/>)



Dateline SMS

Andy Verboys' Technology 8 classes have begun an ambitious video news project. The interdisciplinary activity is an important part of an eighth grade curriculum recently revised to correlate with New York State standards placing an emphasis on problem-solving skills.

Andy has divided his classes into groups of approximately four students called *News Trucks*, each of which will produce TV news stories on events related to Scarsdale Middle School. *News Trucks* brainstorm story ideas, reach consensus on a story, write monologues, and film interviews and related footage – all under the supervision of Andy and Ken Holvig, who has been able to provide support for the project. Popham 8 English teacher Kathy Connon, whose students have been the first group to work on the project, has also been able to contribute to the activity.

News Trucks are using digital video cameras for filming and iMovie to edit their stories. The finished news stories will be middle school-scale Dateline-style QuickTime movies. Other eighth grade teams will have the additional responsibility of producing the news show (*Dateline SMS*), which will be filmed in the news room Andy has built in his technology classroom.

Dateline SMS is tentatively scheduled to premiere in January. Students will have the opportunity to watch the broadcast on Scarsdale's local cable station.



Project Miscellany^{Art}

This month we have chosen to highlight recent computer-based work from Art classes. Both Linda Fisher and Denise Monda's classes have been working with Liz Waltzman on art history research. Linda's Butler 8 students used the Internet to research art movements and PowerPoint presentations to share what they learned with their classmates. Butler 6 worked with Denise and Liz to research and create PowerPoint presentations about an individual artist.

Linda and Carla Lichty have created activities in which Photoshop is the student's artistic medium (please note that Linda is teaching two STI classes on Photoshop in the next month). Carla's Butler 7 students experimented with a variety of Photoshop tools as they created original abstract works as a culmination to a Kandinsky unit. Working with Photoshop, Linda and Butler 8 students designed the artwork for a CD jewel case which incorporated reproductions of the work of artists of their choosing.



New Technology at Scarsdale Middle School
(sample assessment question)

- This is a picture of
- The new boiler at SMS.
 - The kitchen's new teacher snack trolley.
 - A prop for Ken and Doug's magic show.
 - None of the above.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

You can find information about the following technology courses, as well as other STI programs, at the STI's web site (below). Online registration is available.

11/13 *Internet Without Wires:*

Using the iBook

Early Bird Technology Workshop

Ken Holvig, Doug Rose

Join us as we explore the potential of wireless computing. This will be a hands-on activity. Bring your own, or we'll supply you with one."

11/16 *STI #2458 Photoshop Jumpstart,*

Linda Fisher

"Participants will start to master Photoshop's powerful arsenal of tools and features and begin creating exciting images for presentations and projects."

11/16 *STI #2463 Introduction to*

FileMaker Pro, Doug Rose

"The course will introduce the powerful database software FileMaker Pro [and] participants will have the opportunity to consider instructional applications."

11/27 *iThink therefore iMovie*

Early Bird Technology Workshop

Ken Holvig, Andy Verboys

"Ken and Andy will walk you to one of the most innovative, intuitive programs for making your own digital movies."

11/30 *STI #2464 Computers and*

Problem Solving Using

Microworlds, Jerry Crisci

"Microworlds is one of the few programs specifically designed to teach problem-solving to children and early adolescents."

12/4 *Kai's PowerShow:*

Multimedia Gratification

Early Bird Technology Workshop

"Want to learn how to make a multimedia slide show, complete with music, in less than 5 minutes? Get the inside scoop on this great program."

12/7 *STI #2469 Advanced Photoshop*

Linda Fisher

"The goal of this course is to further participants' confidence to create interesting images for use with other presentation software."

12/7 *STI #2455 iThink therefore*

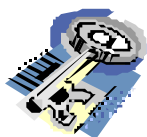
iMovie, Ken Holvig, Andy

Verboys

"The goal of this course is to help teachers design curriculum projects using the iMovie technology that enhance students' reports and research projects."

Scarsdale Teachers Institute

<http://www.scarsdaleschools.org/sti>



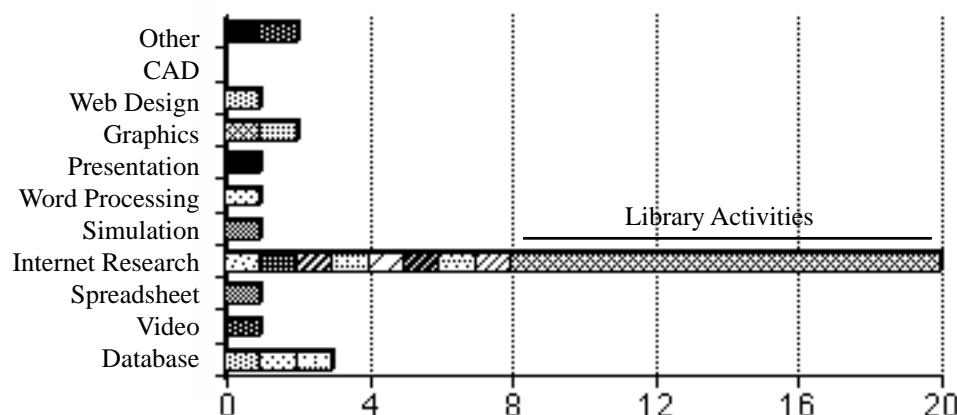
Center Database Maps Technology Projects

Last month we included a brief introduction to the NETS project. The Computer Center has begun to use a database that helps us map student use of educational technology here at the middle school. The data we are collecting will help provide a clearer understanding of trends in instructional use of computers in our labs, libraries, and classrooms.

This database will serve as a clearinghouse of best practices for teachers looking to integrate technology into their teaching. Teachers can also use the Technology Foundations Standards for Students (TFSS) and, especially, the performance indicators which follow as guidelines for planning technology-based activities:

1. Apply strategies for identifying and solving routine hardware and software problems that occur during everyday use.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of current changes in information technologies and the effect those changes have on the workplace and society.
3. Exhibit legal and ethical behaviors when using information and technology and discuss consequences of misuse.
4. Use content-specific tools, software and simulations (e.g., environmental probes, graphing calculators, exploratory environments, Web tools) to support learning and research.
5. Apply productivity/multimedia tools and peripherals to support personal productivity, group collaboration, and learning throughout the curriculum.
6. Design, develop, publish and present products (e.g., Web pages, video tapes) using technology resources that demonstrate and communicate curriculum concepts to audiences inside and outside the classroom.
7. Collaborate with peers, experts, and others using telecommunications and collaborative tools to investigate curriculum-related problems, issues, and information, ... develop solutions or products for audiences inside and outside the classroom.
8. Select and use appropriate tools and technology resources to accomplish a variety of tasks and solve problems.
9. Demonstrate an understanding of concepts underlying hardware, software, and connectivity, and practical applications to learning and problem solving.
10. Research and evaluate the accuracy, relevance, appropriateness, comprehensiveness, and bias of electronic information sources concerning real-world problems.

OCTOBER SOFTWARE OVERVIEW



This simple bar chart shows the distribution of October's educational technology activities with respect to software genres. The "Other" category includes computer-based tools like the Family and Consumer Science's COIN program and Technology's engraving activity.