The Computer Center
Scarsdale Middle School
6.19.2003

In the Middle

Mouse Clicks

We end the year with our 2002-2003 Computer Center Top Ten List. (In honor of the Apple Macintosh OS, our *Top X List*.) We've written frequently and offered regular workshops addressing the transition to OS X. Beginning in September, all classroom computers, as well as every teacher laptop re-imaged with the latest versions of familiar software, will be upgraded to OS X.

We are looking forward to working with a Jaguar (soon to be *Panther*, we hear)-powered faculty in the Fall. In addition, we are excited about the following developments sure to have a major impact on instructional technology in Scarsdale Middle School.

In the area of networking...

10. DHCP A little dry, but this networking protocol change makes a big difference in how computers in the school connect to our network.
9. Wireless Network We will continue to improve and expand our Airport Network.
8. eMail We've only just begun to realize the potential.

In the area of hardware...

7. Video Conferencing We pilot a project next year in the middle school. Think connections with museums, cultural institutions, other schools...
6. Data Projectors Think Steve Goodman.
5. Digital Microscopes USB 200x microscopes that show digital images (photo or video) on the computer. Can be use with #6 and #7.

In the area of software...

4. Studio MX Actually a suite of professional web development software (including Dreamweaver and Flash).
3. eZedia QTI (QuickTime Interactive) HyperStudio on steroids? Flash Lite? Interactive movies.
2. FileMaker Pro We know you've heard this before, but we think the potential as a tool for collaboration and showing connections, including links to the Internet, is huge.
1. iLife Finally, Apple's Digital Hub suite: iTunes, iPhoto, iMovie and iDVD. We are convinced there are great curriculum applications just waiting to be discovered by Scarsdale Middle School's talented teachers.

Computer Center Grows with SMS

Those of us for whom *The Future* is usually measured in megaherz, and hardware is something we look to Cupertino for, have begun – like everyone else – to think about the ways in which the changing building impacts the work we do. Of course, changes in the Computer Center mean changes for teachers and students throughout the school.

What won't change? The Library will continue to be able to provide full-class instruction using computers, and teachers will be able to schedule carts of laptops for use by students in the classroom. While the CAMP room will become Linda Fisher's art room, the Related Arts department will be able to schedule time in a Digital Design Lab at one end of the existing Computer Center (which will become Jeff Tuttle's Technology classroom).

The 2003-2004 school year should begin with all teachers able to schedule classes into two new computer labs, the new Popham and Fountain facilities. The new Cooper lab should come online with the completion of that house's renovation in the middle of the year, and the Butler lab will open in September of 2004. In addition, the school's need for space will allow us to turn the one-time teacher workroom/assistant principal's office into a technology training suite for teachers.

It is with anticipation (and some terror) that we begin to plan for this decentralization of the technology resources. After the dust clears, we will enjoy a greater number of lab spaces and, for most teachers and students, more convenient access to these labs. While the choreography of scheduling and providing support (both technical and instructional) will evolve as we explore ways to derive the greatest benefit from the new Scarsdale Middle School Computer Center, we are officially excited.

Project Overview

Recent projects in the Computer Center have provided students with opportunities to use technology in the usual variety of interesting, thought-provoking instructional contexts. In addition to ongoing work making exemplary use of Internet resources, two categories of projects seen this Spring include instructional the use of Apple's Digital Hub and FileMaker projects in which multi-user databases support collaborative learning.

A new "digital" giraffe project was piloted where students identified a "giraffe", (an ordinary person who sticks his or her neck out), then made an iMovie celebrating that person. The project, spearheaded by Len Tallevi and Joe Cesarano, is featured on the Apple Learning Interchange website at www.apple.com/ali.

The Cooper Eight Stamp Project began life as an interdisciplinary exploration of human rights violations (English and Social Studies) and continued with the design of an original commemorative stamp using Photoshop (Art). A small group of students continued, using a combination of iPhoto, iMovie, iTunes and iDVD to create an original film memorial.

Joanne Harris and Ellen DeSantis added an exciting new database component to the spreadsheet and graphing work of their highly successful stock tracking project. Students used FileMaker Pro to share research, Internet links and original market analysis. They also consulted each other's spreadsheets and graphs (copied into the database) while completing what Joanne called an "investment scavenger hunt."

The Cooper Six Construction Journal archives student writing about the school construction project and digital photographs taken from Cooper 153. The database provided an environment for individual and peer editing, as well as a number of tools to facilitate the design of picture books.

Professional Development

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

Scarsdale Teachers Institute
http://www.scarsdaleschools.org/sti

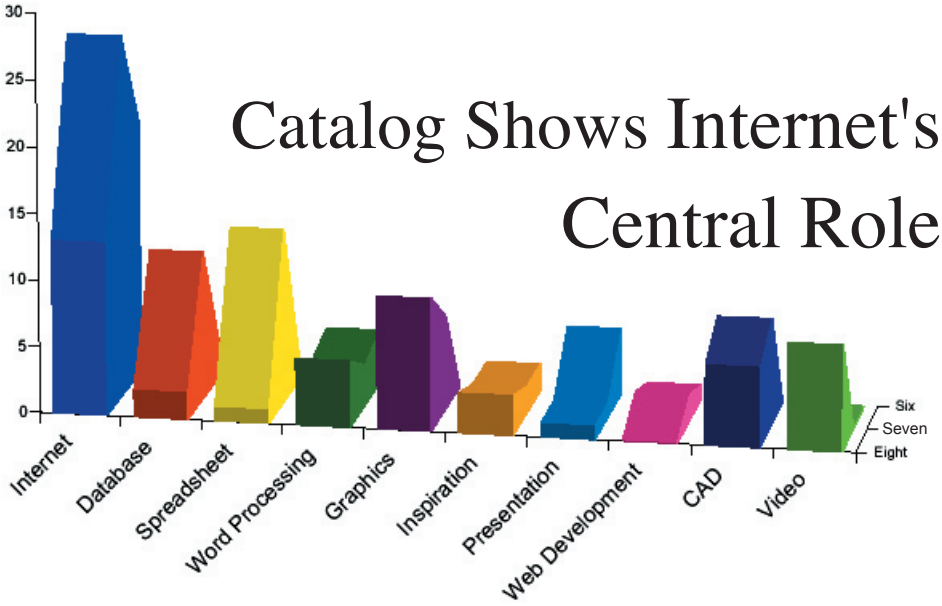
FileMaker Pro: Introductory and Advanced Database Development
Database software can promote collaboration, critical analysis, and seeing connections. This series of courses introduces teachers to the powerful database software FileMaker Pro... not so much an application as a set of tools for building your own programs. Teachers may choose to enroll in either ***Doug Rose's*** *introductory course* ***(July 8-9)*** *or the intermediate/advanced course* ***(July 22-23)*** *with* ***Jerry Crisci*** *and* ***Doug Rose****.*

TLC: Teacher, Library, and Computer Collaboration. Doug Rose, Liz Waltzman, Sharon Waskow. July 14-15
This two day course will allow teachers to design and redesign research-based projects in which the content, research, and technology components are seamlessly integrated. The TLC model, developed by Middle School librarians and computer teachers, emphasizes professional collaboration, assessment design and a learning plan that demonstrates a balance between process and product.

Assessing Computer Use in Schools Doug Rose. July 16-17
Educational technology continues to lead to the development off new and exciting activities. And while traditional academic skills remain the core of the teaching in many classrooms, even standard computer applications can alter the ways students work and the kind of work they do. ISTE's National Educational Technology Standards project will provide the primary theoretical framework for the course's exploration of the educational technology curriculum, including the design and evaluation of student work.

iWeek: Harnessing the Power of the Digital Hub. Jerry Crisci, Ken Holvig, Andy Verboys. August 11-14
Participants will have the opportunity to explore the curriculum applications of iPhoto, iTunes, iMovie and iDVD. At the conclusion of the course, teachers should understand the basics of each application and will create an instructional activitiy using at least one element of the digital hub. Additionally, participants will generate an appropriate assessment strategy for the activity (rubric, checklist, etc.)

Catalog Shows Internet's Central Role



The Computer Center Catalog continues to provide us with a lens through which we can understand our students' experience with educational applications of technology. As you can see, teachers are designing activities that make significant use of the Internet with far greater frequency than they design activities using other software applications. The majority of these activities are researched-based in some sense, and a number of the web resources provide students with the opportunity to work with increasingly dynamic and interactive educational sites.

What follows is a representative baker's dozen. By the way, we also encourage you to take a look at the sites Liz and Sharon mention below, as well as those found on the Library's website.

The Artchive *(www.artchive.com)* A wonderful source of fine art images and activities.
Bartlett's Quotations *(www.bartleby.com/100)* The classic resource... online.
The British Museum *(www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk)* Tremendous resources for studying culture and history throughout the world.
Career Cruising *(www.careercruising.com)* Career inventory and information.
Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion *(www.usda.gov/cnpp)* Nutritional index and facts.
Exploratorium: The museum of science, art and human perception *(www.exploratorium.edu)* Great science activities.
The Franklin Institute Online *(sln.fi.edu)* More great science activities.
Mad Science *(www.madscience.org)* Even more science activities. Check the links page.
Powerful Bones *(www.cdc.gov/powerfulbones/index2.html)* Games, Information, Links...
Public Agenda Online *(www.publicagenda.org)* Public opinion, policy analysis, facts, surveys...
Public Broadcasting *(www.pbs.org)* Supplementary information for highly-regarded programs.
Shakespeare Navigators *(www.clicknotes.com)* Criticism and annotations for Romeo and Juliet.
Smartmouth.org *(www.cspinet.org/smartmouth/index1.html)* Another snappy nutrition site.

BiblioBytes

Liz Waltzman and Sharon Waskow

Summer is coming, and our thoughts are turning to baking in the sun at the beach, trekking in foreign lands, barbecues on the deck and, of course, developing new lessons or renovating a unit. The library's web page can help. Take a look at *Teacher Resources* and then *Teachers' Tools* for a fresh list of resources. Here you will find links to *Newseum* which provides the front page of approximately 200 of taoday's newspapers worldwide, *Survey Monkey*, a tool for creating a survey and *Teoma.com* a search engine that provides ideas for refining your search.

If you are fishing for new ideas, dive again into the Library's website. We encourage you to consider developing a curriculum web site with us. Take a look at two sites we created with teachers this year through an LSTA grant. Steve Goodman worked with Liz to publish a Social Action website to promote good citizenship. You will find it under *Class Projects* for Cooper 7. Tammy Marchini and Sharon published *Food for Thought* to support a unit on nutrition. Find it under *Class Projects* for Butler 7.

Finally, if you don't find July 4th fireworks exciting enought, consider taking *TLC*, our STI course (with Doug Rose), which meets on July 14th and 15th. We promise that by the end of the course you will have that idea fully realized.

Have a great sunny summer!