

Technology is not just for Geeks

Saturday, March 26th

I. Introduction/Technology in the Classroom:

II. **Complete a /Lesson:** “ My Hotel Stay” The project will be saved and emailed to the participants at the end of the class as part of the lesson.)

Step 1: Determining what elements are important to the lesson (15 minutes)

Step 2: Photographing the steps with a digital camera (25 minutes)

At the Same Time as the photos are taken

Step 4: Lesson set-up in Microsoft Word (Creating tables will be taught at this time)

Step 5: Preparing the Text (Internet research will be used and photos will be copied and pasted into our lesson.) (25 minutes)

Step 6: Combining the elements/Importing photos (20 minutes)

Step 7: Printing the elements (5 minutes)

Step 8: Laminating and cutting (15 minutes)

Step 9: Sending an email with this attachment (5 minutes)

Step 10: Burning a CD with this lesson (5 minutes)

II. Handouts:

- a. Pros & Cons of Technology in the Classroom
- b. Sample newsletter (Created in-house with Publisher)
- c. Resources;
Teacher Planning Sites
Children’s Interactive Education Sites



From Grinningplanet.com

Summary

➤ Pros & Cons

Pros	Cons
Problem-solving computer games and activities teach children as young as kindergarten to make choices and decision.	Physical ailments: nearsightedness, posture and repetitive stress injuries among students who began using computers at a young age. Lack of exercise.
Computers enhance basic skills such as spelling, punctuation and grammar. *No negative effects on handwriting have been found.	Concern over emotional isolation. Children at a young age need contact and the bonds they develop with friends, teachers and family. Will technology affect these bonds.
Promotes self-direction, discipline and motivation when working on a computer independently at a young age.	Technology cannot solve all the ills of education. Young children needs are real “low-tech” and require range of physical, emotional, and social, as well as cognitive.
Older children’s ability to research the world around them and discover a larger community.	Danger of exposure to violent images, threats from online predators and other dangers of internet usage
Improves mathematics skills directly when used everyday for up to 20 minutes per day.	Will there be educational disadvantages for minority children.

For more information: Visit AllianceforChildhood.com and download, **Fool’s Gold: A Critical Look at Computers in Childhood.** Edited by Colleen Cordes and Edward Miller(60 pages.)

or visit www.Question.com. It is the largest online library in the world. They charge a monthly or annual fee. Print the article **Computers and Early Childhood Education. Young Children at Computers.** Douglas H. Clements State University of New York at Buffalo * Bonnie K. Nastasi Illinois State University

Buy Jane Healey’s **Failure to Connect**

➤ Suggestions for In-class Computer Usage

- a. Research on Class Projects
- b. Email partnerships with a school from another country discussing special events, customs, projects.
- c. Accessing images, photos, clip art for special projects.
- d. Student created yearbook
- e. Create class bulletin board for class updates, homework, or calendars
- f. Encarta or Grollier encyclopedia for class projects.
- g. Classroom newsletter.
- h. Special software to enhance curriculum.

- **Resources:** There are so many resources to list that it is truly overwhelming. I have chosen a few in each category I find useful. For additional websites, I recommend the book **1001 Best Websites for Educators by Timothy Hopkins. Teacher Created Materials ISBN 0-7439-3877-1.** For recommendations on software, I recommend you visit Choosingsoftware.com. So far, most of their ratings have been accurate. The one thing I have found is most of the software designed for Pre-K Kindergarten is too easy for the Montessori Kindergarten students.

Teacher Planning Sites

www.lessonplanz.com: AN extensive lesson planning site, more sophisticated than lessonplanet and more in depth. Includes, clear teacher instructions, samples of work and even experiments or projects to go with the lesson.

www.Edhelper.com: Excellent resource for review or test questions on every subject a student will encounter in school. The site is designed by age and even term in school. You can choose one topic or mix your questions.

www.Enchantedlearning.com: Free, but they request you make a donation if you feel the site is beneficial. It is great for activity ideas, in-class usage and handout for special projects. The only downside I have found so far is that the content does not change very often.

www.A.J.com: This is the search engine I begin with. Other sites return more hits but their engine provides a solid place to start.

www.Education-world.com: Another search engine but this one is especially designed for teachers. Their synopsis of each site is wonderful and accurate - which is helpful when winding your way through the internet.

www.AtoZteacherstuff.com: Similar to Lessonplanz, (directly linked) but I like it also for their articles and their teacher forums. You can research issues you are facing or post a question regarding anything from behavior to ideas on special projects. I also like it because it is one of the few sites that has solid lessons on computer usage in class and for projects for all ages. They are posted by real teachers that have used them in class. They cover current events, geography, history and combine current readers with some of the exercises.

www.worldbank.org: A great resource for research on Early Childhood Education in the United States and abroad. In addition, check out this specific page:

www.worldbank.org/children/basics/sites.htm. This is short page listing some of the best resources online pertaining to Early Childhood Education. Links to journals, statistics and country specific data. There are only 7 or 8 sites listed so you will not get overwhelmed.

In-class Online Sites

www.Brainpop.com: My favorite all time site. There is a fee for home usage or school usage and it is well worth the investment. The fee is minimal – less than \$50 for a year. There are tons of short movies less than 3 minutes long with cartoon characters for the narrators. They also conduct a short quiz afterward that the student can read and hear at the same time. The student answers 5 – 10 questions. The films cover everything from food digestion to the solar system and they are fun for all ages. I have not heard one negative comment from a parent yet.

www.Starfall.com: This site is primarily for the young beginning reader but it is one a child can complete on their own. It helps them sound out basic word groupings if they get stuck and there is a brief quiz at the end of each story for retention. Worth a visit whether you use it at school or at home.

www.tumblebooks.com: Another great site for the beginning reader. Interactive, easy to use and assists in developing language and comprehension skills in the early reader.

www.animal.discovery.com: Click on the fun and games section. It contains crossword puzzles, animal solitaire, animal **Mah Jahogg** and more. It is the website for Animal Planet but it is definitely a learning experience for all ages.

www.Funbrain.com: A tried a true website that just reinvented it self. The site has learning games broken down by age and topic. The site also has a teacher and parent section if you want to pass it on to your families. It is a wonderful curriculum enhancer and a lot of fun!

www.Discoveryschool.com: This is another amazing site. The primary focus is on getting children to think and use their creativity. They can create cryptograms, crossword puzzles, take BrainBooster challenges, research cool science projects and even download clipart. It is another winner!

There are so many sites available for teachers and students right now, the problem is finding the time to visit them all. Start with these if you have not tried them and pick up the book. The book covers all areas of a school curriculum as well as research resources, Diversity, music Publications, Funding Sources and more...



Summit School
April 2004

Summit Times

Montessori Education Corner

Intrinsic Rewards vs. External Rewards



Dr. Maria Montessori

Intrinsic Reward

1. Brings forth intelligent behavior.
2. Builds sensitivity to inner guides.
3. Learning is natural, spontaneous and genuine. Leads to self-development.
4. Learning lasts. Requires very little maintenance.
5. Produces individuals with knowledge grounded solidly upon personal discovery.
6. Elevates both the individual and society.
7. The flame of learning springs from within the child.
8. The child experiences lots moments of Ah! Ha!

External Reward

1. Offers blind conditioned response.
2. Obscures children's connection with the inner guides.
3. Learning is the product of coercion, cajoling and suppression. Leads to dependency.
4. Learning is temporary. It requires continual maintenance.
5. Produces dependent individuals, ever hungry for yet one more empty reward.
6. Supports incompetence and denies growth.
7. Depends on others as a source of inspiration/
8. Lots of moment where the child says, "Do I have to?"

Ms Gloria and the Cayo Cost Camping



4th grade girls relaxing!

Camp - classroom we are finishing our ing is Timeline of life work. We are part of also beginning a unit on creat h e t i v e writing. Practi- April's field c a l trip will take L i f e us to Spanish c u r - River Beach.



Do they have a dishwasher?

riculum in the Upper Elementary Montessori curriculum. This year our trip took us to Cayo Costa Island. Riding the ferry, playing Spirit Creature Game and "pitching & striking tents were some the highlights. In the

We also had a great visit with our friends from Norway this month. Finally, a special thank you to Mr. Pete Posk for making CDs of our whole camping trip for every student. We are very fortunate to have parents like you!



Order up!



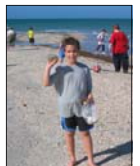
Good friends



Our brave teachers!



Camping is hard work!



Sand Dollars are everywhere!



Dates to Remember

April

- 15 Teachers' Luncheon 11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.
- 16 Grandparent's or Special Person's Day 8:30—9:30 a.m.
- 22-25 AMS Teacher Conf. Boston, Mass (Classrooms closed 4.22 & 4.23)
- 28 & 29 Elementary Pre-Testing

May

- 3 May Day Celebration 9:00 a.m.
- 4 & 5 Kindergarten Testing
- 4—13 Standardized Testing—Elementary
- 13 PA Meeting 7:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.
- 20 Teachers' Luncheon 11:30 a.m. —1:30 p.m.
- 21 Preschool & Elementary Early Dismissal **Noon**
- 25 Kindergarten Graduation 7:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.
- 28 Elementary Preschool & Toddler Progress Reports Issued
- 31 Memorial Day Holiday **SCHOOL CLOSED**

Classroom Notes

Miss Jo & Miss Marcela

Happy Spring! Everyone is back in the wing of things after our Spring Break. The children are really enjoying the art supplies that Cathy Howard donated to the school. Thanks to her and Office Depot! We are looking forward to Grandparent's Day on Friday, April 16. Phillip Tassi turns 3 this month and Thomas Chapman turns 2.

Happy Birthday!

Miss Desiree & Miss Irene

I hope everyone had a nice Spring Break. During the month of April, we will plant some herbs in our garden that our students can use in the Community lunch. The children enjoy watching our special projects grow and bloom.

Miss Lynn—The Library

The USS Summit continues to barrel through space on its return to Earth. Thank you for supporting this project by promoting reading in your home. The rewards for your children are great.

Upper Elementary students continue to learn what a bibliography is and how it is constructed.

Multi-national themes will be presented to the pres-school classes beginning this month. Looking ahead: Summer reading packages and a "Return to Earth" in May.

Miss Ann & Miss Nancy

Welcome Back! Thank you to all of the Earth History Timeline Bench bidders. We are sure our bench has all of the "Benchmarks" of becoming a family heirloom. The Carpenter family will enjoy it for a long time to come. Congratulations!

We are going to miss Miss Christy desperately, but are extremely excited about the arrival Kai Gabriel. Fortunately, Miss Libby will be filling in, so we are sure to have a

lovely and smooth transition. Thank you Miss Libby!

Finally, we are very excited about our upcoming trip to the AMS convention in Boston. Thanks to all our families who have generously supported our fundraisers which make this annual dream a reality. We will arrive home invigorated, inspired and laden with new ideas to implement in your children's environment.

Second Annual Science Fair Gets Rave Reviews!

Here are a few photos from our Science Fair. Enjoy!



Carly & Murphy explain Gemstones!



Anriduh takes a close look at our cells.

Thanks to Jordan, we all know about Tribolites.



Volcanoes are always fun!



Madison C & Madison M review the Skeleton.



Kevin explains how Sugar Crystals are made!



Ms Rachelle & Miss Mary & Miss Susanna

Welcome Back! We hope you had an enjoyable holiday. Thank you to those who bid on our Fish hook rug. The children had a wonderful time making it and we congratulate the Grant family on their bid!

Thank you for the FABULOUS teacher luncheon. The teachers enjoyed it tremendously. We truly appreciate the delicious contributions!!!

The children had a blast making their "Faberge" eggs. The process was fun and they turned out delightful. The egg hunt, cookie decorating, and dessert party were all a big success. Thank you to Lorraine Chapman for all your help.

The teachers leave for our annual teacher conference in Boston on Wednesday. We look forward to bring back exciting new lessons for the children.

Classroom Notes

Miss Angela C & Miss Gina

Happy Spring one and all. We hope your break was as relaxing as ours. The children are excited to be back and we're certain you are too! The science study this month is on the Earth which coincides with our classroom study of the planets. We will also take a closer look at insects and animal life of the spring. We'd like to

thank all the parents who have signed up for gardening and reading especially Carrie Musa, Rene Luptak and Alyssa Sussman. There's still space if you're able to volunteer. We'd also like to thank Kelly Tirik for the news plants for our garden, Rene Luptah for the berry-baskets and Liza Cameron for the jelly bellies with which we filled our eggs for the hunt on April 2nd. The children had so much fun decorating and weaving their own baskets. This month. We'd like to wish a very happy 6th birthday to both Calum and Eirk.

Ms Angela G & Miss Caroline

Welcome back everyone! I hope you enjoyed yourselves during the Spring Break! Last month we had a great time learning about Sea life! This is International month. We will be reading stories and folktales from many lands and learning to greet one another in different languages. If any of our parents want to share their cultural background, demonstrate your cooking skills,

musical skills, or just your childhood stories, we would love to have you visit our classroom. Please let us know if you have time to spare! A sign-up sheet will be posted outside our classroom for the cooking and gardening volunteers. Please let us know if you are available - we really need the help!

Next month, our last month of school will be very busy. Look for special notices in your child's Friday folder pertaining to upcoming events; Pajama Party, End of the Year party, and Hat and Game Day!

Ms Cindy & Miss Nena

Spring is here! Welcome back from Spring Break. We hope you all had an enjoyable & restful time. Before we left for our break, we had our Spring Craft day & Easter Egg Hunt. The children had a wonderful time. Thank you to Sharon Hill for putting the whole day together for us. A big thank you to the moms for helping with the projects.

We hope our grandparents had a nice time when they visited our classrooms on Friday. Ms. Nena and I will be in Boston this week for the AMS Teachers Conference. We look forward to bringing back many new lessons!

Miss Jeanne & Miss Maria

Happy Spring! Our classroom is hopping with excitement after our much need and appreciated Spring break. - We hope yours was fun! April is international month; so we will be reading stories from all over the world as well as learning about children from other countries.

Show & Tell on the 30th will have this theme so please help your child find something from a country they lived in, visited, or have family. Thanks for your continued kindness & support!

The AMS conference is coming soon. We look forward to learning new things and purchasing new materials.

A special April birthday wish to Miss Maria on the 14th.

Thank You' s & MayDay

MayDay

We celebrate May Day on May 3rd. May Day is a festival that marks the arrival of Spring, is a day celebrated with music, flowers, and dancing around a maypole. Summit children celebrate this tradition each year. Each child will complete a class project relating to the days of damsels and jesters. A King and Queen of May will be chosen to represent each class and will be coroneted before their friends dance around the maypole to music with a renaissance flair. If you would like to attend this 20 minute program, please check with your teacher for the schedule.



Spring Fling Photos

Testing

Kindegarten students are participating in the Gesell Testing during the weeks of May 4—7. This tests developmental readiness for first grade. Please be sure your child is well rested and eats a healthy breakfast during the scheduled testing weeks. Results will be distributed to parents after they are scored and evaluated.

Summit Summer Camp

There are limited spaces available for our Summer Camp. If you need an application or have any questions, please call the office. We have a great summer planned!

After-school Update

Thank you for all your patience the last semester of after-school. It is a little crazy.

- There are no classes the 22nd.
- Yoga missed on Wed., April 21st will be made up on May 26th.
- Karate, Art & Golf will be made up on May 27th.

GOLF: Some of the dates were omitted. There are a total of 8 classes in this session. I have listed the missing dates below.

Thursday, April 29th.

Thursday, May 6th

Thursday, May 27th

KARATE: the last class on May 27th will be a demonstration of their technique. Bring your cameras, it is amazing!



What a gorgeous crew!

Jeanne, Starr and her husband, Calvin. We miss you!



The Bisarias enjoy a night out without the children!



First Spring Fling Huge Success!

By Marianne Pavelic



The Sussmans have an evening out!

Our Parent Association sponsored event held at Maggiano' on Saturday, March 27th was a huge success! This was the first event of its kind for Summit Private School, and hopefully the beginning of an annual tradition. We presented The Haven with a generous donation, paid for our pleasurable evening, and we still have plenty left over for our special projects here at the campus.

For those of you that attended, the evening was quite festive. We began with our abundant buffet selections, our butler passed hor d'oeuvres and the pasta station were all in full action. The open bar... for adults only of course was a nice treat. Votive

candles candles and flowers graced the room as our DJ spun tunes that had the crowd on their feet. Soon the dance floor was packed and everyone had a great time showing off his or her moves.

The 61 silent auction items were elegantly displayed around the room. Our heirloom furniture pieces created by the children in their individual classrooms were a huge hit. All of our parents marveled at the artistic creativity and colorful presentation.

For those of you not in attendance, you really missed a great evening! Hopefully, you can join us next year as we prepare to celebrate our 20th year serving the friends and families of our community.

Thank you all for your support and generosity. We look forward to see you all there next year



The staff socializes with families and friends!



Dr Gary Rose, and "The Angela's" share a laugh!



Robyn Ireland & Noreen Zakka enjoy a