



Technology Tid-Bits

Learning technology one byte at a time.....

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Year of AWESOMENESS Winding Down

As our year of “awesomeness” winds to a close, I just wanted to thank everyone that has contributed to this Technology Tid-Bits newsletter. Maggie Davis, in particular, has done an outstanding job as our editor, and it is very much appreciated.

I always look forward to reading the great things that our teachers are doing to utilize instructional technology in the classroom. It is absolutely amazing and our students will be well prepared as the digital citizens of the future.

Our summer professional learning institute, **Learning Safari**, will be taking place the week of July 20-24 at Lakeside High School and there will be numerous technology-oriented courses available if you are interested. We will be sending out the registration information soon, so make sure and sign up before classes get full.

Also, Todd Whitaker, a well known educational author, will be speaking on Friday July 24 at LHS to

close out our Learning Safari. The afternoon session will be open for any teacher to attend, so make sure to register for his workshop on *What Great Teachers Do Differently*. He is a fantastic speaker and truly knows his “stuff”.

Until then, let’s get through our annual testing “festival” and finish out this school year strong. Thanks for everything you do to make our system so AWESOME!

-Jeff Carney

EMS eCYBERMISSION Team is a Region Finalist!

Lauren Kraft, Alexis Davis, and Will Guy (team LAW) teamed up to enter the US Army’s eCYBERMISSION and solve a local problem.

During February 11-13, 2014, freezing rain brought ice accumulations and severely damaged forests and community trees across parts of the Southeast (Atlanta to Charlotte), specifically, the Combined Savannah River Area (CSRA) where the LAW team lives. The ice storm was traumatic. After the storm, homeowners faced the dilemma of assessing whether a tree could be saved or whether it was

damaged/defected beyond repair. The LAW team’s mission was to design a mobile application to assist homeowners in the identification of pine and oak trees that needed to be repaired or removed. The homeowners needed to know the condition of these trees before making hasty judgments to ensure all options were considered.

Their application enables the homeowner to systematically conduct a risk assessment to determine the level of tree damage/defect. The application helps the homeowner deal with the

challenge of deciding which trees can be pruned properly to a healthy state and which trees should be removed.

Team LAW placed 1st in the state of Georgia and received a \$1,000 savings bond per student. They were also selected as a top three team in the southeast region and each member received another \$1,000 savings bond. If chosen as the region winner, each member will receive an additional \$2,000 savings bond and an all expenses trip to Washington DC to compete in the National competition.

—David Phillips, EMS





**“The one
exclusive sign
of thorough
knowledge is
the power of
teaching.”**

Aristotle



**“Oh, the things
you can find if
you don’t stay
behind.”**

Dr. Seuss



Changing the Face of Collaboration

Let’s face it, educators are busy! Attending meetings sometimes gets lost in the need to prepare for tomorrow’s lessons, helping students find valuable resources, or organizing an important after school event. With these and many other considerations, educators are finding more creative ways to collaborate and incorporating technology throughout the process.

One free and easy way to video conference with others is Google Hangouts. Google Hangouts allows up to ten friends to join a live video chat; it works across computers and on Android and IOS devices. With an active Google+ account, access to group chat and voice or video calls is right at your fingertips. With cool built-in tools including screen sharing and capture, Google Hangouts allows all

participants to have equal voice and video throughout the session. Still have some who can’t make the meeting? No problem, Google Hangout On Air allows for scheduled meetings to broadcast live; when it’s over, a recording appears on the YouTube account of the person who started the hangout for viewing after the hangout is complete. Recently, the high school media specialists held a collaborative meeting using Google Hangouts to discuss libraries of the future. Trina Finley, a High School Media Specialist at Greenbrier High School, recently participated in the High School Media Share online collaborative meeting and shared her thoughts on using Google Hangouts, “Students use Google

Hangouts for socializing and networking with each other already. It was nice using Google Hangouts to do the same thing. I enjoyed being able to stay at my school instead of driving to another location. As an added bonus, our future intern was able to see how the media specialists in our county are using current technology and joined in on the conversation.”

Although collaboration via a virtual setting is not the same experience as face-to-face, a rich, exciting, and productive meeting can still occur online. Try something new for your next collaborative meeting! Host a Google Hangout and let the discussion begin!

--[Angela P. Simpson](#), EHS

Choosing iPad Apps for Elementary Students

Last month we looked at ways to incorporate an iPad into an elementary classroom. Now it is time to choose the best apps for your students. My first suggestion for finding great apps for your grade level is by visiting the site www.smartappsforkids.com. Not only can you sign up for free app alerts, emails are sent daily to let you know what apps are free or on sale for that week. The website also lists the top ten apps for each grade level. The website has suggested apps for special education as

well.

Are you looking to increase rigor in content, process, and product, while engaging a student’s interests? One of my favorite apps to use in the classroom is [iMovie](#). This app is a great collaborative experience where students get to plan, act, and shoot their own movie trailer! Link the trailers to stories in Language Arts, Math, historical events in Social Studies, school events, field trips, etc. [iMovie](#) allows the students an opportunity to analyze,

evaluate and create. By the way, these are the highest skills on Bloom’s Taxonomy.

[Little Story Maker](#) and [Little Story Creator](#) are both free apps that encourage writing. Students can select from story book templates and turn uploaded photographs into stories. They can even add their voice to the story. Students can make their story interactive by adding word or picture highlights that respond to touch.

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There are also many apps that allow you to create a story as a group. [Sock Puppets](#), [Toontastic](#), and [Puppetpals](#) are fun story-telling apps. Older students may enjoy creating and writing a comic strip. [ComicStrip](#) is an app where students can make a comic book out of their own photos. They can add speech bubbles and other text boxes to create a one of a kind comic strip. The finished product can be emailed as well.

Another great app for both student and teacher use is [Poppletlite](#). [Popplet](#) is a web

graphic organizer that allows the user to add text, pictures, and videos to create a “mind-map”. Teachers can assign a group of students to brainstorm and research a particular topic and create a [Popplet](#). Teachers and/or older students can add pictures and videos. There are endless possibilities for the use of [Popplet](#) in grades K-12.

There are endless apps that will fit your needs as well as the needs of each student in your class. Remember, you are not teaching “apps”. You are using the apps to

teach skills and assess student learning in a more rigorous way as well as providing an environment in which students are involved in appropriate and purposeful learning experiences.

—[Darby Finley](#), BRE



“You cannot teach a man anything, you can only help him find it within himself.”

Galileo Galilei

OneNote, One Classroom at a Time

Greenbrier High school is now incorporating OneNote in the classroom. Mr. Fair, a GHS math teacher, is teaching the staff how to use OneNote in a variety of ways. His students have discovered that through OneNote, their devices can be beneficial for far more than just texting.

“All of my students are using their phones in class for educational use,” states Mr. Fair. Since the initiative of Microsoft 365, Mr. Fair is using OneNote to create notebooks that he shares with his students. He creates notebooks for each class and shares them with all of his students through their Microsoft 365 accounts. Once the student opens the notebook through his or her account, it syncs with the app on the device. This process will only have to be done once.

The advantages of using OneNote in the classroom are plentiful. First, a new student can easily be added to the class for sharing purposes. The student will instantly have access to all the

notes and handouts for the course. Next, students can record the teacher’s voice during class so that he or she can refer back to the recording, along with the notes, at a later time. Furthermore, there is a collaboration tab that allows students to participate while in class. Students write their responses in this space on their devices, and it is seen by everyone in the class through the use of the projector system. A discussion can take place about the responses along the way. This provides the teacher with immediate individual feedback because the initials of the student are stamped by each response.

An additional advantage is that the teacher can essentially maintain a paperless classroom. Mr. Fair develops a content library in each notebook. The content library is ‘read only’ so students cannot edit the master copy of the handouts. However, the student can copy

and paste the handout into his or her own notebook. With this copy, he or she can now write or type on the handout. Mr. Fair does print several copies of the handouts for those students who would like to have a printed copy. Upon completion, Mr. Fair will then go into each student’s notebook and assess the student for understanding. The student will have access to all the comments Mr. Fair leaves on the document instantly.

Having students use OneNote helps the students be more organized and gives students a tool to store all notes in the individual’s Microsoft 365 account. Moreover, there are a variety of tools for the student to use in OneNote to help him or her differentiate the learning environment. OneNote makes is definitely noteworthy in today’s classrooms! For more information about how to use OneNote for education [click here](#).

—[Trina Finley](#), GHS



“Treat people as if they were what they ought to be, and you help them become what they are capable of becoming.”

Goethe

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Student Spotlight

My name is Colby Brown, and I am a visually impaired sixth grader at Evans Middle school. Recently, I was asked to demonstrate a device for the visually impaired at Georgia Tech. I helped three college students win a grant for 5,000 dollars to launch a product called Haplit. Haplit is a tool that connects to a smart phone via Bluetooth and allows the user to feel whatever is on the screen. The way you feel text is through a system of dots called braille. Haplit allows you to use braille to feel the text on the screen of your device. Haplit can also teach braille for those who don't know the language via the Haplit app.

I drove to Atlanta to visit the team designing Haplit. I helped demonstrate the product on live television at a competition called Inventure Prize at Georgia Tech. The team I was supporting won first prize for the People's Choice Awards. At the end of our demonstration, the host had the audience give a special round of applause for me. I thought that was awesome!

Aside from supporting the Haplit team, I was also a member of another team. With two other friends of mine, we competed in the eCYBERMISSION. We created a solar powered iPad charger. We tested our charger with series and parallel circuits to find an efficient way to charge the iPad. I was the smart guy who tested the heat of the smoldering iron we used by placing my hand on the heated metal. Let me tell you...that wasn't a good idea!! My team placed 2nd in the school science fair. We also achieved highest rank in the eCYBERMISSION competition. I would like to thank Zack Kendrick and Sam Shriber for contributing to the team. I tell you, I've had a really **awesome** year.



Colby at the People's Choice Awards

—Colby Brown, 6th grader, *EMS*

Although visually impaired, Colby knows no obstacles. He approaches class and life in terms of the next challenge. He's a leader and a role model for all of his peers.

-[David Phillips](#), Colby's Science Teacher

[Watch](#) Team Haplit, with the help of Colby, present their tool at the People's Choice Awards. (Team Haplit begins at 31.17)

Do you have students who are doing amazing things with technology in your classroom? Please share by emailing [Maggie Davis](#).