ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON'S

School 2 Home NEWSLETTER

Exploration
Theme of the Month

This month's **technology theme**, which can be integrated throughout all content areas, is Exploration.

The technology curriculum focus is on encouraging students and their parents to explore features of their new laptop and free tools on the web. This month, every 6th and 7th student will be learning how to upload, modify, and share Documents using Google Docs in their English class. In their math class, students will learn how to setup and connect to a wireless Internet signal. In science class, students will learn how to best conduct research on the Internet. And during one history period this month, students will develop a better understanding of fair use and copyright laws.

Google Search 101: When using Google's search engine remember, (1) choose descriptive words and use as few words as possible (2) put quotations around exact phrases you wish to find in a search result (3) punctuation is ignored. **Learn more.**

Goals of the Month

- **Post homework assignments online**
- **Explore Google Tools**

🛠 Tech Tip

1. **Use HTTPS**: Remember, the Internet is not a private place, unless you are using an **https** webpage. Only put your personal and private information on a website that begins with **https.** The "s" means that the website on this particular page is using a security certificate to encrypt your data. All http webpages can be intercepted and viewed by outside parties.
2. **LAUSD Web Filter Fix**: If you are tired of having to bypass those annoying drop down messages and page blocks that warn you the page you attempting to access does not have proper "certificates," then follow the instructions **here** and install certificates for each web browser you use. All students should do this as well.

One-to-One Computing and Classroom Management

1. Use same web browser: When giving an instruction to the class that is asking students to use the Internet, be sure to remind your students to use the same web browser as the one you are modeling (Internet Explorer, Firefox, or Safari). Particularly if you are asking students to download a document off of the Internet, each web has a different prompt to save or open a file, and has different default settings as to where these files are stored on the computer. – Pamela Stiles

2. Downtime: If students finish their class work early, let them explore the Internet. You can ask them to show you their favorite site. If students know they will be able to do their own thing when finished, they will be less likely to get off task during class.

3. Seating Arrangements: Depending on the assignment, you should consider seating arrangement when monitoring your student's laptop use. If your students are working in groups, management by walking around" is important. If your students are working on individual assignments, it is helpful to have students positioned in rows that face one direction, so that you can see each laptop screen at once. Students without laptops should be put out of view of laptop screens, so they are not distracted.

4. Use Timers:. Timers are great for any activity including quizzes, warm-ups, discussions, and more. If you are doing a class activity that involves the laptop, use a timer so that students know they don't have all day. Try projecting this **online stopwatch** or this **class timer** while students are working. **-** Mike Hasley

Curricular Resources

Math

- **[Glencoe Online](#)** – Mr. Martin has his students explore math textbook materials and take practice quizzes online.
- **[Tables, Graphs and Equations, Oh my!](#)** This lesson emphasizes the different ways to analyze a linear relationship: tables, graphs, equations, and words.

Science

[Archeology and Erosion](#) - Students will use real archaeological data to create a scale model of a Mayan pyramid, then investigate the process of erosion on archeological sites. This lesson represents excellent integration of social science, investigative science and the use of technology.

Art

[Middle School art lessons](#)

History

[Modern Day Pirates](#) - lesson includes a video segment about Modern Day Pirates and asks students to write a journal entry.

[History you can dance to](#) - a pair of teachers in Hawaii "have found a way to get around the common student complaint that history is dry and boring." They've created **[video mini-lessons](#)** set to popular music.

English Language Arts

[Wordle](#) allows students an to have fun and be creative with words. Mr. McConnell uses this with students to creatively display journal prompts to make a word cloud. The words used most often within text will appear the largest. Print them out to display in class.

Physical Education

[Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans](#) and **[resources](#)** for various age groups.

Music

[Music4Education](#) - lessons and resources.

English as a Second Language
[Top 100](#) YouTube video for ELLs.

Numbers at a Glance

6th Graders w/Laptop: 85%
7th Graders w/Laptop: 82%
Hours of Teacher PD: 11.5
Attendees in Teacher PD: 47
Modeled Lessons: 17
In-Classroom Support Hours: 25
Help Center Support Hours: 80

Parent Engagement Strategy

This month is a great time to ask parents to revisit and explore the access to information they received during School2Home parent workshops, particularly with the end and start of a semester. All parents who have fully participated in these workshops have access to the [ISIS Family Module](#) (ISIS FM), which allows them to view their child(ren)'s progress report grades and attendance online (direct parents to Room 15 in School2Home Help Center if access is needed). They were also shown how to access teacher's homepages, view homework posted online, email teachers through our website, where to find college preparatory information, and much more. Assign your students homework that engages parents in accessing this information: (1) Students look up their grades and attendance on ISIS FM with their parents and determine a plan of action and set goals for next semester; (2) Students check homework that is only posted online to complete with parent (extra credit).

Parents can also be engaged this month by being encouraged to explore the web with their child(ren): (1) Students research with their parent the geography, a famous public figure, or a math expert of their family's home country; (2) Have students show their parents pictures of (final) projects they are working on in class that you post on your teacher homepage and have a hidden extra credit message in the photo album or have parent sign agenda for credit; (3) Have students show their parents two websites that can help them with their homework.

Just For Fun

Have you ever been to [restaurant.com](#)? You can buy $25 gift cards for only $10 to tons of different restaurants in town. Or wait until you're emailed coupons that allow you to buy **$25 gift cards for** as little as **$2**! No joke. This is cheap advertisement for restaurants, so why not take advantage it? This is a perfect excuse to try a new restaurant, and an easy way to go out to a fancy place without spending a fortune. **Happy Valentine's Day** to you and yours!

by Pamela Stiles, Bonnie Marks, Micheline LeBlanc, and Kathleen Mooney