C. L. A. S. S.
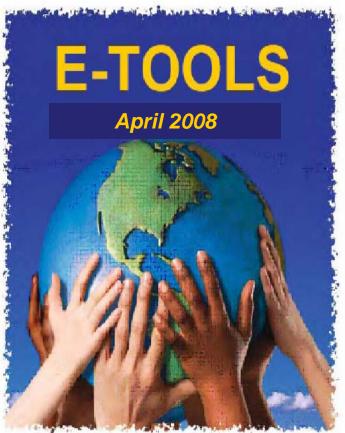Connecting Learning Assures Successful Students

E-TOOLS

April 2008

Upcoming Events

2008 Summer Institute

June 24-27
Indianapolis, Indiana
For more information:
502-648-1881
www.classworksforme.com

Upcoming Events

Positive Power with

Barbara Pedersen

FREE of CHARGE
April 4, 2008
Clinton Central Elementary
Michigantown, IN

To Register:
502-648-1821
CLASS@joyofclass.org

Welcome to C.L.A.S.S. E-Tools!

Welcome to C.L.A.S.S. E-Tools for April. One of the C.L.A.S.S. Vehicles for instruction is technology. As the Internet continues to grow at an astronomical rate, the tools and information available to use with students is amazing. Add in there the gadgets, computers, and other technology tools and the palette of resources available for students and teachers can be amazing. It is important to think in terms of technology as a teaching tool not a teaching subject. So as we plan we want to think in terms of what is it we need to teach and how can technology help us achieve that goal. It is always recommended that you preview Internet sites completely before using them with students.

In this edition of E-Tools we're providing some idea and links for using technology with the C.L.A.S.S. strategies.   Hopefully these will be a catalyst for thinking of ways to integrate technology into your instruction. It is a powerful vehicle for our students, so make sure to take advantage of the options technology provides.

Agenda: April Issue

• Technology Tips and C.L.A.S.S.

• Next Month: Reflection

C. L. A. S. S.

Library of Congress – American Memory Collection
http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html
Also find LOC photos on Flickr
http://www.flickr.com/photos/library_of_congress/

- The Library of Congress's American Memory Collection has over 7 million primary source documents, photographs, films, and recordings. Collections include Literature, Map, Presidents, Technology, War, Women's history and several others.

- C.L.A.S.S. Integration Ideas
  - Use the photos as your hallway greeting and include a quote from the person in the photo.
  - Put the photo up as a welcome message. In the message ask students to write a description of the picture using as much detail as possible.
  - Make connections to your Social Studies curriculum. Could the visuals be helpful to give students perspective on the time period and conditions.
  - Have students take the photos and create fiction characters. Write a story with these characters using details from the photo as inspiration.

Reading Rockets
http://www.readingrockets.org/books/interviews

- Reading Rockets is a treasure trove of information and links, but one of the most powerful sections is their interviews with authors. From Marc Brown to Beverly Cleary to Walter Dean Myers, the site cover the grade levels with various authors. Each video can be played in segments and gives insight into their childhood and their writing.

- C.L.A.S.S. Integration Ideas
  - Use these videos as inspiration for young writers in your classroom. After reading some of the author's books, play the video to help them make a connection to the writer.
  - While doing an author study and playing the video, have students identify Lifelines the author exhibits. Did they use perseverance to get published?, etc.
  - Play a clip every day for a week. Start a chart and add advice that each author has given. On the last day, ask students to pick one piece of advice and try that with their own writing the next week.

Indiana Statewide Databases - INSPIRE
http://www.inspire.net/
Other Statewide Databases
http://aliceyucht.pbwiki.com/StateDatabases

- INSPIRE and statewide databases are a great source for informational text. In these databases are articles from magazines, encyclopedias, and images. Many magazines for children also are included in the searchable database. Remember to comply with all copyright guidelines when using these resources. Also, each state limits access to only those how live in the state.

- C.L.A.S.S. Integration Strategies
  - Use these databases to find informational text for welcome messages. Add a task to the passages and you are set!
  - Statewide Databases are a great resource to use for research and for student specialty folders. Information is reliable and up to date in the database.
  - Use INSPIRE as a community discussion topic. Are the resources in INSPIRE more reliable than those available on the free Internet? Why?

Read Write Think
http://www.readwritethink.org/student_mat/index.asp

- If you haven't gone to this site, don't waste another minute. The online templates and tools that students can use are amazing! You'll find countless uses for them!

- C.L.A.S.S. Integration Strategies
  - Use the Bio-Cube template for students to create a cub about characters in the novel or book they are reading. If it is a whole class, have them create the cube, but leave off the characters name. Can other learning clubs figure out which character is being described?
  - Use the Postcard Creator as a literacy station. Have students write a postcard to someone they know that lives far away. Ask them to share what they have learned at school this week, month, or year. Mail the postcards to see if students get a response.
  - Use Comic Creator and have students create their own comic book. Then using the Literacy Link of Proper English, have them convert their speech bubbles to actual text using quotation marks, etc.

Star Fall
http://www.starfall.com/

- Star Fall is a great site for very simple, basic stories. Most can be read aloud by the computer or the student. It is perfect for primary and young readers.

- C.L.A.S.S. Integration Strategies
  - Use Star Fall as a Literacy Station. Have them read a particular story and ask them to pick one word that was knew to them to write down. When the whole class has finished the station, make a chart of everyone's new words. Then, use those new words in creating a Welcome Message for the next day.
  - Star Fall has a great audio connection to the books and text that is on the screen. Use a microphone and had kids record their own books that read allowing them to hear the sounds of language.

Pics 4 Learning
http://www.pics4learning.com/
U.S. Government Photos and Graphics
http://www.usa.gov/Topics/Graphics.shtml

- Pics 4 Learning is free photographs available for educational use. They cover a variety of topics and subjects. While the Library of Congress has more historical photos, Pics 4 Learning is more current photographs.

- U.S. Government provides a page with links to government agencies that have photograph databases. Most of these images are also available and copyright free. As with all images databases, make sure to follow copyright guidelines.

- C.L.A.S.S. Integration
  - As you design your Information Center, use some of the real photographs from Pics 4 Learning or U.S. Government to give students a visual image of the topic being discussed.
  - Pull out a image from Pics 4 Learning or U.S. Government and use it as a Welcome Message connected to your unit. For example, if you are studying the seasons, put up a winter scene and ask students to journal about what activities they might be doing or what kind of clothes they might need to play in this scene.

Digital Cameras

- Digital cameras are powerful image tools. You can take the pictures and immediate download them to your computer to use in other programs.
- C.L.A.S.S. Integration Strategies
  - Have students take the camera while walking in the hallway and photograph any word they see that is _____. (compound words, short I sounds, proper nouns, etc.)
  - Have students take the camera and take pictures of things that are _____. (short a sounds, verbs, nouns, etc.) Students can then write the words right under the pictures adding adjectives to describe them.
  - Maybe older students would take the cameras on a field trip and use the photos to document what they learned and saw during the adventure.

Digital Video Cameras

- Video is also extremely popular, so using cameras to record movement and sound, also provide a way to extend learning possibilities.

- C.L.A.S.S. Integration Strategies

  – Procedure Cam – Use a camera and film students who are following correct procedures. Play these over the announcements to model for other students.

  – For a Weigh It activity, have students record short videos on a topic they were studying. Did their commercial include all of the major key points they needed to learn?

  – For a Relay It activity, students could use the camera to interview community leaders and edit them into an All About our Community documentary.

These are just SOME of the possibilities that technology has with C.L.A.S.S. Don't be afraid of technology and the unknown. Take that leap into a new adventure. It will be an emotional hook to connect with students and provide an opportunity for you to teach in a new and exciting way, too!