Buffalo State College

EDC-Newsletter

Advancing Education Through Technology

October 2003

Volume 1, Issue 6

Feature articles this issue:

This isn't your parents' piece of paper…

Yes folks, the future is right around the corner. Your motivation for handing your students a piece of paper is in the process of being redesigned. In the near future your standard piece of paper will have the capabilities of video. Yes - you read correctly.

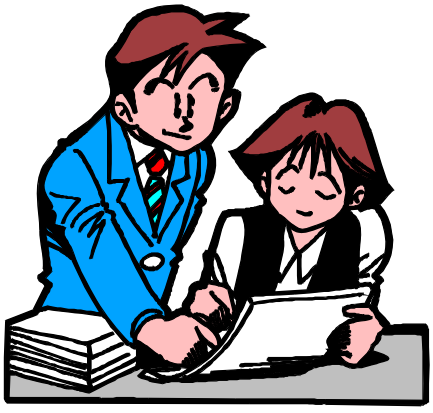
Researchers are close to finding a way to display high-definition moving pictures on a piece of paper.

Scientists at the Philips Research Center in Eindhoven, Netherlands are using a process called "electrowetting," which enables the manipulation of colored oils on the page that will generate a video display.

Dubbed the name "e-paper," it offers educators a new perspective on the future of technology integration in education.

How can such technology be integrated into your curriculum? Each of us will give different answers, and your imagination is the only limiting factor.

As educators and EDC students, we are responsible for being aware of such upcoming advances. Armed with such information, we can position ourselves to be better educators and enhance the learning of our students.



See current and upcoming technology innovations at Tech TV's Fresh Gear.

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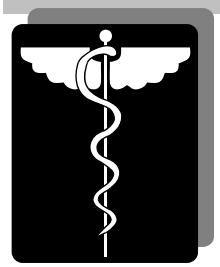


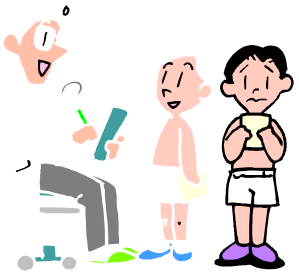
Did you know that there are reportedly over 20,000 germs per square inch on the average desk? Click here to learn more.

An ounce of prevention…

Influenza season is again upon us. Administrators, TSR's and Nurses alike should be asking themselves a simple question - How clean are the computers in your district? The answer may partially determine how many days students and staff may be absent due to illness.

Computer keyboards were listed in the top five of surfaces tested in a recent study by a grant from the Clorox Company. In this study the bacteria levels on different surfaces were tested and the top five were: 1. Telephones, 2. Desks, 3. Water fountain handles, 4. Microwave door handles and 5. keyboards. BTW-Toilet seats came in at the lowest level of the 12 surfaces tested.

Clearly the implications of keyboards at number five should raise the eyebrows of educators/ administrators. We have all been exposed to the risks of an unclean keyboard and the diseases that can accompany them. What can we do to reduce and prevent the spread of illness, thus reducing absenteeism?



In a recent conversation with Debbie Piotrowski, school nurse at Jamestown High School, the following suggestions were given and discussed:

- Implement an addendum to the Acceptable Use Policy in the District to include a requirement that students that have clear signs of a cold, (e.g., running nose, sniffing coughing), must use an waterless antibacterial soup before touching the keyboard.
- Wash hands prior to use.
- Use of a disinfectant called "Coverage HBV/HIV."
- Cover all keyboards with plastic covers, which should be routinely cleaned.
- Use Clorox Disinfectant wipes.

While it is impractical to think one can rid all surfaces of infectious bacteria and viruses, it is plausible to reduce the chances with an ounce of prevention.

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Technology Integration and Cooperative Education

One of the requirements of the EDC degree is to study the different scenarios of computer availability and how they will or could affect our planning. We study the single computer classroom, the multiple computer classroom and the computer lab.

Think back to your days in grammar school, if you can remember that long ago. You'll recall that you worked primarily in small groups. At that age, it is usually easier for teachers to manage large classes with small groups that offer a sense of security to young children.

If you were to enter a classroom in the middle or high school level, chances are that you will see rows of desks instead of small groups. Why not send the students back to an environment that is comfortable and which will help you solve that question of how to use ONE computer in the classroom?

Begin by breaking your class up into groups of three or four per group. Your subject matter is really of no concern; just understand that creativity is your ally.

Create different stations around the room, of which the computer is one. Each station should have a component of the lesson you want to cover. One station could have a worksheet that they complete together. Another station could have a game. Again your imagination is your only limiting factor.

The computer is just another station. It can be used to get information, test information, give information…get the point? The computer as a station is much more versatile than perhaps a station with a static worksheet. That is unless you have "e-paper." Remember the main goal is to have students be constructors of knowledge. You now have the ability to get one on one time with the students who need it.

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Tech Talk

Acronym Alley: Test your knowledge of technology acronyms. If you are going to walk the walk, then you need to talk the talk. Answers will be found in the next issue of the EDC Newsletter.

1. AFP
2. ARPANET
3. ASCII
4. GB
5. EPROM
6. HPPI
7. POTS
8. VIC
9. JPEG
10. ID10T

About The EDC

This newsletter is a graduate study independent project. Your feedback will be instrumental in making it a better resource for everyone. Since this is a graduate project, its current life expectancy is for the Fall, 2003 semester. If you are interested in continuing this newsletter in the Spring, 2004 semester as your own project, contact Russ Latour, current EDC Newsletter editor at: 99rlatour@jamestown.wnyric.org,

or Dr. John Thompson, the EDC Program Coordinator, at: thompsjt@bscmail.buffalostate.edu

for more information.

Upcoming Articles and Features

PC vs. Macintosh: We'll discuss which is better and why.

E- Defining Education: How virtual schools and online instruction are transforming teaching and learning.

Student Spotlight: Interviews w EDC students whose course projects have been featured in Phi Delta Kappa magazine.

Answers to Acronym Alley and more…