

Quick Tips

Using iPhoto...

- Need small pictures for a web page or presentation? Drop big pictures into iPhoto. Then export them, choose "Scale images no larger than:" and type in a new size.
- Make a quick Web photo essay of a field trip. In iPhoto, make an album of your photos. Select a picture and click on the information button. Give the photo a title and write a description in the Comments box. Export your album as a Web Page and choose "Show Title" and "Show Comment."
- Check the Tutorials section of *MaineLearns* for directions for using iPhoto.

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Interminable February

It's the shortest month but often seems the longest. Luckily we get week of vacation. Take a break from watching the basketball tournaments and read all the news that's fit to print from MLTI.

School Visits

By now most of our readers know that the MLTI team provides ongoing professional development in the form of regional content meetings. But you may not know that we also provide on-site professional development and support for schools that request it.

Recently, several high schools have taken advantage of this service as they begin their own one-to-one computing initiatives. We have visited high schools in Presque Isle, Guilford, Freeport, and Oak Hill High School in Wales. These schools used a combination of planning time and substitutes to free teachers to attend sessions on *NoteTaker* and other tools and resources available on the laptops. MDI High School used one of their professional development release days so their entire staff could learn in a combination of whole group and content specific sessions.



Middle Schools can also take advantage of this service. We recently visited the Middle School of the Kennebunks (see related article on page 3) where we worked with teachers and students, using content from their science lessons. We've also visited schools in Aroostook County where teachers and students from neighboring schools came together to learn about *Data Studio* and participate in model lessons.

The support we provide is not limited to training sessions. We have facilitated staff meetings where teachers and administrators discuss their MLTI successes and challenges and make plans for the future. Sometimes we work with the whole staff at a faculty meeting and sometimes with teams during their planning time.

If you feel that your school would benefit from an MLTI team visit, please let us know. You can use the Contact Us form on *MaineLearns* to send a request to any member of the MLTI team.

Inuit Web Site

Middle school teachers and students are invited to participate in a pilot e-learning project from April 4 – April 22 that will help them learn about Inuit culture. Igloolik Isuma Productions is creating a bilingual Web site that will allow teachers and students to connect with filmmakers in their remote location in the Canadian Arctic where they are filming a major motion picture.

Participants in the pilot this spring will provide valuable feedback that will be used to perfect the Web site that will be officially



launched in the fall. In appreciation for their time and input, participants will receive a set of 5 award winning *Nunavut: Our Land* videos for use in the classroom. If you are interested

in participating, please read the letter of invitation that is posted on *MaineLearns*. For further information, please contact Gail Pinkham, gail@isuma.ca or Rosa Flynn, rosa@isuma.ca.



Click on Community

Digital Paint

Any art teacher will tell you that kids need to learn about art by creating it as well as viewing the work of the masters. Students in Lisa Gilman's 7th grade art classes at Winthrop Middle School are learning about Impressionist painting by creating their own works or art, but not with paint on canvas. They're using their laptops to paint digitally.

Students begin the unit by viewing a slide show of Impressionist paintings and doing



some Internet research to learn more about the genre. They then create their own masterpieces in

the Impressionist style, using the brush effects available in the AppleWorks Paint program on their laptops. Students enjoy working with digital "paint" because mistakes are easily erased and changes are easily made. Read more about this innovative art project in the What Works section of *MaineLearns*.



Click on What Works

Writing with Mathematical Symbols

Many studies and reports on the effect one-to-one computing has in the classroom show that students are writing more. They are using their iBooks for creative and expository writing as well for writing to reflect on their learning in all content areas.

Writing about mathematics can be



challenging because of the need for special symbols that aren't on the keyboard. Many math teachers and students are not aware that, although you can't see them on the keyboard, these symbols are available.

Jim Moulton has written an article explaining exactly how to access these symbols and has posted it in the Tutorials section of *MaineLearns*. Download the article and share it with your students so they can start writing about what they've learned in Math class.



Click on Tutorials

MLTI Update

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by the MLTI Staff

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Read MLTI Update online!
<http://www.mainelearns.org>



Click on About Us

Kudos to...

...Kathy Foss of Camden Rockport Middle School, winner of the 2004 Walter J. Taranko Library-Media Specialist of the Year award. This award is given annually by the Maine Association of School Libraries.

Barbara's and Kelly's Favorites

It's **Barbara's** turn this month to share some Web favorites. One very useful site is *iTools* at <http://www.itools.com>.

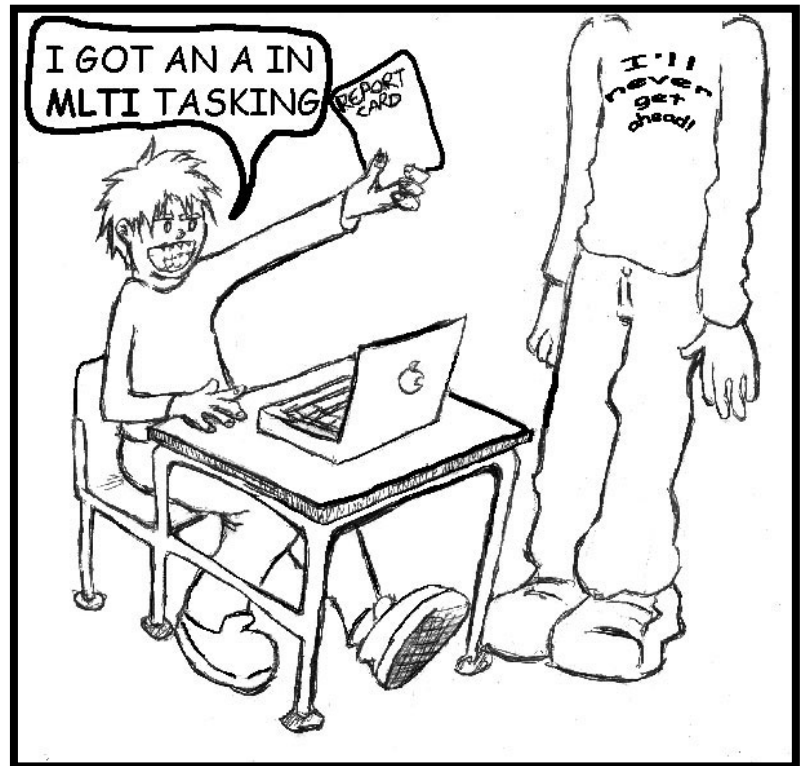
This site provides easy access to some of the best online tools on the Web. The language section is one you may want to bookmark. This page gives you easy access to dictionaries, thesauruses and translators. There's also a tool that you or your students might use if you want to read a Web page that has a lot of unfamiliar vocabulary. Just enter the URL of the page into a form and you can view the page with clickable text. Each word on the page becomes a hyperlink to its definition. You'll use this page often so make it a shortcut in your browser or a springboard

in your dock.

Another favorite is David Warlick's *Landmark Project Site*. Point your browser to <http://www.landmark-project.com> and click on the *Raw Data* link. This page has collections of data that students can use for a variety of activities. Math students might use this real-life information for learning how to analyze, interpret and display data to answer a question.

The *Landmark Project* offers several other tools and resources for teachers and students. It's another multi-purpose site that you will probably want to bookmark.

Next Month: Kelly's Favorites.



Quote of the Month

The computer is the first metamedium, and as such it has degrees of freedom for representation and expression never before encountered and as yet barely investigated.

Alan Kay