

Quick Tips

Using spreadsheets

- Students can use a spreadsheet to determine amounts of ingredients in a recipe if the recipe is doubled, tripled, etc.
- Use spreadsheets to track gains and losses in the Stock Market Game.
- Have students use a spreadsheet to plan a field trip. They can construct a budget and determine how much money they need to raise.

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January Thaw

It has been one weird winter! Although the inconsistent weather can be disconcerting, most of us welcome these little tastes of spring. But, whatever is happening outside, you can always curl up in front of the fire and enjoy this month's issue of *MLTI Update*.

Bernie Dodge to Visit Maine

We are pleased to announce that Bernie Dodge of San Diego State University is coming to Maine to work with MLTI and MLTI/eMINTS teacher leaders. Bernie is one of the developers of the WebQuest model that many of us use to introduce students to inquiry-based learning using web resources. Recently he launched his *QuestGarden* site, providing teachers with a tool for building WebQuests that requires no knowledge of html or web design. To learn more about WebQuests, visit the WebQuest site at <http://webquest.org>.



Bernie will be a part of our MLTI Teacher Leader Institute to be held at the Samoset Resort in Rockland, March 12 and 13. This special institute will bring together the MLTI Teacher Leaders and eMINTS Teacher Leaders for a one and a half day intense learning experience. This is an exciting opportunity to network, celebrate work and build skills. We will reflect on the past, plan for the next school year and for the future of MLTI. Participants will be involved in workshops and conversations with Bernie Dodge and other MLTI presenters.

The institute is free for MLTI Teacher Leaders and open to other educators for a fee of \$100. To register, visit *MaineLearns* and click on the Teacher Leader Institute registration link.

RFP Available

The Request for Proposals for the next deployment of MLTI devices has been published and is available for interested parties to download at <http://www.state.me.us/mlti/rfp/index.htm>.

From this site, vendors can download a copy of the RFP either as a pdf or as a Word document. They can also register for an email update list and access a question and answer page.

Vendors are invited to attend a Bidder's Conference from 9:00am to 12:00 noon on



Friday, January 27, 2006, at Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine in Thorne Hall, Daggett Lounge.

Questions about the RFP or the bidding process should be

directed to Jeff Mao, Coordinator of Educational Technology at the Department of Education, jeff.mao@maine.gov.



Click on Department of Education Releases New RFP

Content Meeting Reminder

The Winter 2006 Content Meetings are well underway but it's not too late to register for upcoming meetings. In this round we are offering two different sessions in each region. Day 1 is *21st Century Literacy Skills* where teachers will explore how they can use the laptops in their classrooms to promote reading, writing, listening, speaking, and visual literacy.

Day 2 is *Modeling Ecological Principles* where teachers will discuss standards-based

ecological inquiry and explore modeling and simulation programs that can help students meet the standards.



Links to the full agenda for both days as well as the list of dates and registration instructions can be found on the front page of www.mainelearns.org. If you've missed the Content Meeting in your region, we encourage you to register in a neighboring region.

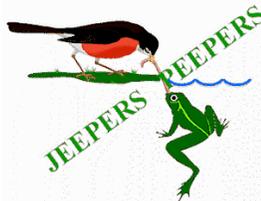


Click on Content Meeting Registration

Jeepers Peepers 2006

Is spring arriving earlier each year? And if so, how will that affect us?

The Maine DEP *Jeepers Peepers* program enables 4th-8th grade students across the state of Maine to research and answer these questions via two activities – Spring Watch and *Jeepers Peepers* Earth Day Essay Contest!! The Spring Watch program encourages students to observe and record the re-emergence of several Maine plants and animals, as well as the



timing of “ice out” on lakes, and publish their findings on the *Jeepers Peepers* website. Using their laptops, students may create graphs showing trends and research the effects of their findings on native plants and animals. Students may choose to use their research to enter the *Jeepers Peepers* Earth Day Essay Contest.

This is a wonderful opportunity to merge science and language arts as students use their laptops to research and contemplate a real world problem. For more information on the *Jeepers Peepers* program, visit <http://www.mainedep.com> and click on *Jeepers Peepers*!!

Maine Student Web Design Awards

The Maine Organization for Students in Technology, aka MOST is pleased to announce the 4th annual Maine Student Web Design Awards Program, sponsored primarily by Maine Hosting Solutions and Bowdoin College. The contest is open to student in grades 6-12 who have designed a website with a theme/subject that relates to: education, community, history, the arts, the environment, wellness, business, sports,



recreation, games, music, nature, animals, science, mathematics, family, the state of Maine, etc

The deadline for entries is March 19, 2006 at 11:59pm.

MOST will be recognizing outstanding websites in 22 categories, including a 'Students' Choice Award' (new in 2006) in an awards ceremony in May, 2006 at Bowdoin College. For more information visit

<http://www.MSWDA.org>



Click on Partners-MSDWA

Collaboration Tools

Here are a few tools that are uniquely suited to collaboration. They are free, open ended digital tools that anyone can use to put together a connected human network.

<http://www.writeboard.com> is a collaborative writing space. Got something to put into words with a group? Do it here.

<http://www.numsum.com> is a collaborative spreadsheet space. It allows for importing and exporting data and because it is web-based, it can

be worked on across the network. (Note: Does NOT work in Safari)

<http://www.imaginationcubed.com> is a collaborative drawing space. You can invite

others to join in, and have access to a variety of tools, and, of course, colors!

Come on, fire up the old human network, and see what you can do!



SPLASH: International Collaboration Opportunity

Are you looking for a project that allows your students to collaborate with other students around the world? If so, SPLASH is the project for you. It will take place, around the world, between March 27 and June 2 and will involve students in seven different countries.

Each participating class will design a multi-disciplinary project that would last for about 10 weeks that will address a water issue in the school or in the local community. Each class will buddy up or be paired with another class somewhere around the world using videoconferencing, email,

distribution lists and a dedicated web portal to communicate. The two classes will compare and share information about the water work going on in their own school and local community through the SPLASH project. The two 'buddied' classes will then work together (or with other classes in the SPLASH project) to identify a pressing global concern with water which they can directly address or raise awareness about.

If you are interested in participating, contact Peter deWacht at dewacht.peter.w@edumail.vic.gov.au



Click on Stories

MLTI Update

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by the MLTI Staff

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Comments or suggestions? Send them to
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Read MLTI Update online!

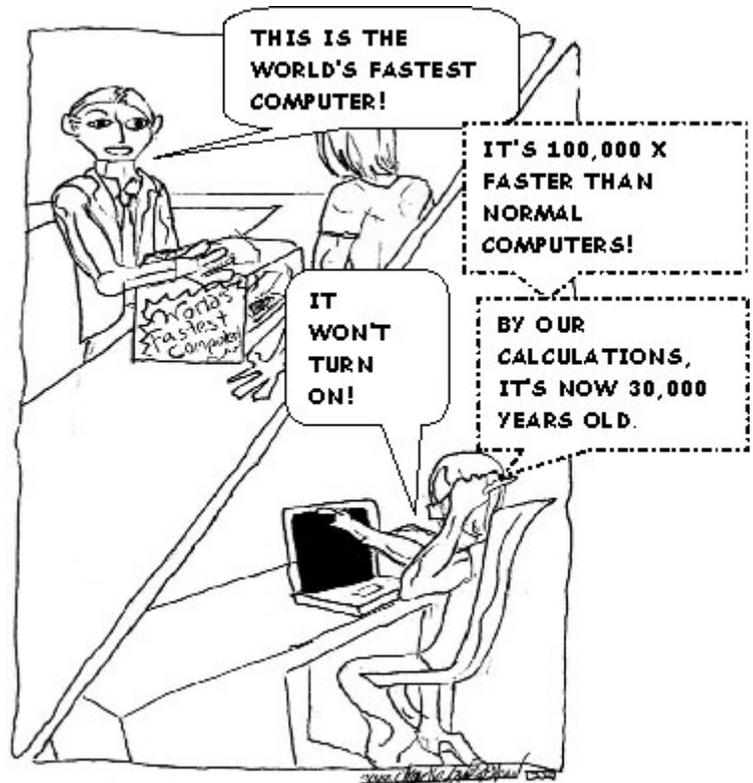
<http://www.mainelearns.org>



Click on MLTI Newsletters

Kudos to...

... **Bobbi Cook** a pre-service education student at USM Lewiston-Auburn for her interest in and enthusiasm for MLTI.



Quote of the Month

Stop talking about integrating technology into the curriculum, and start talking about integrating the curriculum into an information-driven, technology-rich, rapidly changing world.

David Warlick

Barbara's and Phil's Picks

In preparation for Black History Month and Women's History Month, Phil has a few picks that might help in the classroom. For information about African-Americans in science, here is a site that is easy to use for bios:

<http://scienceforfamilies.allinfo-about.com/features/blackhistory.html>. Another, more comprehensive site is from the California Academy of Sciences:

http://www.calacademy.org/research/library/naturalist_center/biblio/Africansci-update.htm. A site (*Mathematicians of the African Diaspora*) that documents contemporary mathematicians with African heritage (and has links to other sites) is:

<http://www.math.buffalo.edu/mad/PEEPS/madprofiles.html>.

Historia that attempts to make it easier to research women in science history
<http://www.liquidleaf.com/historia/historia.html>. Then there is the all-encompassing *About* site for information about women in the fields of science, medicine and mathematics:
http://womenshistory.about.com/library/bio/blbio_list_science.htm. Even though it is hard to "fit" topics like these into the classroom, technology makes it easier to access and analyze information that used to be restricted to college researchers.

Next Month: Barbara's Picks.