



THE MAINE LEARNING TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE

✧ Flowers for Seymour ✧

Seymour Papert, one of the principle forces behind the establishment of MLTI, was involved in a terrible accident in Hanoi and has been hospitalized. We all wish him well and hope for a speedy recovery.

DES FLEURS POUR SEYMOUR

A web site has been created by a group in Quebec where they hope to collect a huge bouquet of virtual flowers from around the world. Please visit [Des Fleurs pour Seymour](#) and consider having your students add to the virtual bouquet. You

will also find links here to information about Seymour so you can discuss why he is so

important to us in the state of Maine. If you or your students have flower photos to add, you can send them to Barbara Greenstone,

bgreenstone@mainelearns.org




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Quick Tips

• *Need help with one of the Apple applications? Check out the Learning Center. There's a springboard to it in your dock and a shortcut in Safari.*

• *Looking for a custom-made calendar for the new year? Make it yourself in iPhoto. Use pictures you've taken of your students for a classroom calendar. Print it yourself or pay Apple to do it.*

• *If your students are using iMovie for their video projects, have them use ComicLife to plan and create a storyboard for the movie.*



NoteShare Support

Since we completed our two-day MLTI/Apple *NoteShare* training, many participants returned to their schools and began using *NoteShare* and teaching others how to use it. Teachers are discovering very effective ways to use *NoteShare* in their teaching and sharing those discoveries in team meetings, staff discussions and local support groups. The MLTI/Apple *NoteShare* trainers are building an FAQ site to support teachers in their efforts. Click on the link on the front page of [MaineLearns](#) or point your browser directly to <http://mainlearns.org/noteshare/faq/>



Studywiz

Studywiz training is coming soon. Middle School principals will receive information about *Studywiz* and the upcoming training when they attend their MLTI Leadership meetings in January.

Studywiz training will be offered in each of the regions and, once again, we are asking schools to send two-person learning teams. The Studywiz team should consist of a classroom teacher and a technical staff member. Watch [MaineLearns](#) for information and links to registration pages as they become available.

Bowdoin College's Coastal Science Institute

Bowdoin College will offer a week-long Summer Institute for middle school teachers to help improve coastal and marine “literacy” in the sciences. The five day Summer Institute will take place June 24-June 30, 2007 and will use existing on-site resources at Bowdoin, including the Coastal Studies Center and surrounding coastline as well as on-campus facilities. The program is open to any in-service middle school science teachers in the New England region, with a special emphasis on Maine. The Institute’s curriculum will be designed to meet state and national standards and will be informed by recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Oceans Policy outlining U.S. ocean education. The College’s proximity to the coastal and marine environment offers a unique opportunity for secondary school educators to engage in scientific inquiry and learning through interacting with a living coastal classroom. For more information and to download an application, visit the institute’s web site at <http://academic.bowdoin.edu/csc/bccsi/index.shtml>.



Digital Portfolios

Lately we have received several queries about digital portfolios. As more schools are doing their work digitally it makes sense to start thinking about how to organize and archive that work. Whether it's a teacher's professional portfolio or a portfolio to show a student's progress, it should be created in a way that will allow it to be viewed on any computer, regardless of platform. You may want to consider using *NoteShare* to build portfolios. Although *NoteShare* is currently available only for Macs, you can export a notebook as a web site that can be burned to a CD for distribution and viewed in any web browser. For more information about how to get started with digital portfolios, [contact](#) the MLTI staff.



Zoey's Room



Looking for a unique present for a young girl on your holiday gift list? Consider giving a year's membership in Zoey's Room, an interactive technology club for girls between the ages of 10 and 14. Zoey's Room is a safe online community where girls can meet other girls from around the country, meet women from the fields of technology, science, engineering and math, and complete activities to earn points toward tech prizes. Visit Zoey's room at <http://www.zoeyroom.com/>

Technology and PLCs

Are you interested in working with and learning from teachers at other schools across the state, but find it difficult to get release time, or don't have the time to travel to another school? Learn how you can use your laptop and simple technology tools to make virtual classroom visits and have professional discussions around student work and professional practice. The Maine Education Association is offering a free workshop in Orono on January 20 where participants will receive software allowed for use on MLTI laptops, a binder of materials, hands on experiences, tips and strategies for using technology to have professional discussions. Participants will also learn protocols for having professional discussions that are applicable to any professional meeting where teachers are looking at shared texts, student work, achievement data, or developing common understandings. For more information, contact Ellen Holmes, eholmes@nea.org



MLTI Update

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Online at

<http://www.mainelearns.org>

Comments or suggestions? Send them to:

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On Retirement

by Bette Manchester

Imagine, being asked to work on a project that has the potential of changing the educational landscape in Maine schools. Five years ago, I left my position as Principal of Mt. Ararat Middle School to work on the envisioned project of Governor Angus King and visionary Seymour Papert. The Maine Learning Technology Initiative (MLTI) is now well established in middle schools across Maine. Are these schools transformed for learning in the 21st Century? Not yet, there is much more work to do: we need more focus on facilitating and connecting learning to real-world contexts, creating more inquiry and project based learning opportunities for children, engaging more students in global projects and increasing opportunities for creative and innovative uses of technology tools and resources.

I am retiring from full-time work with the MLTI and plan to continue to work part-time with the project to develop the International Center for Digital Education. We know that Maine leads the way in the use of digital resources and tools in schools. This Center will extend our professional development, research and collaboration with partners around the world.

The Director of Special Projects Position will be advertised within the next two weeks. The position requires successful leadership experience, understanding and experience with school reform efforts at the middle and high school level, classroom experience and an appreciation of the complexity of teaching and learning in the digital age. I look forward to supporting a new Director.

Education should be hard fun.

-Seymour Papert



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Pure Intel Core Duo power, an iSight camera, Front Row, iLife '06 and a 13-inch glossy widescreen display, all in a sleek case.



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Power shopping.

If you are shopping for technology this holiday season, there's no need to hit the malls. With a quick online visit to the Maine K-12 Public School Parent Store, you can bring home the latest multimedia-packed computers, software solutions and accessories from Apple — specially discounted for parents of all Maine K-12 public school students.



The Maine Learning Technology Initiative has helped put affordable technology at the fingertips of thousands of local students.

Now it's your turn. By extending the benefits of MLTI to Maine households, Apple is offering savings of up to \$200 on its award-winning, media-rich laptop and desktop personal computers.

The gift of achievement.

The Maine K-12 Public School Parent Store is not simply a "Mac boutique" that features a limited product selection. Instead, you can browse through hundreds of software programs, computer and iPod accessories, even peripherals, in addition to the complete line of Mac products and the latest iPods. *Another student in the home, perhaps pre-MLTI?* Give the gift of achievement this season. Make it a MacBook at great savings — and help to foster that important home-school connection.

A growing home office? Choose the faster, bigger and brighter iMac in any of three display sizes — and take your home productivity to a new performance level.



See all the latest iPods, too!

<http://www.apple.com/education/maineparent/>

It all starts here. Once on the website, simply click on Maine K-12 Public School Parent Store and open the door to instant savings on the technology you want most.



This custom store is only available to Maine K-12 public school parents. Parents must have a student enrolled in a Maine public school to qualify for education special pricing. Product specifications and pricing featured on the Maine K-12 Public School Parent Store are subject to change without notice.

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