CECA
Newsletter

Connecticut Educators Computer Association **Vol. XV No. 2**

Register for
CECA 2000
Instructions on p. 2

Because the CECA Web Site was inaccessible for 4 days the Preconference registration deadline has been extended to October 20.

If you have NOT registered for CECA 2000, you will find a personal registration form enclosed in this newsletter. Unfortunately there is a typo on the form, just ignore it. All forms mailed by Oct. 20 will be accepted at the $95.00 pricing.

Happy 20th Birthday CECA!

A Message from the President:

Twenty years is equivalent to a century in computer time. CECA was and still is on the cutting edge of educational technology in Connecticut. We are an organization that continues to evolve never losing sight of our goal of being the voice of teachers in issues relating to using technology in teaching and learning.

We have an exciting conference planned inter-woven with a little reminiscing, a little knowledge, and a little fun. Our conference co-chairs have planned information packed conference sessions and our vendor booths are jam packed with new hardware and software. We hope that you will take away several ideas that you can incorporate into your own classroom. Remember, there is more than one kind of networking.

CECA is pleased to present Lt. Governor M. Jodi Rell with the 2nd President,s Award for her tireless effort, leadership and support for educational technology. Her comprehensive report to Gov. Rowland on the technological needs of Connecticut,s schools and libraries has been a major impetus in allocating funding to develop a statewide network to bring technology access to all.

Our first CECA Educators' Award winners will be demonstrating their projects in Session Two. The CECA Educator,s Award is a merit award open to all teachers for innovative project ideas incorporating technology. Talk to the winners and consider applying for the 2001 award. Applications will be available at the registration desk.

For the first time, we have invited students to demonstrate their projects. This is an expansion of the Legislative Technology Expo that we sponsor in the spring. The students will be set up outside the main ballroom between 11:00 and 1:00. Be sure to stop by and talk to them.

Stay for our 20th Birthday Party celebration and win some BIG prizes. Remember, you must be present to win.

Give us your feedback on how we can best support your needs both at the conference and throughout the year. Remember CECA is your organization and we need your input!

If you haven't already registered, do so right away!

Denise Moynihan

October 2000

CECA Award Winner

Integrated Inquiry Based Learning: Not Your Typical Seventh Grade Science Fair Project

Sally Dastoli

I was very fortunate to have received one of the CECA Educator Recognition Awards last June 2000. The following is a short summary of how I integrate many different forms of technology into our annual Science Fair project. This unique inquiry project integrates English, math, and science skills into a meaningful interdisciplinary project that encourages student ownership. Student ownership starts when the students are allowed to select an experiment they would like to research, make a hypothesis about, design, perform, and document their inquiry process with a written and visual presentation. Technology is naturally interwoven to facilitate student understanding and to raise performance expectations. Students use CD ROMs, the internet and on-line sources to conduct research. Inspiration is used to create a graphical organizer of their research paper and outline and the final draft of the research paper along with other word processing is completed in AppleWorks. Students apply spreadsheet skills to construct data tables and display their quantitative data in appropriate graphs.

Higher order thinking skills and creativity are emphasized because no two students are working on the same scientific problem. Each learner travels a unique path into the world of science during this project. Along with student learning, English, math, and science teachers, like myself, learn more about the multidimensional world of science and student learning through the individual student projects. Due to the diverse topics that are studied during this project, myself and my colleagues naturally take on the role of facilitator or guide as our students venture through their projects.

Parents and students are provided with a newsletter listing the purpose and description of the project, intermittent due dates and assignments, specific instructions, and a detailed rubric. An important aspect of this project is the visual presentation. Students are required to have the entire project typed, including computer generated data tables and graphs. This activity culminates with an evening Science Fair reception where approximately 250 projects are displayed for the parents, community, and media. Students informally present their projects and answer questions from interested members of the community.

Parents are encouraged to help their child self-grade and reflect on their work using the provided grading rubric. This provides a wonderful opportunity for the students to show their parents how they integrated many different forms of technology in order to successfully complete their Science Fair project. The Science Fair evening reception also demonstrates to the parents, community, and the media how the seventh grade is actively integrating technology into the curriculum in a meaningful manner.

Traditional lessons involve teaching one topic to the whole class. One strength of this project is that each student is required to take more responsibility for their learning as they research their individual project, refine their data tables, display and analyze their data and graphs, and draw conclusions. Students are responsible for traveling down their own path of learning. Through this project, students become active explorers of their own learning.

If you would like any further information please feel free to contact me at the CECA conference on November 6 at the Radisson in Cromwell. I will be there with sample projects. I can also be reached at HeySally@aol.com.

Sally Dastoli is a seventh grade science teacher at Silas Deane Middle School in Wethersfield.

Win an Indigo iMac at the CECA 2000 Party

Your ID# can be found on the mailing label of this newsletter

To Register:
Go to www.ceca-ct.org
Click on CECA 2000
Click on CECA 2000
  Registrtion form
Print
Fill out and send to
CECA, PO Box 1019, Branford
  CT 06405 include check or
  PO

CECA 2000 Vendors

Adtech Systems, Inc.
AECT
AlphaSmart by IPD
Apple Computer
Chester Technical Services
Compass Learning Computer
Curriculum Corp.
Computer Resources Inc.
Curriculum Associates
Educational Activities Inc.
Educational Technology Assoc.
EMC/ Paradign
Equipment Environments Inc.
Gateway Computer
Grafco Inc.
Lexia Learning Systems
MEGASYS
MicroWarehouse
Monroe Business Associates
LLC Net Schools
Nordex International Inc.
NoteSys
Perma Bound Books
Pitsco
LEGO Dacta
Prentice Hall
R & B Enterprises
School Furnishings, Inc.
School Specialty
Spectrum Industries, Inc.
Teacher Created Materials
The Lightspan Partnership Inc.
UNICOM
World Book, Inc.

ISTE Update Online

ISTE Update Online—Your Member Newsletter September 2000, vol. 13, no. 1 You are receiving this e-mail because you are a member of ISTE (The International Society for Technology in Education) or a subscriber to its publications.

For the full text of each story, go to http://www.iste.org/publishing/update/index.html, then enter your member/customer number.

Features ISTE Welcomes Two New Affiliates This summer the ISTE Affiliate Executive Committee approved the applications of the Maryland Instructional Computer Coordinators Association (MICCA) and the Auckland Computers in Education Society (ACES) for participation in ISTE's Organization Affiliate Program. The Program seeks to support the grassroots efforts of local and regional organizations to integrate educational technologies into the K-12 curriculum.

Schools Interoperability Framework: Software Companies Cooperating to Make School Administration Easier By J. Fred Schouten, EdD, Division Chair for Natural & Applied Sciences, Reavis High School, Burbank, Illinois Find out how companies that publish school administrative software are developing standards that will make it easier for software programs to share information, soothing a big administration headache.

Announcements: ISTE Wants Curriculum Writers ISTE1s Books & Courseware department is looking for teachers to write multidisciplinary resource units incorporating technology for either Grades 3-5 or 6-8 with focus on social studies and language arts or science and math. The writing time commitment is from October 2000 to the end of December plus time to respond to questions and do necessary revisions from January through March 2001. For more information, please contact Anita Best at abest@iste.org; 541.346.2400 PT.

Hewlett Packard Launches Digital Village Grant Program HP is requesting proposals for participation in its Digital Village Program—a three-year program that will help three underserved communities in the United States fulfill their aspirations for participation in the digital age. Through the Digital Village Program, HP will invest products, people, and partnerships, awarding up to $15 million in cash and equipment in varied amounts throughout three selected communities.

Resource of the Month: Ed Tech E-mail Discussion Lists Looking for an online professional development opportunity, but don1t know where to begin? The Internet allows you to access thousands of special interest discussion groups, Find a sampling of what1s available in this month1s Resource of the Month.

What1s New: Find brief descriptions of new Web sites, products, reports, surveys, books, and more in this section.

Additional CECA 2000 Presenters

Tom Buckley, SNET

Using the Net as a Classroom Tool - Filamentality

This session will introduce attendees to a tool that enables teachers to access and post their own lesson plan information on the Internet. Filamentality is an Internet based tool created by pacific Bell that allows Internet knowledgeable teachers to design lessons around existing information found on the Web.

Filamentality is a fill-in-the-blank interactive Web site that guides you through picking a topic, searching the Web, gathering good Internet sites, and turning Web resources into activities appropriate for learners. Support is built in through Mentality Tips, so you'll be guided right along the way and end up with a Web-based activity you can share with others even if you don't know anything about HTML, Web servers, or all that www-dot stuff.

So, come to the session and try it out for yourself. You too can be creating web resources that help guide your students as they use the Internet as a learning resource.

Amistad Project

The Amistad was launched earlier this year with the mission of teaching the historic lessons inherent in the 1839 Amistad incident. Over the next year, Amistad America Inc. will finalize their educational plan and begin to introduce the Amistad to Connecticut classrooms. This session will provide a brief overview of the project.

One half of Mr. Buckley's presentation will be devoted to Filamentality and the other half will be devoted to the Amistad Project.

Peter Collins, NoteSys

Anytime, Anywhere, Learning Program

Share the vision of the Anytime, Anywhere program, which is aimed at encouraging learning anytime, anywhere by giving students access to a laptop 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Anytime Anywhere Learning (AAL) was born in Australia in 1992, but has only recently caught fire in the United States. Today, over 1,000 schools participate in this revolutionary laptop program, expected to grow exponentially over the next few years. AAL programs redefine teaching and learning, curriculum, standards, community participation and the home-school connection.

DEPT OF ED FREE WEB RESOURCES

The federal Department of Education operates a FREE web site, Federal Resources for Educational Excellence, to which it regularly posts wonderful curriculum and learning resources. You can access it at — www.ed.gov/free

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Vendor Presentations

Nordex School Student Information Management Software

Presenter: Marcy Dwyer Nordex Group
Platform: PC

Nordex School is the easiest, most powerful student information system available. Nordex is designed to simplify many of your schools most critical administrative tasks. Daily and period attendance, student enrollment, conduct reporting, grade reporting, transcripts and student scheduling are just a few of the tasks automated with Nordex School. Come see an overview of the new Nordex School web based software.

Focus on the Learning with AlphaSmart 3000

Presenter: Jessica A. Williams AlphaSmart, Inc.
Audience: K - 12 (Technology/Curriculum Integration)
Platform: Mac and PC

Integrating technology in the learning environment to successfully improve student achievement is the challenge facing all educators. This session will show how the AlphaSmart 3000, an intelligent keyboard, enhances the learning for students in all grade levels and all content areas while targeting specific content and standards.

The Digital Divide eliminated in a Connecticut Middle School - with outstanding results in two years experience!

Presenter: Jerry Crystal NETSchools- Carmen Arace Middle School, Bloomfield, CT

All 870+ Grade 5 - 8 students at the Carmen Arace Middle School, Bloomfield, CT have had wireless rugged laptops for use at school and at home for over two years. Listen to educators from this school as they share experiences with full-time technology integration. Hear about the teacher resources that correlate state and local standards to web sites as well as allow teacher control of the laptops in his/her classroom provided by NetSchools.com. Teachers will also share their ideas for the utilization of technology to improve student learning. The results will speak for themselves.

From Concept to Manipulative (Easily)

Presenters: Jon Wigderson Educational Technology Associates
Audience: Middle - High School (Grades 6 - 12) Math, Science, Art, Tech Ed
Platform: Win/Mac

In this session we will show how to bring new life to geometry, mathematics, science and art lessons. We will demonstrate the use of TABS, a powerful tool that allows students to design and make 3D models in two easy steps.

We will also show how this program can be used in all these curricular areas to enhance understanding and problem solving and promote more creative thinking.

Standards Based Technology Training for Educators

Presenter: Grace Campia UNICOM
Audience: Educators, superintendents, assistant superintendents, business managers
Platform: Non-specific

This workshop takes a look at ways to develop continuing education programs for teachers that have the overall goal of improving student learning by using technology to support that learning. Take a look at a professional development model that links the curriculum standards of your state to the technology training programs you offer to your staff. Learn ways to teach teachers how to create a learning environment that incorporated technology as a positive learning tool for students.   This workshop will review with you a number of resources and web sites that will help you plan how to move from using technology in isolation to one of linking directly to subject area content as found in the state curriculum frameworks.

Non-Linear Editing at an Affordable Price: "A Complete Studio In a Box Solution"

Presenter: Robert Serio R&B Enterprises, Newton, CT
Audience: All
Platform: Non-specific

This professional seminar will introduce you to non-linear editing in a step by step approach using a solution that costs less than $3000! We will show you, the educator, just how easy this all inclusive studio in a box is. After this demo we will have a Q & A period to help you with funding, on site training, spec writing and pricing. Join us and find out why editing will never be the same!!!!!!!!!!

Funbrain: A Smart Place to Play

Presenter: Jane Carter FamilyEducation Network
Audience: K - 12 Educators
Platform: Internet

In this interactive and fun workshop, you will learn how to: Use Funbrain's learning games and activities to enrich your curriculum and increase parent involvement. Students have so much fun playing Math Baseball and Grammar Gorillas that they don't even know they are reinforcing the skills they have learned in class! Access the Internet's largest source of K - 8 assessment quizzes. Us one of the 10,000 online quizzes to check your students' progress and reinforce skills or create your own online quiz. Have the quiz graded automatically and the results emailed to you. Learning can extend from school to the home. Tell parents

about the games, activities and quizzes so they can become more involved in their child's education and support your efforts while having fun together.

Creating Successful Proposals for Educational Technology Projects

Presenter: Heather Hurley Sun Associates
Audience: All
Platform: Mac OS 9

This workshop will help novice proposal-writers understand the basic dynamics and principles of proposal writing and reviewing. Participants will interactively review key concepts of technology proposal writing through materials built from actual successful and unsuccessful proposals. Following this review, participants will be provided with information on technology funding sources and general proposal-writing resources.

Win a Lexmark printer at the CECA 2000 Party

CECA is not a CEU provider. If you would like to earn CEU equivalents for your participation in the CECA conference, you MUST file an application with the office in your school system which handles CEUs BEFORE you attend the conference on Nov 6th.

  A certificate of attendance will be provided at the registration desk at the end of the day.

RESC Technology Leader Training

School districts around the state are continually looking for qualified technology trainers to provide effective professional development activities in their schools. In response to this need, the Connecticut State Department of Education and the Alliance of Regional Educational Service Centers (RESCs) are pleased to announce an exciting new opportunity. You are invited to be part of a team of educators selected from school districts around the state who will receive intensive training in the delivery and content of professional development in technology integration.

As a Technology Integration Professional Partner (TIPP), you will network with other professionals, participate in RESC designed training modules, and be recognized as a technology leader. Candidates for this innovative program include educators who may currently provide technology leadership to others in their school or want to be involved with teaching other teachers. This is a unique opportunity to grow professionally and share your skills with fellow educators. Training topics will include:

Effective instruction with adult learners · Essential technologies for educators · RESC training modules · Technology integration strategies · Engaged learning environments

All participants will receive four days of innovative core training between January 2001 and March 2001 with two optional, elective training days available until June 2001. The training will be held at each RESC. A culminating activity will take place after the school year.

Applications will be available at the CECA Conference. For more information contact your RESC.

LEARN - Dorothy B. Dugas (860-434-4800)
        dbdugas@learn.k12.ct.us
ACES - Barbara Haeffner (203-407-4418) bhaeffner@aces.k12.ct.us
ACES - Scott Nierendorf (203-407-4417)
        snierendorf@aces.k12.ct.us
CREC - Joe Marhefka jmarhefka@crec.org,
CES - Gary Webster (203-365-8885) websterg@ces.k12.ct.us
CES - Diane Tung (203-365-8882) tungd@ces.k12.ct.us
Eastconn - Jane Cook (860-455-0707) jcook@eastconn.org,
Education Connection - Roni Whiting (860-567-0863)
        whiting@educationconnection.org

LEARN HOW TO TACKLE CURRENT EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY ISSUES, ONLINE, ANYWHERE, AND AT ANY TIME OF THE DAY (OR NIGHT).

National School Boards Association's ITTE: Education Technology Programs has created Virtual Training Courses to help you create innovative staff development strategies and develop tools to measure technology's impact on student learning. Click on http://www.nsba.org/itte/onlinecourse.html to find out more about these new and exciting online learning opportunities.

"High-Tech High School," New York Times (Connecticut weekly section), 17 September 2000 (p. 01).

High-tech business leaders in the Stamford area of Connecticut have played an integral role in developing the curriculum for the state's first high school focused on training students in information technology. The Academy of Information Technology opened this month after just a year of preparation, admitting about 225 of the 300 students who applied. Students will learn about computer graphics, Web design, programming and database and network administration. Some of the many high-tech companies in and around Stamford are prepared to hire the students as soon as they graduate from high school.

Christine Casey, assistant superintendent of Stamford schools, said they were able to get the academy up and running so quickly through the collaborative efforts of business leaders, Norwalk Community College, administrators and teachers. More projects like this one can't happen soon enough because businesses need the skilled labor, said Mark Pruner, president of the Connecticut Internet Association and Web Counsel.

If they complete the first level of training, these kids could be making $50,000 to $70,000 right out of school," said Michael Pensiero, applications support manager for Stamford's information technology department.

[Source: The NASSMC Briefing Service is provided by the National Alliance of State Science & Mathematics Coalitions through grants from the ExxonMobil Foundation and the National Security Agency. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations are the authors', not the funders'. Readers are hereby granted permission to further distribute NBS articles in electronic or hardcopy form.]

Internet Café Mac
Room - Kent

Session 1 8:00 - 9:00
The Wireless Classroom with Apple's Airport technologies.
Presenter: Bob Trikakis, Apple Computer

Now there's a simple, affordable way to bring the Internet to every desk in the classroom—with no fuss, and even better, no cables. Only Apple makes wireless networking this powerful—and this simple. Whether you are interested in mobile labs, increasing student access, or extending the reach of your existing network, Apple has just made it easier than ever integrating Apple's wireless technology in every hardware product we make. See how Apple's wireless networking offers opportunities for increasing communication and collaboration for more productive and creative learning in the classroom. The revolution continues! You won't want to miss this session.

Session 2 11:15 - 12:15
iThink Therefore iMovie
Presenters: Ken Holvig and Jerry Crisci,
Scarsdale Middle School, Scarsdale, New York

Recently, Apple Computer introduced iMovie, a fully digital video editing program offering precise control over editing functions. The goal of this presentation is to introduce participants to the iMovie technology and to demonstrate the use of the program to enhance curriculum projects and presentations. The accessibility and ease of use of iMovie will allow users to get started with video, especially since Apple offers the program as a free Internet download.

Session 3 1:30 - 2:30
Hot New Technologies from Apple
Presenter: Bob Trikakis, Apple Computer

Come see the latest from Apple Computer... Join us for an exciting session featuring the latest product and technology directions for education from Apple. See on-site demonstrations, and be amazed at the offerings from Apple! If your school is looking to be on the leading edge of technology - this session is a must!

Session 4 3:00 - 4:00
Getting Creative with Appleworks/ClarisWorks in the Classroom
Presenters: Barbara Haeffner & Josh Smith, ACES PDSI

This teacher productivity session will give participants ideas and instructions to create materials to integrate with their teaching. Utilize this software package to produce slideshows, certificates, class databases, newsletters and more. Participants will be able to use AppleWorks/ClarisWorks and provided templates to enhance grade level skills.

Internet Café PC
Room - Jersey

Session 1 8:00 - 9:00
Creating Web Pages using Homestead.com
Presenters: Don Baron, Cromwell Middle School ,Howard Gunther, ACES PDSI

Join us to learn how to create web pages for your classroom. Here is what a teacher said about Homestead.com, "The fact that it's free, that it is easy and reliably accessible and that there are no annoying pop-up windows, make Homestead a perfect place to host classroom pages. I cannot begin to express what an asset my Homestead Web site has been, or what an indispensable part it plays in my classroom." L.H, 6th grade teacher

Session 2 11:15 - 12:15
How To Stop Searching & Start Finding
Presenters: Meryl Menon & Tara Rothman, ACES PDSI

Are you a frustrated Internet Surfer? Do you want to make the most of your online time? If so, come and join us as we explore some of the various search engines available on the Internet and learn how to efficiently locate information on the web during this hands-on workshop.

Session 3 1:30 - 2:30
ENC Online
Presenters: Donna Brown, Wethersfield Public Schools and Eileen Bengtson, Weston Public Schools

The ONE site for K-12 Math and Science Educators Math, science, media and technology resource teachers! Are you tired of sorting through lists of WWW sites to find excellent instructional activities that support mathematics and science standards? Come and learn how to use the varied and incredible resources on ENC Online. At the conclusion of this session participants will be able to easily find resources and exemplary lessons to support any K-12 math or science curriculum.

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"High School District Ensures Each Student Access to Palm Pilot,"

Chicago Sun-Times, 9/27/00

http://www.suntimes.com/output/news/palm27.html

Suburban Chicago School District 230 has become the largest school system in the country to integrate Palm Pilots into the daily curriculum. The district purchased 3,000 Palms as part of the Student Empowered Learning program, an initiative that emphasizes problem-based learning. So far, students have used their Palms to test and graph acidity in local water, monitor caloric intake and learn vocabulary words.

[Source: ASCD SmartBrief 9/27/00]

**CECA Newsletter
P.O.Box 1019
Branford, CT 06405**

CONNECTICUT EDUCATORS COMPUTER ASSOCIATION

**CONTAINS
IMPORTANT
CECA 2000
INFORMATION**