

Number 4

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Tips & tricks for using  
educational technologies...

Links to sites that may help  
enhance classroom instruction...

Videos to motivate, teach, or  
help lighten the mood...

# W.D. Tech NEWS



## ARE YOU CREATING MEMORIES FOR THE FUTURE?

*"It's never been easier to create ways for students and children to remember their past."*

My youngest son (age 11) has finally figured out that his dad was young at one time. You've maybe seen James in *Tech Tuesday* episodes and, if you have, you know he has an interesting sense of humor.

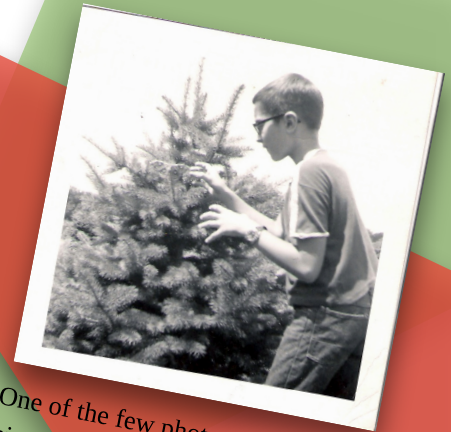
He has learned that his dad has actually done some pretty interesting things: Been in rock and country bands, is an author, has drawn comics for newspapers, had friends that did things that were actually fun, and a whole lot more. However, when he asks for photos or videos from my past, I don't have hardly anything to show him.

When I was young, it cost a lot to develop photos. Nobody had a video camera. We just couldn't afford to document everything we did.

But that isn't the case today. Today,

we can store digital photos or print photos cheaply (check out GrooveBook). We can easily create videos (use Movie Maker, iMovie, or Stupeflix). We can store our videos so simply (YouTube, TeacherTube, your District website) that there isn't a reason not to share them. When I create a video, I will save it to my personal 365 account so it is safely stored in case something happens to my house (I do this for my photos, too).

I have come to the conclusion that you can't take enough photos or videos. Think how amazing it will be for your students or children to see what they were like when they were young or celebrated special occasions in their life? Get out there with your cameras, phones, or devices and preserve memories. You won't be sorry!



One of the few photos Jim has from his childhood. He was 10 years old.

**Editor:** Jim Roberts \* Western Dubuque Director of Instructional Technology and Student Reporting

Please submit your ideas and questions to Jim at [james.roberts@wdbqschools.org](mailto:james.roberts@wdbqschools.org).



## Site: **SNOPES** (Safety/Devices/Information)

Snopes is a website that shares information with you about recent scams, rumors, and those wonderful urban legends that I am particularly fond of. I really like that I can learn about many of the most recent phishing schemes and email scams.

<http://www.snopes.com/>

# Sites: CHRISTMAS (HISTORY/READING/GAMES)

Whether you celebrate Christmas or not, there are sites that may interest you because... well... they are just plain fun. Check these out!



## Merry Christmas Math Fact Game

It's time to put up the lights for Christmas. But wait! You need to solve math problems before you get lights. The more problems you answer, the more lights you earn.

[http://media.abcya.com/games/christmas\\_lights\\_holiday\\_game\\_for\\_kids/flash/christmas\\_lights\\_holiday\\_game\\_for\\_kids.swf](http://media.abcya.com/games/christmas_lights_holiday_game_for_kids/flash/christmas_lights_holiday_game_for_kids.swf)



## Winter Mad Libs

A fun way to promote reading and writing is to use mad libs. This site features several great winter mad libs that are sure to have your students laughing and interacting.

<http://www.woojr.com/winter-mad-libs/>

## Christmas Around the World

This is a great resource to learn about how Christmas is celebrated in a variety of countries around the world. Links take you to books and resources that you may find useful in your classroom.

<http://www.teachingheart.net/worldmas.html>



## Interesting facts for the classroom December Events

**Dec. 1:** [Rosa Parks Day](#) on this day in 1955 she refused to give up her seat.

**Dec. 3:** [International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#)

**Dec. 5:** [Walter Elias \(Walt\) Disney's Birthday](#) born, 1901

**Dec. 7:** [Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day](#) (1941)

**Dec. 10:** [Human Rights Day](#)  
[Emily Dickinson](#) born, 1830

**Dec. 11:** Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock (1620)

**Dec. 14:** [First Miniature Golf Course Opened](#) in 1929

[South Pole Discovered](#) in 1911

**Dec. 16:** [Beethoven's Birthday](#) (1770)

**Dec. 17:** [Wright Brother's First Flight](#) (1903)

**Dec. 18:** [Wear a Plunger On Your Head Day](#)

**Dec. 21:** [First Day of Winter](#)  
[First Crossword Puzzle in a Newspaper](#) (1913)

**Dec. 23:** [Roots Day](#)

**Dec. 25:** [Christmas](#)

**Dec. 26:** [Kwanzaa Begins](#)

**Dec. 28:** [Card Playing Day](#)  
[Chewing Gum Patented](#) in 1869

Iowa became the 29th state (1846)

<https://www.theteacherscorner.net/calendars/december.php?printable=1>

**Site:** JUST DELETE ME *(Productivity)*

justdelete.me

A directory of direct links to delete your account from web services.

There are many sites that can make it almost impossible (or even impossible) to delete your account from their site. Before you go through the time and frustration of creating an account you won't be able to get out of, check out **Just Delete Me**. All you need do is find the site you are interested in and view the information you need to know.

<http://backgroundchecks.org/justdeleteme/#>

## Video: Funny Christmas Songs

When you visit this YouTube site, you can listen to or view some pretty funny Christmas songs. Most of them are quite clever and some of them may not be appropriate for the classroom. Make sure you listen to the songs before you play them for students. Have fun and maybe you can add a unique twist to this year's Christmas celebration.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4NIR5KQLQ8&list=PL8vG43cCVOfcP8XwkdgefKI3dJIH5Hvzz>

12 Pains Of  
Christmas  
Bob Rivers

*Productivity:*

**Ideas  
for  
Teachers**

### **Great Web Tools:**

- ▶ [Adult Coloring Pages · 1,300+ Free Printables](#)
- ▶ [Your Hearing Test, Online & Free | Dr. Ir. Stephane Pigeon](#)
- ▶ [TheFreeSite.com offers free stuff, freebies, free product samples, freeware](#)
- ▶ [ESRB Ratings](#)
- ▶ [How to create an app for free: easy app maker Appy Pie best app builder](#)
- ▶ [Agar.io](#)
- ▶ [Save paper & ink printing only what you want « PrintWhatYouLike.com](#)
- ▶ [ESL with technology](#)
- ▶ [QuizBean | Quickly Create Online Quizzes For Free](#)
- ▶ [Polona Typo](#)
- ▶ [3D Printing](#)
- ▶ [Versal for Teachers](#)
- ▶ [Random Name Picker](#)
- ▶ [URL Shorteners](#)
- ▶ [How Old Am I?](#)
- ▶ [Google Timer](#)
- ▶ [Google Sheet Interactive Dice!](#)
- ▶ [Print onto Sticky Notes](#)
- ▶ [Coding Resources](#)
- ▶ [robots](#)
- ▶ [Innovation in teaching](#)
- ▶ [Technology Literacy](#)
- ▶ [Collaboration, meeting, and teaching platform](#)
- ▶ [WordItOut – enjoy word clouds, create word art & gifts](#)
- ▶ [ThinkBinder](#)
- ▶ [Scratch - Imagine, Program, Share](#)