

Number 7

Volume 3

March 2015-2016

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

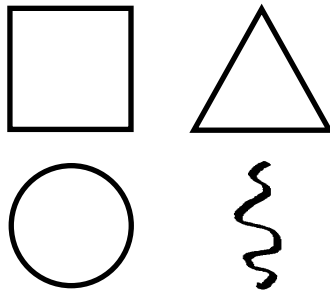
OH, BOY... A PERSONALITY QUIZ!

"Part 1 of how a shape can determine your technology use preferences"

I had the pleasure of attending a Social Media Marketing conference on February 23rd and 24th. I attended this with Mary Ann Trumm because we are going to be launching a new District website which will include social networking components. Mary Ann and I needed to learn the most efficient, effective, and correct way to integrate social media within our District and our buildings. It was a wonderful learning experience! We learned that using social media in a business setting (like a school district) is not at all like using the social media that we all have grown accustomed to using (Facebook, Twitter, etc.).

One of the more fun activities we did was to see what our technology use personality reveals about us (in a nutshell). This newsletter is part 1 of this personality quiz and I will reveal the results in next month's newsletter.

So here's all you need do: Which one of the following shapes do you personally like the best? There is no correct answer. You just need to choose the shape you like best. Go ahead... pick your favorite shape.



Now, don't worry about choosing the correct shape. As I shared earlier, there ISN'T a correct shape. There's just your favorite shape.

Thanks for reading this newsletter and, hopefully, following it each month. Keep sharing your ideas, sites, and apps with me. I always hearing and learning from you!



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.

Site: Whyville



Whyville is a virtual world where children ages 8 to 15 play, explore, create and learn together. From solving math puzzles to protecting coral reefs, from programming robots to running virtual businesses, Whyville's citizens, known as Whyvillians, collaborate, compete and share while engaging in 100+ games and activities. Whyville has a currency (clams!), an economy, a newspaper (The Whyville Times) and even a Senate. The richness of the virtual world fosters creativity, initiative, critical thinking and entrepreneurial spirit, all within a safe, monitored environment. (Text from site)

<http://www.whyville.net/smmk/nice#what>

Site: 7 STRATEGIES TO HELP STUDENTS ASK GREAT QUESTIONS

<http://www.teachthought.com/critical-thinking/inquiry/8-strategies-to-help-students>

[-ask-great-questions/](#)

App: EARTHVIEWER

EarthViewer is like a time machine for exploring Earth's deep history. Based on the latest scientific research, it lets you scroll through the last 4.5 billion years with your fingertips. Follow a favorite landmark, be it Greenland or New York City, as its position shifts through time, or watch a famous fossil like Tiktaalik make an incredible journey from its origin to its current location. *(Text from site)*

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/earthviewer/id590208430?mt=8>



Site: AN EXCELLENT TOOL FOR CREATING CLASSROOM NEWSPAPERS



Printing Press is a great web tool from [ReadWriteThink](#) that you can use with students in class to easily create beautiful newspapers, flyers and brochures. Printing Press provides multiple pre-made templates to choose from when creating a newspaper. Finished works can be saved and shared with others through emails or you can print out paper versions to distribute in your class. Additionally, you can save your unfinished newspaper as a draft and use a simple WYSIWYG to edit it later on. *(Text from site)*

<http://www.educatorstechnology.com/2016/02/here-is-excellent-web-tool-for-creating.html>

Interesting facts for the classroom March Trivia

March 1st

Justin Bieber born, 1994

[Peace Corps Anniversary](#)

[National Pig Day](#)

[Peanut Butter Lover's Day](#)

[Share a Smile Day](#)

Yellowstone National Park
Established (1872)

March 5

[Iditarod Race Begins](#)

March 9

[Barbie's Birthday](#) (1959)

March 10

Abolitionist Harriet Tubman
Day

[1st Paper Money Issued](#) in
1862

March 11

[Johnny Appleseed Day](#)

March 17

[Rubber Band Invented](#)

[St. Patrick's Day](#)

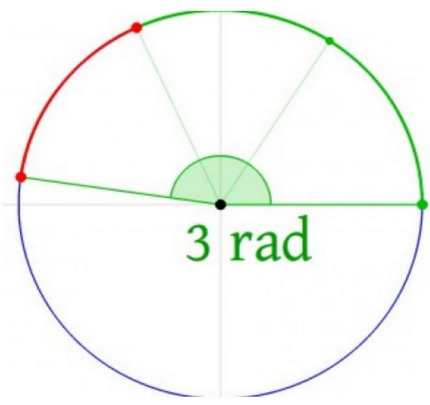
March 21

[First Ever Tweet](#) made on
Twitter, 2006

March 25

[Pancakes First Made](#) (1882)

[http://www.theteacherscorner.net/
calendars/march.php](http://www.theteacherscorner.net/calendars/march.php)



Video: 21 GIFs That Explain Mathematical Concepts

Check out these gifs that will help you visualize some tricky aspects of math, so you can dominate your exams this year. *(Text from site)*

<http://www.iflscience.com/brain/math-gifs-will-help-you-understand-these-concepts-better-your-teacher-ever-did>



Inspirational Video: THE EVOLUTION OF DANCE

There isn't any way to describe this. You just have to watch and enjoy!

<https://youtu.be/dMH0bHeiRNq>



Productivity: Microsoft Excel Tips & Tricks



* Quickly add an entire column or row by clicking in the first empty cell in the column. Then enter ALT + '=' (equals key) to add up the numbers in every cell above.

* Scrolling is OK but the quickest way is to use the keyboard shortcut CTRL + ↑ to jump to the top cell, or CTRL + ↓ to drop to the last cell before an empty cell.

* Create the formula you need in the first cell. Then move your cursor to the lower right corner of that cell and, when it turns into a plus sign, double click to copy that formula into the rest of the cells in that column. Each cell in the column will show the results of the formula using the data in that row.

* Jumping from worksheet to worksheet doesn't mean you have to move your hand off the keyboard with this cool shortcut. To change to the next worksheet to the right enter CTRL + PGDN. And conversely change to the worksheet to the left by entering CTRL + PGUP.

<https://searchenginewatch.com/sew/how-to/2292786/10-quick-timesaving-excel-shortcuts-mouse-tricks-for-marketers>