

Number 1

Volume 4

September 2016-2017

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

WHAT DO YOU WANT KIDS TO DO WITH TECHNOLOGY?

"This may not be the answer you thought you would see."

I have observed over the years that educators think that technology will solve issues in the classroom. Please, don't be part of this mindset. If there isn't a specific reason and purpose for using a technology, the technology is simply a toy or a time-waster. It doesn't solve anything.

So, what do you want kids to do with technology? Is it to create presentations, to start blogs, to create graphics (words or illustrations), white board presentations, videos, audio files, create apps or building programs, or to social network? If you answered "yes" to any of these, you are using technology only for technologies sake. You aren't using technology as a tool but as a time filler.

Here's how you *should* think: You should use technologies to teach students to start conversations, to find answers to the questions that they have, to collaborate and work as a team, to start conversations

that engage their minds (and their mouths), to direct attention to a cause and helps them take action, and to become an agent of change in their community and the world.

Did you notice that the things you *should* do don't necessarily require high technologies (computers, devices, etc.)? Students could use pens, pencils, and paper and good old fashioned books. However, if you view technologies as tools that will assist students in achieving specific outcomes, technologies take on a new meaning and you will be working productively. And more importantly, you will be teaching your students how use technologies productively.

Evaluate yourself and assess what you are doing with your students and your curriculum. Change the way you think about technologies. They are a tool. That's all. Just a tool to help with the job of educating our students.



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Please submit your ideas and questions to Jim at
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AnswerGarden
A minimal tool for
maximum feedback

Site: ANSWERGARDEN (feedback)

AnswerGarden is a new minimalistic feedback tool. Use it for real time audience participation, online brainstorming and classroom feedback.

Use it in the classroom as an educational tool or at work as a creative brainstorming tool. Post it in a tweet or you can embed it on your website or blog to use it as a poll or guestbook. <https://answergarden.ch/>

Site: PHOTOGRAPH PUZZLE MAKER (CREATIVITY/VISUAL)



Photograph Puzzle Maker allows you to upload any photograph/graphic and have it turned into an interactive puzzle. Your students can choose the size of pieces to generate the puzzle. You can either assemble the puzzle online or embed the code on your web page for everybody to access. Cool!!!

<http://www.flash-gear.com/puzzle/>

Site: WORDSEYE (WRITING AND ART)



Type a Picture

A [mod] ox is a couple of feet in front of the [hay] wall. It is cloudy. The ground is shiny grass. The huge hamburger is on the ox. An enormous gold chicken is behind the wall...



Imagine the amazing experience your students will have when they type parts of a storyline and a picture will be created. You have to try this to believe it really works.

This site is perfect for students in grades 5-12 and is especially useful for students who have an active imagination.

With a little practice, your students will be creating images by simply entering text. I was hooked and lost complete track of time when using it.

<https://www.wordseye.com/>

Site: FLIPQUIZ (FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT TOOL)



We all know that students learn best when they are interacting with the lesson. FlipQuiz™ allows the teacher to create questions that the students can use for review or for formative assessments.

FlipQuiz™ provides educators with a quick way to **create your own** gameshow-style boards for test reviews in the classroom. Traditionally, these are created tediously, using poster board, chalkboards, PowerPoint™ or dry-erase markers on overhead slides. The review questions themselves are usually written on a separate sheet of paper.

With FlipQuiz™, questions are displayed on-screen and boards are saved for later use. Combined with a beautiful board, students are more likely to be interested and stay engaged with the test review process.

<https://flipquiz.me/>

*Interesting facts
for the classroom*

September Events

Sept 3 [Barkley the Dog's Birthday](#) (Sesame Street Character)

[Skyscraper Day](#)

[Uncle Sam's Birthday](#) Uncle Sam's image was first used on this day in 1813.

Sept. 5 [National Cheese Pizza Day](#)

Sept. 6 [Read a Book Day](#)

Sept. 8 [International Literacy Day](#)

Sept. 11 [National Grandparents Day](#)

Sept. 12 [Jesse Owens](#) Olympian, born 1913

Sept. 13 [Positive Thinking Day](#)

[Scooby Doo's Birthday](#) (First cartoon debuted)

Sept. 15 [Tomie dePaola](#) born, 1934

[Make A Hat Day](#)

[National Hispanic Heritage Month](#) Begins September 15 and ends October 15

Sept. 16 [Collect Rocks Day](#)

[National Play-Doh Day](#)

Sept. 19 [International Talk Like a Pirate Day](#)

Sept. 22 [First Day of Autumn](#)

[Band-Aid](#) Invented In 1920

Dear Diary Day

[Elephant Appreciation Day](#)

[Ice Cream Cone](#) Invented In 1903.

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



Site: RANDOM NAME PICKER

(Tool)

It's here! A simple to use random name generator that takes the "That's not fair!" out of your choices. Simply create your list of names, items, words, etc. Click on the wheel and you have a random generator just like that. You can even embed the generator on your web page. This tool is so easy to use that I thought I had to be missing something. Give it a try!

<http://www.classools.net/random-name-picker/>

Productivity: Ideas for Teachers



Science

[Animals and Habitats](#)

[Circuits and Electricity](#)

[Earth and Beyond](#)

[Experiments and Investigations](#)

[Forces](#)

[Human Biology](#)

Reading

[All Reading Resources](#)

[Fiction](#)

[Non-Fiction](#)

[Phonics](#)

[Poetry](#)

Math

[Mental Starters](#)

[Problem Solving](#)

[Math Inspiration Posters](#)

[Picture Puzzles](#)

Music

[Composition](#)

[Instruments](#)

[Listening Skills](#)

[Musical Elements](#)

[Notation](#)

[Music Inspiration Posters](#)



Video: Lion King - Circle of Life Parody (Virtual Life)

It's great when we can poke fun at ourselves when it comes to technology. Check out this video that's... well... "interesting" and is a satire on the Lion King's, "Circle of Life."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iimlq6KuFpA>

