



Newsletter – January 2009

## TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

### Events and Sites of Interest:



CNN Student News <http://www.cnn.com/studentnews/>

CNN Student News is a student's news program targeted for the classroom that is televised from 4:00 to 4:10am(EST) Monday to Friday. CNN Student News is a daily commercial-free, ten-minute broadcast of the day's news geared for middle- and high-school students. It stars anchor Carl Azuz as he goes over the day's top stories. CNN Student News is also available as a free podcast on the CNN Student News website or on [iTunes](#).

On CNNStudentNews.com, you can access the show and free related curriculum materials, including Learning Activities, Discussion Questions, Newsquizzes and One-Sheets.

And if you want to be the first to know what's coming up on CNN Student News and CNN Classroom Edition programs, you can sign up for the CNN Student News Daily Education Alert. [Just click here to subscribe.](#)

Science Programs with Classroom Resources from



**Engineer Your Life**™ A guide to engineering  
for high school girls  
*Dream big. Love what you do.*

This site is for high school girls and the adults in their lives who want to learn more about life, school, and work for people with engineering degrees. Teachers and students can gain insight from **compelling role models** who are passionate and excited about their careers in engineering. Practical resources are provided to help **school counselors, parents, educators**, and engineers promote a better understanding of engineering.

Web site: <http://engineeryourlife.org/>

**Audience:** High School Girls



Teacher's Domain is a digital library of multimedia resources for classroom use, independent learning, or professional development. Teachers will find media-rich tools to present science concepts to students in high-impact, engaging, and interactive ways. **Lesson plans** include streaming video clips, audio clips, and interactive activities. Teachers can even customize folders for easy reference.  
**Web Site:** [www.teachersdomain.org](http://www.teachersdomain.org)

**Audience:** Educators



**Curious George™**

Based on the popular books, this series aims to inspire children to explore science, engineering, and math in the world around them. Teachers will find a **Discovery Guide** and parent-child activities online. Check your local PBS listings for air times.

**Web Site:** <http://pbskids.org/curiousgeorge/>

**Audience:** 4 to 6 year olds

## Free Tools



MixedInk Offers Free Collaborative Writing Tool

MixedInk, a free web-based tool, offers a new twist on collaborative documents. To demonstrate how it works, they are encouraging people to contribute to Slate's collective document, "The People's Inaugural Address." The system could also be used for your class (or their entire grade or school) to collectively write a letter, a list of interview questions, an essay or any other relatively brief document. Passwords keep the work private. One caveat: the site does have advertising.

<http://mixedink.com/main.php>



**Write A Book** Every child is an author on tikatok.com, where students write, illustrate, and publish their very own storybooks. Beginners can use optional prompts called Storysparks to get started. It's free to log on and create a book; ordering printed copies will cost about \$15.00 to \$20.00.

[www.tikatok.com](http://www.tikatok.com)

Audience 5 – 14



**Make**

**a Funny Page** Created by children's book author Bill Zimmerman, colorful makebeliefscomix.com lets students design comic strips using pre-drawn characters. Students fill in text bubbles, then print or e-mail the cartoons to friends for free.

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

Audience 4 – up



**Compile A Crossword** The International Reading Association and the National Council of Teachers of English launched [readwritethink.org/crossword](http://readwritethink.org/crossword), a free crossword generator. Students write clues for words they pick, and then print the puzzles to challenge friends.

[www.readwritethink.org/crossword](http://www.readwritethink.org/crossword)

Audience 4 - 18

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## Contests

BOOKS

KIDS

CONTESTS

### [The 2009 National Kids-in-Print Book Contest for Students](#)

Deadline: June 1, 2009

(Requires a \$10.00 Entry Fee)

To encourage and celebrate the creative talents and skills of students, Landmark House, Ltd. is pleased to announce The 2009 National Kids-in-Print Book Contest for Students.\*

A qualified panel of judges, composed of professional editors, writers, illustrators, teachers, and librarians will judge the book entries on the merits of originality and the writing and illustrating skills displayed.

Landmark House, Ltd. will then publish the three winning students' books, one from each of the three age categories. The books will be printed and assembled according to the finest quality standards of book

*\*Formerly The National Written & Illustrated by... Awards Contest for Students*

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## All I Wanna Do Is Zoom Zoom Zoom Zoom

Microsoft® Live Labs™



Photosynth™

Microsoft's Photosynth, the best thing to happen to photography since the digital camera

By Farhad Manjoo Posted Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2009, at 4:56 PM ET

Microsoft launched [Photosynth](#) last summer, but the Web application had its real coming-out party at the inauguration. Though no one has really counted, you probably wouldn't be too off the mark in guessing that the [1 million or 2 million people](#) who gathered to watch Barack Obama take the oath of office produced tens of millions of snapshots—making it one of the most photographed events ever. As part of their inauguration coverage, both CNN and MSNBC invited viewers to submit their photos to Photosynth. These contributions produced dozens of 3-D scenes—called "synths"—at [various locations across Washington](#) during inaugural weekend. They're absolutely mesmerizing.

Take a look at [this picture](#) of Barack and Michelle Obama at one of the inaugural balls.

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The following sites provide Online Training with Adobe Tools and products.

Adobe Online Events (Free)

[http://www.adobe.com/cfusion/event/index.cfm?event=list&type=online\\_event&loc=en\\_us](http://www.adobe.com/cfusion/event/index.cfm?event=list&type=online_event&loc=en_us)

Adobe eSeminars (Free)

[http://www.adobe.com/cfusion/event/index.cfm?event=list&type=eseminar&loc=en\\_us](http://www.adobe.com/cfusion/event/index.cfm?event=list&type=eseminar&loc=en_us)

Adobe OnDemand Seminars (Free)

[http://www.adobe.com/cfusion/event/index.cfm?event=list&type=ondemand\\_seminar&loc=en\\_us](http://www.adobe.com/cfusion/event/index.cfm?event=list&type=ondemand_seminar&loc=en_us)

Adobe TV (Free)

<http://tv.adobe.com/#>

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## Technology Helpful Excel Hints:

I have attached 4 different versions of Excel Help Sheets in PDF format. These can be printed so that you can have a quick reference guide at hand. Most Leominster Public Schools desktops are running Excel 2002, which is the XP version. Some newer laptops would have Excel 2007. Please check with your Media Technology Aide if you are not sure.

**Choose** the version and **double click** on the link.

It will open so that you can print the helpful hints.

<http://www.leominster.mec.edu/pdfs/tech-newsletters/excel-quick-reference-2000.pdf>

<http://www.leominster.mec.edu/pdfs/tech-newsletters/excel-quick-reference-2002.pdf>

<http://www.leominster.mec.edu/pdfs/tech-newsletters/excel-quick-reference-2003.pdf>

<http://www.leominster.mec.edu/pdfs/tech-newsletters/excel-quick-reference-2004.pdf>

<http://www.leominster.mec.edu/pdfs/tech-newsletters/excel-quick-reference-2007.pdf>