

ISSUE

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Newsletter for Mr. Holden's  
Technology Classes

# TechTimes

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## Miscellaneous Information

Well, it has been awhile since my last newsletter, but we are off to a great year in the technology department. We were very lucky thanks to many generous donors at last year's dinner auction to get a lot of new technology. We got some new lab laptops, new Chromebooks for the middle school, and enough new iPads so that the 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade each has their own set of classroom iPads. Technology is changing every day and we have been lucky to have generous people like some of you to help us keep up to date.

## WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING IN CLASS

**Kindergarten** – Wow, these students have come a long way since the beginning of the school year. These students have gone from just learning how to log on and off a computer to now they can do it all themselves without my help. This class has come a long way from needing help with everything using the computer to becoming self-sufficient. We have even used the computer to practice our ABC's and begin keyboarding practice.

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade** – We have done a lot of art, math and reading activities on the computer. The class was able to be publishers by getting to create a class alphabet book using "Kid Pix 4". Recently we even did some Internet activities where we learned about some musicians and artists (Mrs. Bowe and Miss Pelletier would be proud of what we learned) Coming up we will be doing some math activities that practice time, number grids, and counting money will also be done in Technology class.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade** – The first part of the year we discussed the computer keyboard. They learned about the key positions by making a giant keyboard which is displayed in the Technology Center. We have been discussing a lot about key position and what hand types what keys. We used the giant keyboard they created in the lab to put up hands to figure out the correct fingering. Creating the Funky Photo Frames they were supposed to give as Christmas presents was fun too. The second grade will have 2 major projects the second half of the year. The first they are currently working on a weather booklet depicting many different types of weather and writing about it. The 2<sup>nd</sup> is a map booklet that they will work on that will have 4 different maps they create.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade** – As part of our business unit this class created a product for a can and made a label for it using "Kid Pix 4". Then we discussed advertising, and they created an advertisement for their product. After we finish creating charts and graphs in "Microsoft Excel 2016" of the numbers from the Lemonade Stand game, this class is going to write a short story using "Microsoft Word 2016". They will be formatting the document to be 2 pages per sheet, and they also will learn how to insert pictures from the Internet to go along with the story. Each page will have half picture and half writing. Keyboarding class has gone well, but as I have stated before they should always try to practice at home. The more people are using tech. devices the more important good typing skills will be.

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade** – This year the 4<sup>th</sup> grade gets to use Chromebooks in the classroom, so we began the year learning how to use the Chromebooks and got our Google logins. To use the Chromebooks they learned how to use Google Docs and Google Slides. Next we will learn about Computer History which includes (what the students like the most every year) arcade history. Then we will learn some complicated stuff in Microsoft PowerPoint and will make a one slide animation presentation. Earlier in the year we did have a short unit about computer parts and how the computer works. Students got to take apart an old computer to see how they work. That was fun.

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade** – We reviewed Google Apps and then worked with Windows 10 functions. This included settings changes, what comes with Windows 10, how to take care of their computers, and where things are on the desktop. Next will be "PowerPoint 2016" – where the students will make a Choose Your Own Adventure story presentation. Then we will be discussing Internet Safety, vocabulary, copyright laws, and search techniques.

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade** – We have mainly been working with PowerPoint 2016 to make a Book Report Presentation. Students also embedded a webcam video into their presentations. I feel it is so important to be comfortable to get up in front of people, so part of the project they had to present their PowerPoint presentations to the class.

**7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup> Grade** – Topics studied this year: Google Video Call, Google Contacts / Email, MLA citation integration into Google Docs via an Add On, other Google Docs Add Ons, Writing Business Letters using Microsoft Word 2016, and video creation using iMovie on the iPad.