March/April
Technology Newsletter

We have sprung into Spring! Students have been busier than ever these last several weeks! Read on to see what we've been working on in our Information Literacy classes.

Grade 3:

Third graders wrapped up their Digital Tools unit where they explored digital tools and wrote up reviews based on their explorations. The Green Screen app by DoInk was a featured tool that many students used to create weather forecasts to express learning from their "Weather" unit. Students took notes throughout their digital tool explorations and were able to share learning connections, examples based on their experiences, and provide ratings for their tools in their reviews. Feel free to visit your child(ren)'s Google Classroom to view their evaluations and learn more about the digital tools themselves.

In the upcoming weeks students will begin an inquiry research project to learn more about Endangered Animals.   Students will be supported as they work through [Stripling's Inquiry Model](#) to connect, gather background knowledge, generate questions, and find answers using "scholarly" sources. Additional skills will include using nonfiction text features to find information, as well as finding citations to give credit to sources.

Grade 4:

Fourth graders wrapped up their Digital Tools unit last month. Students were able to use a Choice Board to select two digital tools to explore.   In their evaluations of each tool, students were given an opportunity to conduct research to learn more about their features and purpose for use.   Additionally, students practiced citing their sources, attaching artifacts, and self-evaluating their learning using a rubric.   Students who finished these tasks were provided feedback through a grade and comments.

In the upcoming weeks students will conduct research on the topic of Alternative Energy, a fourth grade theme. In this unit, students will gather background knowledge about a variety of types of Alternative Energy and determine whether they need to find additional information by conducting "presearch" to learn more about their topic. Using the information gathered, students will choose a focus area, develop a research worthy question, and gather information to answer their question using a variety of scholarly sources. Students will then be able to utilize digital tools from our previous unit to share their findings with others in the school, local, and classroom communities.

Feel free to visit your child(ren)'s Google Classroom to view the Digital Tools Choice Board, read reviews, and check out the Alternative Energy project.

Grade 5:

Fifth graders participated in the school-wide Day of Service to raise money, awareness, and express their learning of global issues with others in the school community. This culmination of their global research really made a meaningful impact on students who could see the effects of their efforts. We encourage you to view the video celebrating this special day by clicking on the link found [here](#).

In the coming weeks students will be working collaboratively to create their own digital "If/Then Adventure" stories. Students will utilize a variety of digital skills to collaborate using Google Slides. The end product will link collaborative work sessions and products together for others to enjoy!

Day of Service

Our annual Day of Service was an overwhelming success! Thank you to all the families who generously participated and donated items to make this day such a special one for our students and school community. Please enjoy our video highlighting the many activities, speakers, and student participation by clicking on the link found [here](#).

Digital Learning Day

If you haven't already viewed our Digital Learning Day presentation, found in the Digital Backpack, feel free to access it by clicking here.

Digital Opportunities From Home:

- All students can practice their keyboarding skills using our typing program, Typing Club, found in their Colchester Bookmarks (JJIS Links) to practice keyboarding skills. Click here to check it out!

- All students can build their coding skills using Tynker, our coding program, also found in Colchester Bookmarks (JJIS Links) to extend the Hour of Code at home! Click here to check it out!

Please note that for Typing Club and Tynker students should "Log in with Google."

Feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns at the email addresses below!

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