

Hans-On Technology

Websites

Are you looking for an authentic and meaningful way for your students to get involved and learn about the world at the same time?

Check out: dosomething.org and studentsrebuild.org.

These two sites give students useful ways to learn about the issues affecting the world and its people, as well as ways to get involved with real solutions.

Tips

Use Spotlight

Where is that darn file! You know you saved it, but it never seems to be where you thought it was when time is on the line and students are staring at you expectantly. It's frustrating.

Spotlight to the rescue! With a simple shortcut on your keyboard, (command+space bar) you can type the name of the file (or just part of it) and BAM! Click your file from the list and it opens. That's it!

You can even change the preferences so that the files you look for most show at the top of the list, and things you don't want to appear don't show at all. Need a specific type of file? Type "kind:pdf USA" to find that pdf file with USA in the file name.

Article:

[What Makes for a Master Teacher?](#)

Author Ben Johnson takes issue with another author's criteria for master teachers.

Still True

As I was reading through my RSS feeds the last few nights, I came across a blog by Dr. Scott McLeod ([Dangerously Irrelevant-read the blog here](#)) about an excerpt from a publication in 1992.

Here is the excerpt from the writing:

"We have never learned how to use instructional media in our schools in any predictable or systematic way. An even greater problem is that we have not learned how to deal with the educational effects of modern technology outside the classroom. We live in a society in which school is one place to

learn, but not the only place to learn. Machine-aided tasks are increasing at an exponential rate, and modern technology has much to contribute to the management of the classroom, as well as to the substance of learning. Nevertheless, schools and teachers act as spectators to the passing trends, while technology leaps forward, leaving the onlookers behind."

- Allen, D. W. (1992). *Schools for a new century: A conservative approach to radical school reform* (p. 126). New York, NY: Greenwood Publishing.

The point that Dr. McLeod makes, and that I will echo in this newsletter, is that this was written in 1992-yet it could have been published yesterday for the truth it tells.

Schools have known for nearly 20 years that BIG changes were needed to incorporate technology tools into the learning and teaching processes. How is it that we are eleven years into a century and still talking about how to enter this century in our line of work?

What will it take to move forward? Hopefully not another 20 years!

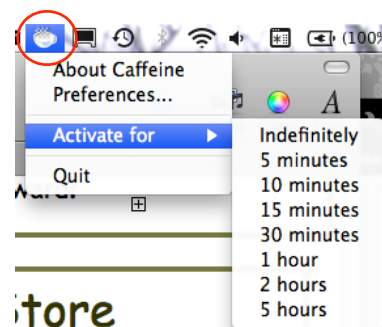
21st Century Tip of the Month

Last month, I featured an [ebook](#) written by educators for educators who want to incorporate tech tools in their classrooms. This month, I'll share a website that goes a step farther.

This [interactive wiki](#) has the NETS-S (National Education Technology Standards-Students) standards listed, and several activities and corresponding tech tools you could use to accomplish each of them. Remember, even if you break something, Larry will fix it! Happy playing!

The App Store

The App Store (on your MacBook, not iTunes) has lots of useful things for your computer. You can find everything from GarageBand and Pages to games and news apps. Caffeine, a free app, is very useful-it sits at the top of your menu bar until you need it. Click it, and the coffee cup fills up, and your screensaver settings are temporarily disabled, allowing you to guide discussion or watch clips without your computer going to sleep every few minutes.



Suggestions

Please email or call with any suggestions you have for this newsletter. The goal of this publication is to keep you informed about technology topics in USD #418, provide simple and quick tips and tricks, and hopefully you get something useful here or there.