

## Websites

[Symbaloo](#) is a site that lets you create a dashboard for all of your favorite sites. This one site can then serve as a launchpad for your students to get to the sites you've bookmarked, or for you to get to your favorite sites from any computer.

The attractive interface is easy to use. Just visit the site and click on "Tour" to see what it can do.

## Tips

### Use "Find"

Have you ever been looking for something specific in a web page, document, or file, but spend ten minutes digging for it?

Maybe you are doing research on earthquakes and need to find the part in a 5 page article that deals specifically with aftershocks. Just use Command+F to get a search box. Type in "aftershock" and click "Next".

Each time you click Next, you will be taken to the next occurrence of whatever word or phrase you entered. This is a very good time-saving tip!

Try it today on a webpage, document, or almost any file!

## Article:

### [Dispelling Myths About Blocked Sites](#)

The Department of Education's Director of Education Technology, Karen Cator, answers common questions about website filtering.

## The 3 R's of Summer

This is the last issue of the 2010-2011 school year, so I thought I'd end things with a few words about summer.

Summer is to teachers what a USB cable is to an iPod; a means by which to recharge. But that is just one of the "R's" of the summer season.

When I was teaching fifth grade, I looked forward to the summer by making an impossible list of things I wanted to get done. Every fall, I'd return to school energized and ready to jump in, but a little disappointed that some of the things on my list were neglected.

Maybe you won't get to everything on your lists this summer, but hopefully you will

find time to dedicate to each of the 3 R's:

**-Relax:** The first step of the summer should be to let yourself have that break you couldn't take during the year. Let's face it, no matter what you have on your summer "to-do" list, you will tackle things with renewed vigor after you've taken time for yourself. Remember what Quantum teaches us about Balance! Be the best you can be by finding your happy place again.

**-Reflect:** One of the best things we do as teachers to improve ourselves year after year is reflect; on the mistakes, the successes, the times that made you want to pull out your hair (or someone else's), and the times that reminded you of why you

chose this noble profession in the first place. Think about your biggest goals for the upcoming year. Focus on one or two things that you have the power to change, and don't get too bogged down trying to do too much at once. Plan your attack!

**-Rejuvenate:** No matter what you do this summer, be sure you come back next year with the fire of a first-year teacher and the confidence of having one more year under your belt as a veteran teaching professional.

There is no job that is more important, and few that are harder. Have a great summer!

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Tip of the Month

Last month, I featured an [interactive wiki](#) that lists web tools matching each of the NETS-S standards. This month, I want to encourage you to start your own wiki!

It's easy, fast, and instructions are provided when you sign up. With a wiki, you can easily have a website for communication, collaboration, and even student publishing. Best of all, you can never "ruin" a wiki; every edit can be undone at any time. Visit [pbworks](#) today and sign up for a free basic account to play with over the summer!

## Summer Learning

Stay tuned for flyers announcing several opportunities for learning this summer. I have heard from several of you about what you would like see offered, and if anyone else has something they'd like to learn more about, please just let me know.

So far, planning is in the works for:

- Using Google Docs
- 21st Century Teaching: Part I: Getting Started

- 21st Century Teaching: Part II: Tools of the Trade
- Promethean Users: Enhancing Skills
- Promethean Users: Building Flipcharts

The flipchart building sessions will be simply that: a time to build what you need with help readily available for when you get stuck or have questions. If you plan to do it anyway, this will save you a lot of time!!

## 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.