



# Celebrating the 1999/2000 Ameritech Classroom Teachers

## Success Stories of Technology Innovation in the Ameritech Electronic Classroom

I am writing this newsletter to celebrate the wonderful teaching I have witnessed in the Ameritech Classroom during this school year. On the very first day on the job, I found myself visiting an open house at Woodridge Intermediate School in Peninsula, Ohio where I met our first teacher, **Cathy Schindler**. From that first day it has been an "exciting ride" for me as I have seen how teachers in a variety of grade levels and subject areas have utilized the technology that my own students once used in the very same setting. I would like to highlight some of these wonderful accomplishments in this issue. Pat Mazzer Instructional Specialist



**A tool in the hands of a good teacher can stimulate learners!**

### Woodridge Primary and Intermediate Schools

Third graders from **Woodridge Intermediate** began their experiences at KSU with a study of health and nutrition. Online investigation of the food groups facilitated the construction of a food pyramid. Students located places in the world where various food items are grown. Using the Power Point program the students created slides on healthy and junk foods. The unit culminated in a field trip to the Food Court in the KSU student center where the students were challenged to do an information scavenger hunt using the menus at the various restaurants. After reading the story the "Chocolate Touch" research on the web was done on the cacao plant and the origins of chocolate products. Fun sites like kids candy and M&Ms made the lesson very interesting for the children. A second unit on American Indians was initiated and involved the study of legends and stories. Field trips to the KSU planetarium and Towner's Woods, as well as a native American speaker, Clark Hosick, enhanced the children's understanding of Indian culture. Indian foods, and language were also investigated online. Clever use of technology included the scanning of autumn leaves as well as student's hands. On a day when the teacher lost her voice and with the help of Dr. Harold Johnson, a study of sign language was initiated and a website called FunBrain.com facilitated the study. Students were treated to fresh apples when Kay Wise, Ravenna librarian, presented a book talk on how books are made. She challenged the students to create their own books.

**Kellie O'Hara's** class of third graders introduced the Ameritech Staff to Kid Pix slide shows and amazed us all in the production of their presentations on the Mayflower. Mini- Mayflowers were constructed by hand, out of walnut shells, sticks, paper and glue. A field trip to KSU physics department provided the opportunity for the students to visit a science lab and be instructed on the concepts of sinking and floating. Students filmed this activity with digital cameras and surprised everyone with their knowledge and the rapport they established with the physics professor. Students created a document using Inspiration software, on pilgrim children and their responsibilities. Venn diagrams allowed students to make a comparison of the life of a pilgrim child with their own. Outdoor simulation of the size of the Mayflower made a great culminating activity. Kid Pix once again was used to create imaginary vehicles that could transport the students. An exciting activity was a distance learning conference facilitated by Channels 45/49 with author Tony Manna. Kellie initiated a project called Celebrate Technology Week when she returned to her building.

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#### Special points of interest:

- High School students are involved for the first time in the Ameritech Electronic Classroom.
- Roosevelt High School of Kent studied the Holocaust as well as their Math Lessons
- Ravenna High School students did individual investigations

## Lakeview Intermediate Fifth Graders Utilize Technology in their Studies

Lakeview Intermediate fifth grade teachers **Laurie Knuth** and **Dave Ulbricht** continued the involvement of their school in the Ameritech Classroom. Laurie started her lessons with the construction of an imaginary continent using Multimedia Workshop. The students had to put in topography, cities and many other features. This is a lesson that her students back at the home school also were involved in, but without the technology. The opportunity to compare results on a lesson with and without technology emerged with their experiences here. She continued with the students examining early American exploration. They prepared Power Point presentations on a chosen explorer with the information students researched on the web. Colorful costumes were



**Lakeview Students demonstrate excellence!**

made and students had the opportunity to photograph these with the digital camera and insert them into their presentation. Students investigated the history of "self" and family. Family members were presented with a creative newsletter at Thanksgiving that the students constructed with Microsoft Publisher. The intent of this assignment was to celebrate the student's family heritage.

**Dave Ulbricht** made the transfer of his regular lessons to the Ameritech Classroom with ease. Soon he was engaged in a Native American Project where students engaged in teacher-directed inquiry. The civilizations explored by student groups included the Tlingit, Navaho, Apache, Hopi, Lakota Sioux, Cherokee and Creek. Students were given a flow chart of the activities represented in the project and step by step put together remarkable Power Point presentations addressing many aspects of Native American life. Maps were located illustrating the geographic location of the culture, examples of artwork, architecture, and farming were sought. Lifestyle, environmental resources and family and social structure were researched. During the presentation of these Power Point programs students spoke of the tribes. An additional component was a "how to" article identifying one thing the culture does or did. The Inspiration program proved to be a valuable tool in constructing these models. A study guide sheet for the entire class assured no one missed valuable information.

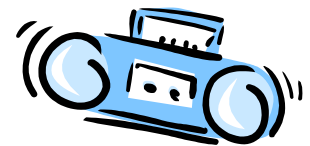
## Norton Students Explore the Weather

**Bunnie Perren** and **Colleen Manning** represented the Norton School system with their study of the weather. Both teachers invited Norm Fisher to do a hands-on activity with cloud making. Field trips to the Weather Lab and Greenhouse were motivating activities for this unit. Colleen's third graders are currently working with Professor Dave Dalton on a project where they are communicating with another third grade class in the Aurora School system, also studying weather. A web site was created by Dr. Dalton to facilitate this exchange of ideas and information. The book "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs" was used as a springboard for the construction of creative stories put into Kid Pix format. Bunnie's students researched weather instruments and made presentations on their use and purpose. Sarah Davis from the KSU airport challenged the students to think about the aspects of flight in association with the weather. A trip to the Liquid Crystal Institute allowed Colleen's students to experiment with thermometers and other liquid crystal physics. Colleen's class also wrote weather poetry and compiled weather booklets. Both sessions culminated in a well attended open house where students shared their creations and knowledge acquired. Learning on long bus trips was maximized when students, having their bus seat as a learning station, used Alpha Smarts for various lessons including spelling, mathematics and journaling. The innovative teachers had students purchase cookie sheets with magnets to be used as writing boards.

Students enjoyed field trips to a Physics Lab, Planetarium, Greenhouse, Wellness Center, Meteorology Lab, Fashion Museum, Map Library, Post Office, Liquid Crystal Institute, Towner's Woods, KSU Food Court.

## Woodland Elementary Of Stow Circulates Journals Around the Country

**Becky Yovich** and **Nancy Joyce**, second and third grade teachers at Woodland received a grant to facilitate a project called the Travel Through Time and Distance. Children in these classrooms created journals with specific questions which traveled all over the United States. At each destination post cards would be sent by the participants, back to the students in the classroom. "You've Got Mail" also included a camera in each packet to record the various locations the journal visited. Postage paid labels allowed the writers to return post cards and the journal itself. While in the Ameritech Classroom, students prepared Power Point presentations which included maps, photos and information on each of the stops along the path of the journal. E-mail communication was made it possible for the children to communicate further with the participants of this project. The collection, use and presentation of information for this activity allowed students to work cooperatively and turn out a wonderful multimedia presentation on the path of travel.



**Presentations incorporate audio as well as video components!**

## Roosevelt Students Examine the Holocaust

Ninth grade students from Kent Roosevelt High School researched the dramatic events of the Holocaust with their teachers **Ann Hunkele** and **Cindy Baer**. Students, using various book marked web sites, are looking at the many aspects of this horrible occurrence. The unit was launched with a graphic video depicting the series of events leading up to this chapter in European history. Cindy has the students reading the book "Night" by Elie Wiesel, in an attempt to elucidate this tragedy in Germany. Students were given an overview of Power Point by the technology coordinator Margarete Juliana. They took this program and with photos and information created multimedia presentations on various aspects of the tragedy. Throughout this process, students



Print as well as  
electronic resources  
are used!

were asked to reflect on the events and their feelings about how and why this happened. **Jeff Thompson** and **Phil Coffelt**, math teachers, continued the student's math studies in the "Peanut Butter Room" by alternating groups with Cindy and Anne. The technology of scanning papers and printing the results made the teaching of math in the Ameritech Classroom possible. This technology belongs to Roosevelt and was transported to the Ameritech Classroom where the staff could examine its role in the teaching process. The Roosevelt students are in a special program called "Bridges". These students had a very positive experience with this very dedicated and talented set of Roosevelt High School teachers. The Holocaust unit was developed by Roosevelt English teacher Carol Danks and has been taught using traditional teaching methods for many years. The teaching team was very interested in the outcome of teaching the unit with the electronic resources in the Ameritech classroom.

## Ravenna Students Return!

Ravenna High School students and their teacher **Vicki Sorber** spent three weeks in the Ameritech Classroom working on independent projects designed by the students. Eight of the participating students were in the original Brown Middle School class that first took the classroom by storm in February 1998. The projects were as varied and diverse as the students that attended. Every grade level and ability level was present in this class. The Ameritech Staff, never having experienced high school level students, were challenged to acquire the various pieces of software necessary to complete the student products. Highlights of this experience were: a virtual reality journal through Ravenna High School, a newspaper on the May 4th tragedy of Kent State University, animation depicting a law enforcement event, a Power Point presentation on fractals, a data base of all teachers and student participants of the Ameritech Classroom, a web site where people could comment on their preferences in music, an online chat on astronomy with deaf students in the Canton, Ohio area facilitated by KSU professor Chip Ingram, video production and editing, reformatting computers, and a study into the area of Psychology instruments and how they are used. The variety and quality of the projects was remarkable. Dr. Gay Fawcett and Dr. Jackie Peck were engaged in a study centered around the returning Ravenna students and the possible ramifications of their involvement with the Ameritech Electronic Lab project.

Woodland  
Elementary  
students enjoyed  
a presentation  
by the Kent  
Theatre  
Ensemble, "Free  
to Be... You and  
Me" in the  
Moulton Hall  
Ballroom

## Thanks To All !!!

It is very difficult to thank all the people who have been involved with the Ameritech Classroom. Their combined efforts made this academic year a positive experience for both students and their teachers. The College of Education represented by Dean Dale Cook, Dr. Harold Johnson, Dr. Mary Tipton, Dr. Chip Ingram, Dr. Anthony Manna, Dr. Gay Fawcett and Dr. Jackie Peck have been instrumental in keeping the classroom alive, funded and functioning. Without Mr. Frank Seman and Ms. Margarete Juliana the day to day operation of the classroom and equipment would not have been as "good as it gets" for the educators and their students who utilized it. Our student assistants, Catherine O'Dera, Anush Shahverdyan, and Jessica Olson provided the support for many of the tasks, some repetitive and mundane, that needed to be done. Mark Ashmore's efforts to schedule space and coordinate events helped facilitate the many diverse requests of our teachers and staff. We can not forget the many trips to the classroom made by Dan Tonelli to help iron out the technical glitches in the recording and presentation equipment. Finally Mac and the maintenance crew kept us comfortable and attended to our needs in the Ameritech Classroom.

**Ameritech  
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**Have a great  
summer!**

The Ameritech Staff will be conducting teacher workshops during June and July. Please feel free to contact us if we can be of any help in planning or implementing units of instruction using technology. Help writing

Individual Jennings Grants is also available. You will find all the forms you need to process such as grant at the website for the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation.

[mhjf.org](http://mhjf.org)

Choose the Grants to Teachers option! Keep in mind that your innovative use of technology is important and funding

these ideas is possible!