



Ameritech Classroom News

Evolution of an Inquiry Unit

Shalersville Elementary: Risk-Taking Personal and Historical Perspectives

Emily Bartlett's third grade students recently finished a six week experience at the Ameritech Classroom where they focused on the concept of risk. Last summer Emily met with the teachers in the 2000-2001 cohort, director Gay Fawcett and education consultant Steve Snyder, in a week long workshop where she formulated an essential question around which her unit and lessons were developed. That question was: Do I Dare Give Up my Teddy Bear? She focused on having the children develop knowledge relating to risk factors encountered in their daily lives. She also focused the children's thoughts on how other people experience risk in a variety of situations including home, work and play. Learners considered risk taking from a historical perspective as well. Students arrived on their first day carrying their favorite stuffed animals. They discussed their decision to bring this particular toy, they classified the toy animals, and they read the story "Ira Sleeps Over". Ira's decision making process was used to launch a similar process for the individual students, as they had to decide whether to give their favorite stuffed animal to a local children's charity.

Research on how the "teddy bear" got its name allowed students the opportunity to use age appropriate search engines. Following the personal examination of risk-taking, the westward movement provided a means of looking at risks taken by pioneers. Students constructed covered wagons from shoeboxes after researching online about their construction and the function of the parts. They used a Map Makers Toolkit to map out the Oregon Trail. During their six week period, a guest speaker and psychology professor, Dr. Angela Barnett, spoke to the children on fears associated with risk-taking. Also the Kent Theatre Ensemble performed "Free to Be You and Me" in the Moulton Hall Ballroom. Risk-taking is something that a child with high self-esteem is more apt to do. To have confidence in who you are, was the main theme of the performance. The children created personal narratives and multimedia presentations and maps. They also photographed each other with digital cameras and communicated via email. Their technology skills grew each day as the students began to focus on the rewards people get when they are willing to take risks.



Emily's students made the most of their time in the Ameritech-Classroom.

Shalersville Teachers Experiment with Technology

The Shalersville Elementary staff gathered at the Ameritech Classroom along with principal Patty DiMaso for a look at the integration of technology into curriculum. Emily Bartlett presented her colleagues with a look at the unit on risk and shared some of her students' work. The Ameritech Staff set up ten stations for the teachers to have a hands-on opportunity to try out some technology applications. Intel microscope, Flex cam, Graphire Drawing Pad, Temperature probe, pH probe, motion detector, Alpha Smart, Digital camera, Palm Pilot and Elmo document camera all proved to be of interest to the teachers. If your staff would like to have a similar after school or evening in-service, please contact Pat Mazzer or Frank Seman to arrange for a date. Contact us at: patmazzer@aol.com or fcseman@aol.com.

Ameritech Classroom

36 Moulton Hall, KSU

April 2, 2001

Best Search Engines for Children:

[Yahooligans](http://www.yahooligans.com)

<http://www.yahooligans.com>

[Ask Jeeves For Kids](http://www.ajkids.com)

<http://www.ajkids.com>

[KidsClick!](http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/KidsClick!)

<http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/KidsClick!>

[AOL NetFind Kids Only](http://www.aol.com/netfind/kids)

<http://www.aol.com/netfind/kids>

[Kids Search Tools](http://www.rcls.org/ksearch)

[http://www.rcls.org/ksearch.](http://www.rcls.org/ksearch)

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Davey Elementary Investigates Conflict

Julie Foley, a fifth grade teacher at Davey Elementary in Kent formulated her unit on conflict based on the essential question, "What is Conflict?". Using the "Inspiration" software she constructed a detailed mapping of the unit connecting the literature, science, math and social studies objectives into a comprehensive study on conflict. Her students looked at conflicts in their building and collected data based on student-constructed surveys. These were mapped and the data graphically displayed. Catherine Howard, from Orin Environmental, visited the classroom and guided the students through an examination of conflict in nature using the example of pollution by humans. Following this discussion, students researched endangered species. Mr. Riffle, a World War II veteran presented a picture of what it was like to be a prisoner of war. The students interest level was very high and as a result they kept him answering questions for an extended time period. Dr. Blasé, a professor who specializes in advertising, visited the classroom and outlined advertising practices that set up personal conflicts in individuals as the various companies try to convince us to purchase their products. During the unit, news of school conflicts provided spring boards for discussion. A field trip to the May 4th Memorial allowed the students to once again look at conflict from a historical point of view. At this time students were presented the opportunity to visit the KSU Student Center and see the art work, they created promoting peace, on display along with work done by KSU students. Townhall II visited the classroom and did a session on peaceful conflict resolution. Students used the technology resources to advance as they worked through projects which will reflect their accumulated knowledge and understanding of the broad topic.



Davey students display their art work for the KSU Peace Conference.

Student Teacher Experiences Ameritech Classroom

Meredith Koch, a KSU pre-service teacher, spent part of her student teaching experience working with Julie Foley on the conflict unit. She arrived daily with the Kent group and team-taught with Julie utilizing the technology available. She has moved on to the second phase of her experience to teach first graders in an Akron Elementary School. The children had a celebration for her as she finished her time in the classroom.

"The only way to win an argument is to avoid it."

Dale Carnegie

RCET Produces CD

Much activity has surrounded the Ameritech Classroom with the filming of students and teachers for the RCET CD that is scheduled for completion later this spring. The purpose of the CD is to highlight key research about technology teaching and learning; to illustrate what it looks like in a real classroom; to provide staff development activities for classroom teachers and for college students preparing to be teachers. Many thanks to our partners at Roosevelt High School as well as Davey and Shalersville Elementary. Without the cooperation and contributions of the excellent teachers and their energetic students, a CD of this nature would not be as meaningful to the teachers and professors who will use it.



Students visit KSU May 4th Memorial

Free Summer Workshop

There are still openings for a free summer workshop on the integrating of technology into the curriculum and securing the hardware and software to make it a reality. You can earn CEU's at no charge to you or you may sign up for 1 hour of graduate credit for a reduced fee of \$180. Come learn in a technology-rich environment while exploring a variety of new applications. Choose from the following weeks, June 11, June 18, July 9, and July 16. Sign up early as these classes fill quickly. Call Frank Seman at 330-672-9722 or email him at fcseman@aol.com.

Research Findings

For information on research conducted at the Ameritech Classroom visit our website at: www.rcet.org

Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 150-200 words.

One benefit of using your newsletter as a promotional tool is that you can reuse content from other marketing materials, such as press releases, market studies, and reports.

While your main goal of distributing a newsletter might be to sell your product or service, the key to a successful newsletter is making it useful to your readers.

A great way to add useful content to your newsletter is to develop and write your own articles, or include a calendar of upcoming events or a special offer that promotes a new product.

You can also research articles or find "filler" articles by accessing the World Wide Web. You can write about a variety of topics but try to keep your articles short.

Much of the content you put in your newsletter can also be used for your Web site. Microsoft Publisher offers a simple way to convert your newsletter to a Web publication. So, when you're finished writing your newsletter, convert it to a Web site and post it.



Caption describing picture or graphic.

Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 100-150 words.

The subject matter that appears in newsletters is virtually endless. You can include stories that focus on current technologies or innovations in your field.

You may also want to note business or economic trends, or make predictions for your customers or clients.

If the newsletter is distributed internally, you might comment upon new procedures or improvements to the business. Sales figures or earnings will show how your business is growing.

Some newsletters include a column that is updated every issue, for instance, an advice column, a book review, a letter from the president, or an editorial. You can also profile new employees or top customers or vendors.

"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."

Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 75-125 words.

Selecting pictures or graphics is an important part of adding content to your newsletter.

Think about your article and ask yourself if the picture supports or enhances the message you're trying to convey. Avoid selecting images that appear to be out of context.

Microsoft Publisher includes thousands of clip art images from which you can choose and import into your newsletter. There are also several tools you can use to draw shapes and symbols.

Once you have chosen an image, place it close to the article. Be sure to place the caption of the image near the image.



Caption describing picture or graphic.

Ameritech Classroom

Primary Business Address
Your Address Line 2
Your Address Line 3
Your Address Line 4

Phone: 555-555-5555
Fax: 555-555-5555
Email: xyz@microsoft.com

Your business tag line here.



This would be a good place to insert a short paragraph about your organization. It might include the purpose of the organization, its mission, founding date, and a brief history. You could also include a brief list of the types of products, services, or programs your organization offers, the geographic area covered (for example, western U.S. or European markets), and a profile of the types of customers or members served.

It would also be useful to include a contact name for readers who want more information about the organization.

Back Page Story Headline

This story can fit 175-225 words.

If your newsletter is folded and mailed, this story will appear on the back. So, it's a good idea to make it easy to read at a glance.

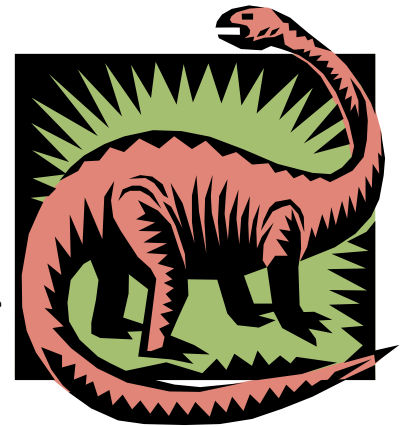
A question and answer session is a good way to quickly capture the attention of readers. You can either compile questions that you've received since the last edition or you can summarize some generic questions that are frequently asked about your organization.

A listing of names and titles of managers in your organization is a good way to give your newsletter a personal touch. If your organization is small, you may want to list the names of all employees.

If you have any prices of standard products or services, you can include a listing of those here. You may want to refer your readers to any other forms of communication that you've created for your organization.

You can also use this space to remind readers to mark their calendars for a regular event, such as a breakfast meeting for vendors every third Tuesday of the month, or a biannual charity auction.

If space is available, this is a good place to insert a clip art image or some other graphic.



Caption describing picture or graphic.