



SBC Ameritech Classroom

SBC Ameritech Classroom Teachers Past, Present, and Future Gather to Investigate Learner Profile Software

One of the focuses of the Cohort teachers this year is the assessment of students' technology-based projects. A tool recently purchased by RCET is the Learner Profile Software to be used with Palm Handheld Computers and desktop computers. This tool gives the teacher the ability to document student achievement and behavior in a nontraditional classroom.

A representative from SunBurst Knowledge Adventure presented a two hour workshop with a hands-on opportunity for teachers and administrators to try creating student accounts and design criteria for various types of activities. Our first two teachers in the SBC Ameritech Classroom this fall are Marlene Osborn, seventh grade teacher from Roberts Middle School in Cuyahoga Falls, and Jan Kelly, fifth grade teacher from Mogadore's Somers Elementary School. Jan Kelly presented a Cohort

Workshop on Saturday September 28 where teachers continued to examine and experiment with the Learner Profile. The Cohort workshops this year will be led by the Cohort members themselves. This sharing of ideas and expertise will enrich the Saturday workshops and present the teachers with information, support, experience and encouragement.

Additional information on Learner Profile or for a free trial disk, contact Doug Lyon at Sunburst at 877-448-4797 or Doug.lyon@vuinteractive.com



SBC Ameritech Classroom Provides Learning Opportunities for Teachers

New Technology in the SBC Ameritech Classroom

Vox Proxy is a software program that works in conjunction with PowerPoint. It allows the students to add talking, animated figures to their programs. The text can be programmed, allowing for the narration of a presentation. The first class to use this program was Coventry's Erwine Middle School. The Quick Link Scanner Pen by Wiz Com is an electronic highlighter

that lets you transfer printed copy to your computer. The pen is a fully portable handheld scanner which scans full lines of text in 8 languages. It retails for about \$120. Check wizcomtech.com for more information. While at this website, notice the Reading Pen II (cost \$279) that reads words aloud, using text to speech technology, and provides the definition of the word. cost \$279.

36 Moulton Hall
Kent State University

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Special points of interest:

- © Learner Profile Workshop
- © Quick Link Pen and Reading Pen II
- © Roberts Middle School investigates the question, "How do scientists know what they know?"
- © Somers Elementary students form companies and investigate the stock market.

2002 SBC Ameritech Classroom Schedule

Fall 2002

Jan Kelly-Mogadore, Somers Elementary School

Marlene Osborn-Cuyahoga Falls, Roberts Middle School

Julie Foley- Kent, Walls Elementary School

Susan Louis- Kent, Holden Elementary School

How do scientists know what they know?

Marlene Osborn from Cuyahoga Falls Roberts Middle School has directed her students into "I-search" projects investigating the importance of water in nature, for humans, in society, and in the economy. They are analyzing the condition of the earth's water by calculating the biotic index, calculating chemical compositions, identifying water-borne diseases, and identifying misconceptions about water. Students are structuring their research individually, based on their own questions. They identified campus resources and field trips to collect primary source data. The students will be using probes and sensors to test the water quality of the Cuya-

hoga River. As they structure their research, Marlene re-directs their thoughts and plans to their previous lessons on the scientific method.

Excitement prevailed in the classroom on the day that Dr. Helen Free from the Inventor's Hall of Fame visited. She was inducted into the Hall of Fame for her invention of the urine dip test strips. Her presentation included hands-on experimentation and a challenge to the young ladies in the classroom to pursue careers as scientists.

The class explored the planning software Inspiration. Students are also using Alpha Smarts for word processing, digital voice recorders, and a va-

riety of cameras to collect their information. Mrs. Dudones, language arts teacher, facilitated the development of a rubric using a chocolate chip cookie simulation. By judging cookie elements, students learned how rubrics are created.



Students investigate the condition of the earth's water

How do people react to change?

What is it like to lose everything? Jan Kelly's fifth graders have formed businesses and are involving their classmates in buying and selling products and services. The teacher is incorporating math, English, and history in the study of the Great Depression. Sometime during their study, the economy will go sour as it did after the stock market crash in 1929. At this point, the students will have to survive the downturn. One of the

highlights of their time at KSU was a field trip to the Business Administration building where a stock trading floor is being constructed. (KSU students will be doing simulations of trades when this facility is completed late this year.) Dr. Mark Holder answered students' questions with analogies and examples that were enlightening to both students and adults present. Technology has been used by the students to make signs, fliers, and record commercials. Palm

handheld computers have been helpful in taking pictures, keeping records, looking up words in the dictionary, as well as beaming information from student to student on their science and geography projects.



Students feel the impact of a stock market crash in a classroom simulation.

Palm Handheld Computers

Palm handheld computers are becoming very popular with SBC Ameritech teachers. Our teachers find them particularly useful for the following purposes:

- Journaling
- Spelling lists
- Beaming information between teacher and student
- Taking digital photos
- Collecting data with sensors and probes
- Calculator
- Simulations
- Downloading web pages
- Drawing
- Organizing information

For more information on the use of Palm handhelds contact Mark at the SBC Ameritech Classroom. Mark van't Hooft, our tech specialist, has been training teachers about Palms through Channel 45/49 as well as in our classroom. He has posted a comprehensive list of Palm related web sites at www.rcet.org.