



SBC Ameritech Classroom

Students from Crestwood School District Study Flight

Integrating subject matter into a unit on flight was a challenge for two elementary teachers from the Crestwood School District that they welcomed. Marcia Wallenfeldt, fourth grade teacher from Shalersville Elementary, and Theresa Boyle, third grade teacher from Mantua Village School have planned a meaningful unit for their students. From the minute they decided on the topic, these two master teachers have strived to make this a learning experience their students will never forget. The content has always been the main focus however they have attempted to build some "fun" experiences into the process. Technology has been integrated into the teaching and learning process, but the variety of activities have been a blend of the "old with the new".

One activity the students have experienced was a trip to the KSU airport where they learned about the forces of flight. Flight instructors explained the structure of a two passenger single engine airplane to the students. They allowed each student to sit in the cockpit and manipulate the controls for the flaps and rudder as they patiently answered the endless questions from young inquisitive minds. Students dressed as Orville and Wilbur Wright for the trip to the airport. They carried the Digital Video Recorders to document the trip. Photos of "Orville and Wilbur" pairs were made and incorporated into postcards which carried messages written from the inventors point of view. Reflections of what they would have noted, had they been able to return and accompany the students on this trip, were documented.

Weather is a phenomena which must be considered when explaining the concept of flight, in an airplane or that of a wild creature such as a bird or a butterfly. Dr. Thomas Schmidlin, Geography Department Chairman and author of the book, "Thunder in the Heartland", visited the classroom and instructed the students on the importance of weather in flight. Students expanded their examination of flight to include the growth and metamorphosis of Painted Lady Butterflies. Dr. Ben Foote, an entomologist, visited the classroom during the students last week, to witness the release of the adult butterflies and further instruct the students on how weather impacts the flight and migration of these creatures.

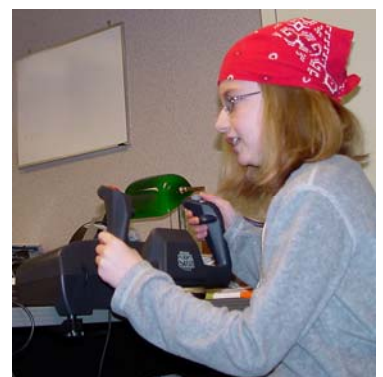
Through the efforts of Mr. Tom McNeal, the Inventors Hall of Fame held a teleconference on the history of flight with the focus on the Wright Brothers for the third and fourth graders. Our partners from the Thomas Jefferson Institute in Mexico City, who were also studying aviation and flight, were offered the same opportunity.

SBC Ameritech Classroom
36 Moulton Hall
Kent State University

May 2004



Elementary Students explore flight utilizing technology in the SBCAC



Flight Simulator is a new addition to the technology in the classroom.

Goodbye and Good Luck!



Dr. Elizabeth Pryror retired in December, 2003. "Betsy" was director of RCET since October 2001. She is planning to spend her time taking classes towards a new career as a Paralegal and traveling around the country to visit her grandchildren.



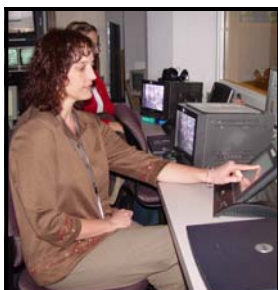
Dr. Margarete Juliana has been with RCET and the SBC Ameritech Classroom since the doors opened in February 1998. She now resides in Toronto, Ontario since her marriage in 2002. Margarete served as technology specialist and more recently as researcher.



Katy Andrews, graduate assistant, will be doing an internship as a school psychologist in Bedford. She will be celebrating her marriage this summer. Katy's teacher interviews and pre/post testing of the students have been a help to SBAC staff and RCET researchers.



Marlo Brown, graduate assistant, will be leaving to do an internship as a school psychologist in the Olentangy School District in the Greater Columbus area. Like Katy, Marlo did teacher interviews and pre/posttesting of the students. We will miss these two hard working staff members.



Mary Ann Strenk did an individual investigation with Dr. Karen Swan. Through this experience she helped facilitate the filming of the students for the research team. She will be starting a new job in the fall teaching science at Crestwood Middle School.

Other News



Our Expectant Mother!

Dawnya LaMantia, our program assistant, recently announced she is expecting her first child in October. She is healthy, happy and doing fine!

Introducing Our New Graduate Assistants

Jennifer Kelly and Deborah Campbell will be working with RCET this summer/fall. Jennifer graduated from Miami University and currently is in the School Psychology program here at KSU. She will begin working with us on June 14th and is excited about learning some of the current trends in using technology in the classroom. Deborah is working on a masters degree in curriculum and instruction with a focus on special education and learning styles. She wants to learn how students use technology with the possibility of implementing a program into her school system in the Bahamas.