



March 2007 Newsletter Update

Highlights of Upcoming Events!

April 9, 16, 23, 30, and May 7, 2007:

Technology Integration: iLife in the Classroom

April 17-18, 2007:

An Introduction to Instructional Mentoring

June 17-21, 2007:

Second Annual Teacher Leadership Institute

June 22-23, July 20-21, September 28-29,

November 2-3, 2007:

Cognitive Coaching

EVENT SPOTLIGHT:

Tech training for teachers at all levels.

The key for teachers seeking to introduce technology tools into their classroom is effective preparation. That's why the Arizona K-12 Center is offering training for teachers with all levels of technological fluency.

Technology Integration: iLife in the Classroom.

Learn to use Apple's iLife suite of software applications of iTunes, iPhoto, GarageBand, and iMovie to create fun, multimedia presentations combining sound, music, video, and still images to engage all learners. Participants will receive an iPod Shuffle to store their work and for use in their classroom when they return to school.

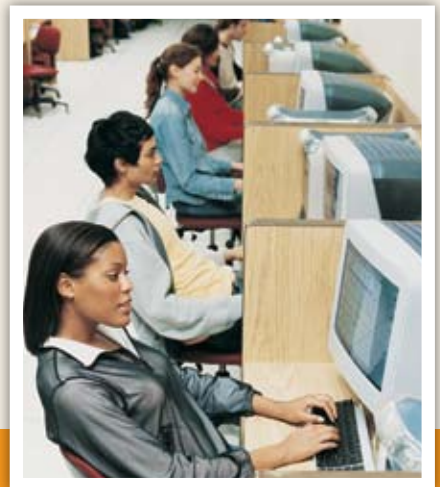
Dates: April 9, 16, 23, 30, and May 7, 2007

Location: Arizona Education Association
345 E. Palm Lane, Phoenix

Times: 4:30pm-8:00pm

Cost: \$125

Deadline: 3/16/2007



did you know?

The Arizona Technology in Education Alliance (AzTEA) has three conferences each year. The theme of their next conference is "Redefining Literacy" and it will be held on April 28th at ASU West. To learn more and register visit

www.aztea.org

Teaching with Technology

One of the most immediate and dynamic ways to enhance your practice is with technology. Tools like web sites and podcasts can improve communication with students, parents and your school community, as well as encourage students to become more engaged in their learning.

Instructional Technology Specialist, Todd Kisicki of Scottsdale Unified School District, recently helped a fourth grade class turn what might have been an ordinary report on American Indian tribes in Arizona into an educational event. For those not familiar, a podcast is like a radio show that is recorded digitally and may be broadcast via internet or posted online.

"It's a bonus for kids especially at this age to be introduced to these technologies," says Travis Lofstedt, who teaches the class at Cochise Elementary School.

The students all wrote essays on different aspects of the topic. They then selected highlights to be included in scripts, which they recorded to create the pod casts.

"They were so excited to speak their script," says Kisicki, "they took it very seriously and were engaged the entire time."

Parents of the class will be invited for a special airing of the podcast.

Here's a roundup of some technology tools that may be available for your classroom already, or may be coming soon.

Podcasts are a fairly new technology tool. They're a refreshing alternative to written reports and PowerPoint presentations. Teachers interested in implementing pod casts in their curriculum should consult with their school Technology Specialist to find out what software and training they will need.

Of course, they can also attend one of the Arizona K-12 Center's technology training opportunities.

Teachers' Web sites, which aren't quite as new as podcasts, serve as a very useful, efficient way to communicate with parents and students. Teachers use web sites to give online assignments, post significant event dates and enable students to check grades, among other things.

Before Kisicki became a technology specialist, he taught in the classroom, and posted all his students' work on his web site.

"Students take greater pride when it's posted online than when work is hung on a bulletin board or not at all," he says. Knowing their work is going out to a larger audience, students tend to take greater care to do the best job they can.



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EVENT SPOTLIGHT: CONTINUED

Teaching with Technology

Plug and Play: The Creative Technology Camp for Beginners

Geared to the absolute beginner. Participants will learn about how to operate the computer and perform basic tasks. They will also receive detailed instruction on how to utilize resources on the web to develop curriculum, and how the computer can be used to organize and edit photos, create music collections, and edit short movie clips.

- Dates: July 8-13, 2007
Location: Westward Look Resort 245 East Ina, Tucson
Times: 8:00am-4:00pm
Cost: \$400
Deadline: 4/20/2007

Notes: Price includes accommodations for 5 nights (check-in will be on July 8th; check out on July 13th), continental breakfast, breaks, lunch, all training, and materials. Check in time is 4pm on July 8th.

Plug and Play 2.0: The Creative Technology Camp for Teachers.

No matter your level of experience, Plug and Play 2.0 will instruct you on integrating technology into the curriculum. Participants will select one of three strands to focus their learning on during the week. These strands of learning are: "Building Your Own Website," "Podcasting 101," and "Multimedia."

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The Tablet PC is like a laptop computer, but with a screen that rotates down so that it can be written on with a special pen called a stylus. Kindergarten classes can use a Tablet PC to practice handwriting, which is then projected on a large screen. Older students can use a Tablet PC and a large screen to perform more challenging tasks, like correcting grammar on a given paragraph, for example.

The Classroom Response System could make raising your hand in class obsolete. But that's not necessarily a bad thing, when every student has a remote keypad they can use to answer questions and receive instant feedback. Answers are anonymous to other students and everyone gets to participate simultaneously.



did you know?

The Arizona K-12 Center, in partnership with the Arizona Education Association, Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University, and the University of Arizona, will be providing the Second Annual Teacher Leaders Summer Institute June 17-21 at the Marriott Starr Pass in Tucson. Bruce Wellman and Jane Ellison will be presenting The Data-Driven Dialogue.

This event is filling fast...register today at www.azk12.org

Who Are We?

A staff of experienced educators.

The Arizona K-12 Center staff consists primarily of former educators. From kindergarten through high school, we have worked in some of the most culturally diverse and educationally challenging environments in Arizona. This gives us an intimate understanding of the challenges today's educators face. We've been there ourselves, and are committed to helping make the teaching experience as successful and satisfying as possible.

Table with 2 columns: Position and Name. Rows include Executive Director (Kathy Wiebke), Associate Director Operations (Josie Arredondo), Associate Director Policy & New Programs (Penny Kotterman), Professional Development Coordinator (Cheryl Bokowski), Master Teacher Coordinator (Andrea Boorman), Project Director Master Teacher/NBC (Taryl Hargens), Project Director AzTEP (Scott Otterbacher), Project Director Mentoring/Induction (Judy Rea), Administrative Assistant (Cyndy Rodgers), and Director of Technology (Michael Walker).

About the Arizona K-12 Center

The Arizona K-12 Center is your resource for professional development and leadership training. Through conferences, summer institutes, day workshops, book studies and roundtable discussions, the Arizona K-12 Center supports educators in achieving their best. Whether you are just launching your teaching practice or are an experienced educator seeking continued growth, we offer opportunities to excel. Learn the most current skills and approaches, keep abreast of recent advances in education, and find direction toward becoming teacher leaders. We understand that your time and financial resources are at a premium. For this reason, we design every program to provide maximum value. For detailed information, please visit www.azk12.org.

