

WHAT'S **new**



Now Debate This has announced its 2009 Great Debate topic: How Can America Achieve Energy Independence? High school seniors will compete for \$250,000 in scholarships in this national debate contest.

Participating students will gain a thorough understanding of how America came to this point by researching innovators such as Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Alva Edison, John D. Rockefeller, Henry Ford, and Albert Einstein. Video entries need to be posted to YouTube.com by February 28, 2009.

MORE INFO: www.nowdebatethis.com



Funds For Learning has launched a free online **E-rate Calendar** to keep applicants abreast of E-rate events and deadlines. In 2004, funding applicants forfeited \$25 million due to missed program deadlines. The Funds For Learning E-rate Calendar can be integrated into Windows, Mac, and Google calendars or bookmarked for quick reference.

MORE INFO: www.fundsforlearning.com/content/view/1161/89/



Educators wanting ideas and feedback on how to help students become better writers can now visit **The Writing Teacher**, a forum created by LearningExpress.

This blog features advice from industry experts as well as daily practitioners such as Steven Graham, the Currey Ingram Professor of Special Education and Literacy at Vanderbilt Peabody College; Barbara Friedlander, an academic achievement specialist with Montgomery County Public Schools in Maryland; and Jane S. Hancock, co-director of the UCLA Writing Project.

MORE INFO: www.thewritingteacher.org



Ninth grade students can now work through pre-algebra and algebra problems while watching motorcycle racing videos. HotChalk.com has created **Off-Road Algebra**, a free 30-segment video series that can be viewed at home or in the classroom. The videotaped motorcycle exploits provide students with real-world problems and step-by-step solutions with examples of processes such as how to convert gallons to liters, a necessary process with the popularity of metric-based Japanese motorcycles.

MORE INFO: HotChalk, 1.888.468.2336 (option 1)
www.hotchalk.com/mydesk/index.php/math-matters

This information is compiled by L&L's editorial team from press releases that come into the ISTE editorial office. The products and resources are not reviewed by the L&L staff and are offered here without recommendation. Send press releases and suggestions for entries to products@iste.org.



Four new educational book/CD sets are available from Tool Factory. **Tool Factory's Simple Guide to Podcasting** leads teachers step by step through the process of podcasting. **Adventures in Podcasting** includes related lesson plans for teachers. **Tool Factory's Educators Guide to Digital Cameras** details how to take a professional picture, and **Tool Factory's Educators Guide to Fundraising** helps instructors find funding and write grant proposals. Each book/CD set is \$19.99.

MORE INFO: Tool Factory, 1.800.220.8386, www.toolfactory.com



APTE has developed a new software program aimed at 'tween girls. **My Crazy Life** is a multimedia diary that allows users to download videos, pictures, and music. The multimedia journal entries are stored on the girls' hard drives, providing an offline, secure format. Entries are password protected and organized by date for simplified browsing. My Crazy Life is available for up to 10 users and can be installed on both a Mac and PC. The program is available on APTE's Web site or at any Apple store for \$29.95.

MORE INFO: APTE, 1.847.866.1872
www.apte.com/products/mclife/index.cfm



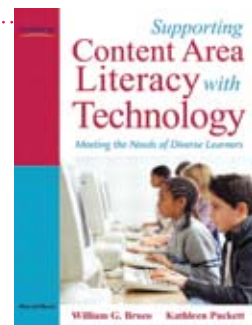
SpellQuizzer, a new product from TedCo Software, is designed to help students gain a better grasp of the words on their spelling lists. A parent or teacher inputs the desired words into the program and then records a vocal equivalent. The child clicks on the list, listens to the recorded word, and types it in. As students enter the word, the software checks spelling and corrects errors. The built-in spell checker recognizes both British and American words and can be set up in any language. The software comes with custom sound effects and a free 30-day trial for \$29.95.

MORE INFO: www.spellquizzer.com

Supporting Content Area Literacy with Technology: Meeting the Needs of Diverse Learners

is a new book by William G. Brozo and Kathleen Puckett. This instructional book, published by Allyn & Bacon, demonstrates how instructional technology can become the media for teaching and learning literacy strategies in all subject areas. It guides teachers in developing skills in both content area teaching and effective use of instructional and assistive technology and presents classroom examples of content literacy and technology within a content area. The book is priced at \$39.99.

MORE INFO: www.allynbaconmerrill.com/store/product.aspx?isbn=0205511856



SANAKO has launched a new version of **SANAKO Lab 100** and **SANAKO Lab 300** that includes podcasting capabilities. Now teachers can upload digitized MP3 learning materials for students to access online. By making classroom and home study materials available on the Internet, teachers can integrate classroom learning with independent study.

MORE INFO: Sanako, 1.518.698.3968, www.sanako.com



The Bata Shoe Museum has unveiled the second phase of its online project, **All About Shoes**. Located in Toronto, Canada, the Bata Shoe Museum provides visitors with four new virtual exhibits: The Perfect Pair, Tradition and Innovation, Chronicles of Riches, and Our Boots. These stories detail the diversity in human footwear from around the world and throughout time. Teachers will find both English and French education resources on the Web site.

MORE INFO: www.allaboutshoes.ca



Glogster.com has created an education program that will enable teachers to use Glogster's Web 2.0 learning tools in the classroom.

Glogster allows users to create a "poster" that mixes graphics, photos, videos, music, and text. Teachers can use these posters to combine Web 2.0 concepts with course curriculum under privacy settings that keep students' content safe within the classroom or school.

MORE INFO: www.glogster.com/edu

Coming Next Issue in **L&L**

Transforming Education Through Online Learning

Online learning is creating new opportunities for thousands of students across the globe. Educators who embrace these reforms see this trend as a way to strengthen schools and meet the individual needs of students.

Designing Effective Online Courses

Online courses are flexible and convenient for students, but creating them takes time and careful planning. Educators need to reflect on how the goals of a course change when transitioning from a classroom setting to a virtual environment.

Growing Your Professional Learning Networks

David Warlick describes how tools such as Skype, Google Reader, Second Life, Diigo, Ning, del.icio.us, Google Talk, wikis, and blogs enable educators to find information for lesson plans, resources, and solutions.

HipChicas.com

is offering 'tween Latina girls a new interactive game that combines geography, language, music, and activities promoting environmental awareness. Kids can travel to real-world places such as Miami Beach and the Amazon by using an interactive map. They can choose between an open chat format and a canned version that provides the options of chatting in Spanish, French, English, or Portuguese. The first 100,000 people to sign up will receive a Hip V.I.P. membership along with a badge displaying their pioneer status.



MORE INFO: www.hipchicas.com

Discovery Education has introduced a free Web site, **New Teacher Survival Central**. Educators can view classroom tools and practical suggestions to help support teachers during their first few years in the profession. Sections such as Technology 101,



Tech Tools for Students, and Survival Tool Kit: Best of the Web contain tips, tricks, tools, and practical suggestions for easing entry into the teaching field such as lesson plans, classroom activities, and networking resources.

MORE INFO: Discovery Education, 1.800.323.9084
www.discoveryeducation.com/newteacher