

# WHAT'S **new**

**PBS Teachers** has created a series of teacher activity packs focusing on themes such as art, health, science, and social studies. They are packaged in a widget format so you can embed them in your class or social media webpage. The free resources are available for a range of grade levels from the PBS Teachers website.

**MORE INFO:** [www.cblohm.com/news/PBSTCH/PBST\\_090122](http://www.cblohm.com/news/PBSTCH/PBST_090122)



ISTE has two new books, **Raising a Digital Child** by Mike Ribble and **Safe Practices for Life Online** by Doug Fodeman and Marje Monroe. Ribble's book is a guide to the newest and most popular technologies. It includes discussions of the behaviors that children need to learn to participate safely on the Web. Fodeman and Monroe detail ways to keep kids safe by answering questions such as "What personal information can a student's user name reveal?" and "What should a student do if he or she is bullied or made to feel uncomfortable online?" *Raising a Digital Child* costs \$17.45 for members, and *Safe Practices for Life Online* is \$20.95.

**MORE INFO:** [www.iste.org/bookstore](http://www.iste.org/bookstore)



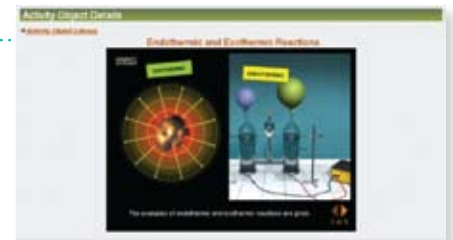
**School Web Lockers** is a new service that provides K–12 teachers and students with Web-based tools for file sharing, collaboration, and online storage. Once a password-protected Web locker is set up, users can access the files from any Internet connection. The service offers shared, secured access to homework, student data, group communication, and student portfolios, as well as collaboration tools, such as teacher blogs, calendars, and schedules. The lockers cost \$5 a year and can be used for up to two classes.

**MORE INFO:** [www.myweblockers.com](http://www.myweblockers.com)

## **Adaptive Curriculum**

is an online system designed to enhance teaching and learning in mathematics and science for teachers and students in the middle grades. Educators get a library of interactive math and science activities, such as virtual experiments, scientific inquiry exercises, games, and problem-based learning assignments. Students can access their assignments from any computer with an Internet connection.

**MORE INFO:** [www.adaptivecurriculum.com](http://www.adaptivecurriculum.com)



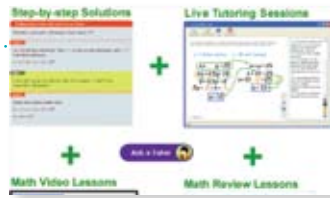
**Tool Factory** is offering a variety of new features in its Tool Factory Workshop V3 and Deluxe V3 software suite. The V3 layers a word processor, spreadsheet, database, and math draw program into one office application. Users can switch from one program to the other without loading a new one. With one click, users can turn any word processing document into a slide-show presentation.

**MORE INFO:** [www.toolfactory.com](http://www.toolfactory.com)

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**Hotmath** is offering a combination of live math tutoring, video math lessons, step-by-step solutions, and math review lessons for pre-algebra through calculus. Hotmath Tutoring Plus uses a whiteboard with a built-in online text-chat program that allows students to ask a live tutor questions 24/7. Annual school subscriptions start at 75 cents per student, plus \$19 per hour for live online math tutoring. Individual subscriptions start at \$49 per year, plus \$20 for each 50 minutes of tutoring.



**MORE INFO:** [www.hotmath.com/tutoring-plus](http://www.hotmath.com/tutoring-plus)

**Atiz** has created the Book-Drive Pro, a new way to scan books. This V-shaped scanner prevents binder stress, lost time through repositioning and straightening, and curved and distorted text. To use it, place a book face-up on the cradle and cover it with the V-shaped glass magnifying screen. The built-in Auto Capture Switch will trigger the cameras to shoot both the left and right pages automatically.



**MORE INFO:** [www.pro.atiz.com](http://www.pro.atiz.com)



K–2 emergent readers can use **Capstone Press PebbleGo** animal database, which has more than 200 articles that fit life science

standards, to improve their reading. The database includes animal audio, video, text, educational games, and read-aloud features. PebbleGo was created with young learners in mind. The program features easy-to-use searching tools and introduces early learners to database and research concepts. The cost is \$395 per school subscription. A free demonstration is available online.

**MORE INFO:** [www.PebbleGo.com](http://www.PebbleGo.com)



Teachers will find more than 500 activities in **Key Curriculum Press'** online search-able mathematics

library, the Sketchpad LessonLink. Sketchpad activities, designed for students in grades 3–12, include sketches, student worksheets, and teaching notes. Teachers can choose activities based on class size, pair or individual study, duration, and topic. One-year subscriptions are \$119 per teacher but are discounted for groups of 5 or 10, and unlimited teacher subscriptions are also available.

**MORE INFO:** [www.keypress.com/x22318.xml](http://www.keypress.com/x22318.xml)



The **Federal Trade Commission (FTC)** has created a free website that provides

teachers and parents with interactive games and activities to help teach kids ages 8–12 about consumer concepts and the FTC's role. YouAreHere has online and print materials that can be related to social studies, economics, history, and language arts.

**MORE INFO:** [www.ftc.gov/YouAreHere](http://www.ftc.gov/YouAreHere)

**NASA and USA TODAY** are sponsoring a competition designed to steer students to careers in science, technology, engineering, and math. The No Boundaries National Competition will award prizes from \$500 to \$2,000, and the student group that presents the most creative and informative projects will get a chance to see a shuttle launch. Details are on the contest website. All entries must be postmarked by May 15, 2009.

**MORE INFO:** [www.noboundaries-stemcareers.com](http://www.noboundaries-stemcareers.com)

**MeetMeAtTheCorner** is a do-it-yourself educational video website geared toward children ages 7–12. The site provides instructional and informational video podcast tours from a child's point of view. Episodes are 3–4 minutes long and offer suggestions on what to read and what activities go well with the required curriculum. Children can submit and view this site's videos for free.



**MORE INFO:** [www.meetmeatthecorner.org](http://www.meetmeatthecorner.org)

**Lightspeed Systems** has added YouTube viewing capabilities to its network security application, Total Traffic Control. The Educational Video Library allows students and educators to view approved YouTube videos without accessing the links and promoted videos that are usually on the site. Network administrators can designate teachers or staff who can submit videos to share. Educators can search the library by tag, category, or title.



**MORE INFO:** [www.lightspeedsystems.com](http://www.lightspeedsystems.com)

**Algebrator** is an algebra software program designed to help students and teachers review math problems. This program displays every step of the problem-solving process and includes explanations on everything from pre-algebra to college algebra. Algebrator costs \$58.99.



**MORE INFO:** [www.softmath.com](http://www.softmath.com)

**World Book** has partnered with a Spanish-language publisher to create the Gran Enciclopedia Hispánica, a comprehensive online reference site for Spanish speakers. It includes more than 100,000 articles and images as well as multimedia resources (animation, sounds, and videos) that come from a Latin American perspective. It is designed for Spanish speakers, bilingual students, and English language learners, and it emphasizes science, technology, history, and art topics.



**MORE INFO:** [www.worldbookonline.com/wb/Login?ed=wb](http://www.worldbookonline.com/wb/Login?ed=wb)

## Coming Next Issue in L&L

### Staff Development Solutions

What better way to provide professional development than in the classroom? Aileen M. Owens of Mt. Lebanon School District in Pittsburgh writes about how one instructional technology coordinator provided sustainable staff development in instructional technology for approximately 365 teachers without a budget or a staff.

### One-to-One Laptop Programs Work

A one-to-one laptop program won't make a weak school strong, but it can make a good school better. Andrew Zucker, author of *Transforming Schools with Technology*, writes that, with thoughtful administrators, high-quality teachers, and an effective curriculum, putting computers in students' hands can improve performance and keep kids engaged.

### Winning Ed Tech Tools

What do Web 2.0 tools, portable digital devices, interactive whiteboards, productivity tools, and Internet resources have in common? As part of our ongoing coverage marking the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ISTE and NECC, *L&L* staff writer Paul Wurster will reveal ISTE members' choices for the most influential ed tech tools of the past three decades.