

What's New

RESOURCES



MyKidFix.com helps children, adolescents, parents, teachers, and families with common academic, behavioral, or emotional struggles at home or at school through online tools and assessment forms. Membership includes special education and mental health screening tools, behavior management tools that have complementary forms for use at home and school, an advice column from a psychologist, message boards, guides for teachers for productive parent meetings, award certificates, and a template to help people solve arguments. Membership is \$19.99 for a 21-day Family Membership Plan or \$299.99 for a 12-month School Membership Plan.

MORE INFO: MyKidFix.com, <http://www.mykidfix.com>

The *Jordan Fundamentals Grant Program* is awarding \$2.5 million to help teachers purchase resource materials, supplies, software, equipment, and other items for the classroom. The foundation's purpose is to benefit, recognize, and reward teachers working in Grades 1–12 in underprivileged schools, and the grant is open to teachers or paraprofessionals in public schools where at least 50% of the student population is eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program. 400 grants of \$2,500

will be awarded, and funds must be used for resource materials, supplies, equipment, transportation, or other costs related to field trips, software, and other items required to implement and assess the proposed lesson or thematic unit. The deadline to apply is June 15, 2005.

MORE INFO: Nike Inc. and the Michael Jordan Brand, <http://www.nike.com/nikebiz/>

NetDay's *Student Voices Resource Center (SVRC)* is an online "how-to" kit to help K–12 students be part of local decision making on the use of technology in education. The SVRC includes step-by-step guides for increasing student engagement; a directory of resources, including research, grant information, and a calendar of national education technology events; a bulletin board/chat area; a speakers' bureau for online presentations and blogs by education, reform, and technology leaders; and a section for parents and teachers with information on how to understand and support their students.

MORE INFO: NetDay, <http://www.netday.org/svrc>



Curriculum Associates offers administrators and teachers online differentiated instruction training at no cost. The course, *Differentiated Instruction: Success for Every Student*, guides educators through the process of adopting the approach for their own classroom work, and consists of four lesson modules: differentiated instruction at a glance, identifying student needs, instructional strategies and classroom management, and putting your plan into action.

MORE INFO: Curriculum Associates, <http://www.catraining.com>



LitFinder, Thomson Gale's online database for poetry, fiction, essays, speeches, plays, and stories, facilitates student exposure to literature. According to the company, the search engine delivers up to a million examples of full-text, indexed, and excerpted literature, along with biographies, explanations, overviews, and images. Find out exactly who smote the dragon by using keyword entries, drop-down menus, and a variety of limiters and refiners that pinpoint the best material for student needs. The database is updated regularly to include emerging writers and works published within the past year, as well as a glossary of terms. Thomson Gale offers a free trial of the database. For pricing, please contact the company.

MORE INFO: Thomson Gale, 1.800.877.GALE, <http://www.gale.com/litfinder>

SOFTWARE



Add 'Em Up mathematical puzzle game combines strategy, basic math, and a keen eye to solve number puzzles. The game involves eliminating tiles based on addition values, and features four modes of play, five difficulty levels, and more than 50 puzzle stages, as well as randomly generated boards. The game records high scores and best times. A Windows trial version is available for download, and a single-user license costs \$14.95.

MORE INFO: Blue Bug Games, <http://www.bluebuggames.com>

Parsnips version 1.3 stores and retrieves snippets of text and URLs, creating a filing system of information. Users select text from Web sites, e-mail, chat sessions, Usenet articles, or files they want to save. Dragging and dropping the text into Parsnips creates a new item that can be given a title, associated with a URL, or assigned keywords. Information is retrieved by searching on assigned keywords, specific words, Boolean combinations of words, or items created on a specific date or range of dates. Parsnips for Windows, Mac, and Linux costs \$15, and a 14-day trial version is available for download. Volume discounts are available.

MORE INFO: Otherwise, 1.512.345.8942, <http://www.otherwise.com>



Droppix Recorder 1.2 is an all-in-one software that captures, organizes, and edits digital media files for burning to CD or DVD. According to the company, Droppix Recorder combines advanced functions and an easy-to-use interface simple enough

for beginners who want to record and share their madcap antics. The software, available in four languages, uses a drag-and-drop interface to extract audio tracks, customize skins, benchmark and analyze CD and DVD drive performance, and create and convert most CD and DVD image files. Droppix Recorder 1.2 is approximately \$50, and a full-featured 30-day trial download is available on the Web site.

MORE INFO: Droppix, <http://www.droppix.com>

The online edition of *¡Expresate!*, Spanish language educational materials for Grades 6–12, includes SoundBooth technology. According to the publisher, SoundBooth allows students to record and play back their voices while learning paramount skills such as vocabulary, pronunciation, and speaking activities from their online textbooks. Teachers can then listen to those recordings, evaluate student performance, and remediate or assign grades as appropriate. Because the tool is online, students and teachers have anytime access to their work. Pricing starts at \$43.95 for the student edition.



MORE INFO: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1.800.225.5425, <http://www.hrw.com>

NetOp Desktop Firewall is a driver-centric firewall that centrally manages the restriction of ports, protocols, programs, and IP addresses of laptops and desktops. The firewall protects machines when removed from a central network, and restricts traffic into and out of network machines to prevent the introduction of malicious programs or infection. The firewall is centrally managed to limit which applications run on each machine so that only applications significant to a user's machine are run on the computer. According to the company, administrators can define and edit users' profiles and security settings, and users cannot override these security policies. Prices range from \$59 for a single client to \$4,250 for 100 clients.

MORE INFO: CrossTec Corporation, 1.800.675.0792, <http://www.crossteccorp.com>

ScribeStudio 2.0 is a Web-based distance learning product that helps instructors build an interactive course and publish it to the Web, and requires no knowledge of HTML or programming. Instructors can author courses, training materials, assessment tests, and quizzes from existing files, as well as upload audio, video, text, and images. The software features file organization, and the Web-based files can be accessed from any machine or browser. Content is published to a secure site that learners can retrieve at no cost, as instructors track their participation and progress. A 30-day trial of ScribeStudio is available. Subscriptions can be changed depending on the instructor's current needs, and cost \$29 a month for a basic subscription, \$99 for up to 25 learners, or \$247 for up to 100 learners.



MORE INFO: Distance Learning Inc., 1.212.353.0022, <http://www.scribestudio.com>

This information is compiled by Rachel Bannister, editorial assistant, 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.

SOFTWARE



Zan Image Printer v4.0.7 is a virtual printer driver that converts any printable document to standard BMP,

TIFF, or JPEG images. The converted file retains complete information from the original file without altering characters or fonts. Because the file is opened using software that comes standard with most operating systems or is available by download, the recipient doesn't need the originating software, such as PowerPoint or Excel. Multiple page documents can be concatenated into a single TIFF file, and images can be scaled, cropped, or inverted. The program's history database retrieves previously created files. The software runs on Windows and costs \$39.95 for a single-user license.

MORE INFO: Zansoft, <http://www.zan1011.com>

HARDWARE

The *HP iPAQ Pocket PCs hx2000* series of handheld computers offers one platform for e-mail, calendar, and contact productivity. According to HP, the series offers individual configurations of performance, connectivity, expandability, and enhanced security. All iPAQs in the hx2000 series include Windows Mobile 2003 software,



Intel processor, 3.5 inch 64k color display, wireless technology, and at least 70MB memory, with options to add additional features such as keyboards, GPS, memory, or a modem. Prices range from \$342 to \$538 for the basic product.

MORE INFO: Hewlett-Packard, 1.800.88.TEACH, <http://www.hp.com>

BOOKS



Mark Gura and Bernard Percy examine the ways to use technology to enrich and enhance traditional approaches to instruction. In *Recapturing Technology for Education: Keeping Tomorrow in Today's Classrooms*, the authors found that despite district investment of funds, time, and effort to bring computers, the Internet, and related technologies into classrooms, teachers have resisted using and incorporating these tools in their classrooms. According to the publisher, the book addresses the issues of why this happens and how to reverse the trend. Through interviews and quotes from field experts, as well as references, reviews, and recommendations of free resources, the book establishes the legitimacy of tapping technology to make schools relevant and effective again. The book costs \$23.95, and there is a 15% discount for online orders.

MORE INFO: The Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group Inc., 1.800.462.6420, <http://www.rowmaneducation.com>

Steven M. Baule's *Case Studies in Educational Technology and Library Leadership* from Linworth Publishing is a collection of library media specialists' case studies and situations relating to educational technology and library media. The book covers issues such as copyright, instructional issues, hardware, and software, and according to Linworth, provides a framework in which to address common situations that school leaders encounter regarding educational technology and school library media programs. The 160-page book is \$39.95.

MORE INFO: Linworth Publishing, 1.614.436.7107, <http://www.linworth.com>



ISTE has published the second edition of *Multiple Intelligences and Instructional Technology*, which, according to ISTE, showcases the natural fit between multiple intelligences theory and educational technology. The book provides additional lesson plans and materials, new Web sites and online resources, activities for current hardware, sample lessons and classroom activities, materials to support multidisciplinary and special needs teaching, worksheets, templates, rubrics and guidelines for evaluating media and software, and multiple intelligences survey on CD-ROM. The book is intended for K-12 teachers, curriculum developers, teacher educators, preservice teachers, and library media specialists. The book costs \$39.95 for ISTE members and \$43.95 for nonmembers.

MORE INFO: ISTE, 1.800.336.5191, <http://www.iste.org/bookstore>

Exploring Precalculus with The Geometer's Sketchpad is a mathematics module for use with Sketchpad Version 4 from Key Curriculum Press. The module helps teachers prepare students in Grades 11-12 for calculus with interactive problem sets. The book comes with 56 blackline activity masters, activity notes, prerequisites, estimated time requirements, and detailed answers. A CD-ROM includes supplementary activities, sketches, tools, and templates. The book costs \$42.95.

MORE INFO: Key Curriculum Press, 1.800.995.MATH, <http://www.keycurriculumpress.com>

HARDWARE

8e6 Technologies' Internet filter blocks pornography, hate sites, and other inappropriate content from school computers. The **R3000** features a Real-Time Probe that allows an administrator to monitor a student's Internet usage in real time to determine if the Internet is being used appropriately. Administrators can set blocks on specific workstations or the whole network. A Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) monitors traffic sent and received, CPU load, amount of free disk space, time since last reboot, and memory usage. The R3000 costs \$1,995.

MORE INFO: 8e6 Technologies, 1.888.786.7999, <http://www.8e6.com>



Spectra Merchandising International Inc. has created the **Hello Kitty Digital Camera** for kid-friendly digital photography in the classroom. Available in VGA or 2 megapixel versions, the cameras come with photo managing and editing software for creating Hello Kitty borders, frames, and albums. The software also includes Kitty-themed games and photo projects. Both cameras include flash function, 8MB internal memory, USB port PC interface and cable, and self-timer and are compatible with Windows 95/98/Me, 2000, and XP. The 2 megapixel camera also includes a digital zoom, 1.5" TFT display and a tripod mount. Cameras start at \$49, and can be purchased at major retail outlets including Toys-R-Us, Target, Staples, and Amazon.com.

MORE INFO: Spectra Merchandising International, 1.773.202.8408, <http://www.spectrainl.com/>

The **FireStore FS-4 Portable Direct To Edit (DTE) Recorder** is a tapeless digital video recorder designed to work with any external disk drive with a FireWire interface. According to FOCUS Enhancements, the small size combined with a 40GB (3 hour) internal disk drive and backlit LCD display make it easy to use in the classroom and out in the field. The FS-4 links to a camcorder using a FireWire cable that transmits audio, video, timecode, and control information, and records directly to disk. The FS-4 then connects directly to a computer where the recording can be edited in real time, eliminating capturing, file transfer, or file conversion. The unit costs \$1,595.



MORE INFO: FOCUS Enhancements Inc., 1.408.866.8300, <http://www.focusinfo.com>



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