

What's New

Software



Tom Snyder Productions released *Scholastic Keys*, a program that provides a K–5-level interface and a variety of templates, drawing tools, graphics, and sounds for use with Microsoft Office. The software is a suite of three separate programs—MaxWrite, MaxShow, and MaxCount. Each program works

with Word, PowerPoint, and Excel, respectively, enabling students to access the actual Microsoft program through an age-appropriate interface.

According to the company, Scholastic Keys is an upgraded version of Max's Sandbox.

Scholastic Keys comes with a user's guide and a Windows CD-ROM of three programs with prices starting at \$20 per computer. To download or receive a free 45-day trial, visit <http://www.tomsnyder.com/scholastickeys>.

Tom Snyder Productions
1.800.342.0236
<http://www.tomsnyder.com>

Macromedia has released *Breeze K–12 School Edition* and *Breeze Live*. According to the company, the Breeze school software allows educators, staff, and students to use tools such as Microsoft PowerPoint to author, publish, and track Flash-based education and training materials that support classroom instruction, distance learning, and professional development. Breeze K–12 School Edition includes Breeze Presentation and Training as a perpetual server license for 10 authors and 30 concurrent learners, plus an LMS adapter module, maintenance, and one year of support. Add-on packs are available to increase the number of authors and learners. The school edition also includes Breeze Live, a platform that allows educators to conduct interactive presentations and discussion capabilities, including live online meetings, video, chat, and screen and application sharing.

Breeze K–12 School Edition and Breeze Live K–12 School Edition are each priced at \$3,600. The programs are also available for district-wide implementations where a much larger audience could be authoring and participating in concurrent training courses or instructional environments. For more information visit http://www.macromedia.com/buy/volume_license/k12/breeze/.

Macromedia, Inc.
1.800.470.7211
<http://www.macromedia.com>



Hardware

AlphaSmart released *Neo*, an update to the company's AlphaSmart 3000. Designed as a "computer companion," Neo weighs two pounds, has an infrared wireless port, comes preloaded with classroom management and word processing software, and, according to the company, can operate for more than 200 hours on a rechargeable battery pack, or more than 700 hours on three AA alkaline batteries.

Neo by AlphaSmart retails for \$249, but educational discount pricing starts at \$229, with additional discounts for volume orders. A classroom set of 30, which includes everything necessary to manage, charge, store, and transport the devices, starts at \$7,950.

AlphaSmart, Inc.
1.888.274.0680
<http://www.alphasmart.com>



Resources



Intel Corporation, Scholastic Inc., and the Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence Foundation announced the application process for the 2005 Intel and Scholastic Schools of Distinction Award.

The national award program recognizes outstanding American K–12 schools for Academic, Literacy, Mathematics, and Science Achievement, Technology Excellence, Technology Innovation, Leadership, Professional Development, Collaboration, and Teamwork.

The Intel Foundation will award \$250,000 to 22 schools during the 2005 Awards. An elementary-level and secondary-level school will be chosen in each of the 10 categories and will receive a grant of \$10,000. In addition, every application will automatically be entered for consideration for the overall “Best of the Best” category, with one elementary and secondary winner receiving \$25,000 each. In addition, winners will receive prizes from event sponsors.

Applications for 2005 are now being accepted and are due December 1, 2004. To apply or for more information, visit <http://www.schoolsofdistinction.com>.

The information here is compiled by *L&L* staff 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.

Cable in the Classroom, the cable telecommunications industry’s nonprofit education foundation, announced Cable’s Leaders in Learning Awards. The awards honor policy makers, educators, community leaders, and administrators who demonstrate vision, innovation, action, and transformation in K–12 education, in schools, and in other informal learning settings such as after-school programs. In addition to a three day all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., winners receive a \$3,000 prize (policy makers may select a charity to receive the money).

Categories include General Excellence, Pushing the Envelope, Media Literacy, and Policymaker. The online application process began October 1, 2004, and goes through January 2005. For more information, visit <http://www.ciconline.org/leadersinlearningawards/>.



The U.S. Department of Education has added 15 science and social studies resources to its *Federal Resources for Educational Excellence (FREE)* Web site. Among the new additions are “Astro-Venture,” which provides interactive tutorials on biology, geology, astronomy, and atmospheric sciences; “We the People,” a repository of documents such as drafts of the Declaration of Independence and the Gettysburg Address and the papers of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson; and “Zoom into Maps,” a database of historical maps. Find more at <http://www.ed.gov/free/>.

Books



The technology coordinator’s job is in flux. Statewide certification programs are slowly being developed, but there’s little general consensus on what this position should entail. Tech coordinators may handle a wide variety of complex tasks—from instructional support to network management to technology budgeting and planning—and need a comprehensive guide.

The Technology Coordinator’s Handbook provides precisely that: a detailed introduction to the roles and functions performed by tech coordinators, the key issues they face, and the basic skills and qualifications needed to fulfill their responsibilities. Written for both working tech coordinators and those preparing to enter the profession, this essential reference has been field-tested and validated to provide leaders with the information and resources they need to effectively manage school and district technology operations. The price is \$40.45 for ISTE members, \$44.95 for nonmembers.

ISTE
1.800.336.5191
<http://www.iste.org/store>