

WHAT'S **new**

Handheld Computers and Smartphones in Secondary Schools: A Guide to Hands-On Learning

is a guide to using mobile devices effectively to meet curricular goals. Author Bard Williams provides lesson plans for all secondary school content areas and includes classroom management strategies, professional development ideas, tips for choosing and using curriculum and productivity software, and classroom exercises. The book is intended for grade 6–12 teachers, technology coordinators, curriculum developers, and teacher educators. ISTE members can purchase the book for \$35.95, non-members pay \$39.95.



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

TeachTown Basics

software teaches autistic children through computer and off-computer activities. The scientifically based curriculum introduces new skills as previously mastered skills are interspersed with new tasks to keep success rates high. The program is based on Discrete Trial Training and Pivotal Response Training, and is appropriate for any learner with a developmental age of 2–7 years. Children learn cognitive skills as well as social skills and independence. Progress is automatically graphed, allowing data and session notes to be shared over a secure server. The company offers a 30-day trial at no cost, and subscriptions are \$59.95.



MORE INFO: TeachTown, 1.206.336.5585, <http://www.teachtown.com>

Toshiba's **TDP-T95U DLP** mobile projector includes a one-touch automatic setup with the presentation remote and a "blackboard" function that allows the presenter to make a wall color adjustment when projecting on a non-

screen surface. The projector offers 2,200 ANSI lumens, a 2000:1 contrast ratio, and an XGA 1024 × 768 native resolution with color correction. There is a monitor output connector so the user can view presentations on an external display as well as the screen. The projector automatically corrects vertical keystone plus or minus 30 degrees and instantly projects a square image even when the projector is set up at a steep offset angle. The machine weighs 6.4 pounds, and costs \$1,299.



MORE INFO: Toshiba, <http://www.toshibadirect.com>

As a companion to Cosmic Blobs 3D graphic software, the **Cosmic Blobs Education Resource Center** features curricula developed in cooperation with educators and members of the Apple Distinguished Educator (ADE) Program. The teaching materials demonstrate Cosmic Blobs software as a vehicle for science and math projects.



The Web site includes instructional materials, lesson plans, units, and teacher's guides to instruct students in the use of the software. The materials are downloaded as PDFs with an expansion pack to add onto the

existing software, and run on both Windows and Macintosh. There is no cost to existing Cosmic Blobs customers.

MORE INFO: Cosmic Blobs Education Resource Center, <http://edu.cosmicblobs.com>

Books for learning computer basics, Microsoft Office, Web development, Palm devices, and Linux are available as electronic books. Visibooks LLC has published **28 electronic textbooks** that can be downloaded from the Web. Developed as part of a U.S. Department of Education research study, the books are illustration based and, according to the company, focus on tasks that the learner needs rather than features of the software program. The books cost \$24.95 each, and there are classroom discounts available. Schools can purchase electronic format licenses for \$4.95 per seat.

MORE INFO: Visibooks LLC., 1.877.597.5672, <http://www.visibooks.com>

The **SynchronEyes** classroom management software combines a quiz editor, class polling tools, and real-time viewing and control over student workstations into one



interface. Teachers can create class lists and connect students from multiple locations, controlling Internet usage by allowing access to selected Web sites or by starting all students on the same Web site.

The application imports data from electronic text files, adds mathematical symbols, and exports quiz results to Microsoft Excel. The software can also broadcast video to students' computers simultaneously, using Windows Media Player, Mpeg, AVI, and QuickTime formats. SynchronEyes is Windows-compatible and costs \$1,199 per lab license, which includes one teacher install and unlimited student installs. The license for nonprofit educational institutions is \$779.

MORE INFO: Smart Technologies, 1.888.42.SMART, <http://www.smarttech.com/synchroneyes>

The **Easy Math Deluxe Package** from Vernier

Software & Technology is a data collection kit that includes an EasyTemp temperature probe, an EasyLink sensor interface, and a Texas Instruments Calculator-Based Ranger 2. There is also a gas pressure sensor, light and voltage probes, a pH sensor, and a motion detector in the kit. The equipment uses the direct USB capabilities of the TI-84 Plus and the TI-84 Plus Silver Edition graphing calculators from Texas Instruments that come pre-loaded with the Vernier EasyData calculator software. The kit costs \$488. The Vernier Web site has sample activities at no charge, and users can purchase activity books separately.



MORE INFO: Vernier Software & Technology, <http://www.vernier.com/math>

My eCoach is offering no-cost accounts with partial access to the My eCoach online learning community. Users can browse standards for aligned projects and resources, find copyright-friendly items in the eLibrary, or develop and

publish standards-based Web resource lists. The service also allows for online discussions by creating and responding to blogs, and chatting with other free account users. The account also includes a simple online calendar.

MORE INFO: My eCoach, 1.800.633.2248, <http://www.my-ecoach.com>

Edward Davis offers a design for public education in **Lessons for Tomorrow: Bringing America's Schools Back from the Brink**.



The book provides the architecture for a new public school system that, according to the author, challenges and stimulates students to be better able to compete in a global information-age economy. Davis examines how the current system fails, and explains why cures like more money, more teachers, and more testing do not fix the problems. The book costs \$17.95.

MORE INFO: Oregone Press, <http://www.lessonsfortomorrow.com>

Flipbooks are back with **iStopMotion** software. The tool is based on Apple's QuickTime technology to create stop-motion animation and time-lapse recording on a Mac using either a digital or film camera.

Users only need to connect a video split to



a computer, and shots can be previewed to any length. Captured frames are stored uncompressed so that the raw material maintains a high resolution, and the interface includes transparent previews, onion skinning for visible movement, and title and action-safe area overlay. The Boinx Web site offers curriculum ideas of using stop motion in math, science, language arts, and art classes. The software is available as a free download for existing customers, and a new license costs \$39.

MORE INFO: Boinx Software, <http://www.boinx.com>

I PRODUCTS & SERVICES

NetSupport Manager v9.5 combines tech support and task automation through PC remote control with desktop management functionality. According to the company, the software reduces IT support response time, eliminates travel support costs, and manages disparate systems through one centralized console. Standard features include hardware and software inventory, file transfers, remote user



monitoring, printer re-direction, and support for USB and network devices. NetSupport School computer lab instruction, monitoring, and testing software is included at no cost. The software supports traditional LAN/WAN-based environments, as well as Linux and Mac. Pricing starts at \$99 for a single user, \$4,872 for 100 users, with various pricing levels in between. The company also offers a 30-day trial download from the Web site.

MORE INFO: NetSupport Inc., 1.888.665.0808, <http://www.netsupport-inc.com>

Cosmeo, an online subscription site from Discovery Communications, offers a range of homework tools from a WebMath equation solver to educational videos and subject-specific Brain Games. Users can select from 30,000 standards-aligned videos delivered by united-streaming technology. Other features include interactive quizzes, a digital encyclopedia, and a digital photo library. The site has age- and grade-appropriate content for K–12 students, and it allows parents to track their child's activities and progress. Subscriptions are \$9.95 per month or \$99 per year, and the site offers a 30-day trial membership at no cost.



MORE INFO: Cosmeo, <http://www.cosmeo.com>

software in the kit trains the teacher how to use the hardware and how to incorporate it into the curriculum. The kit is Win/Mac compatible and costs \$399.

MORE INFO: Crick Software, 1.866.33.CRICK, <http://www.cricksoft.com/us>

TurboFTP v4.6 FTP client connects a local folder to a regular or secure FTP server and transfers files between them. It works with an SSL/TLS-based secure FTP server or an SSH2 server, and offers server authentication and encryption. The Folder Synchroizer provides a visual comparison of local and remote directory contents, and has both compression and decompression utility for extracting and creating archives in Zip, GZip and TAR formats. TurboFTP runs under Windows only, and a single license costs \$395.95.



MORE INFO: TurboSoft Inc., 1.484.518.6414, <http://www.turboftp.com>

In 20 exercises, **BrainWare Safari** software targets 41 cognitive skills for learning, including multiple attention, memory, auditory processing, visual processing, and thinking skills. According to the company, the online program has the feel of a computer game while progressing through skill levels and animated character development. The program is targeted at children age 6–12 for use at home or in a training environment, with a coach's login that tracks the student's progress and use. The software costs \$349 for one user, \$499 for one user and a coach.



MORE INFO: Learning Enhancement Corporation, 1.877.BRAIN.10, <http://www.brainwareforyou.com>



Crick Software has created a package of their assistive technology hardware and software. The **Crick Assistive Technology Bundle** features Clicker 5, a reading, writing, and multimedia activity tool that can be used in all curriculum areas. The kit also includes a switch box and "Buddy Buttons" as an alternative to a mouse. The



ANGEL LMS 7 software automates labor intensive and repetitive teaching activities, such as assessments and surveys, testing, and grading. According to the company, the software helps teachers administer and grade tasks, and use that data to identify and personalize students' learning needs. The online portal gives teachers and

students 24/7 access to homework assignments, materials, field trip permission slips, course calendars, and progress reports. Class content can be linked to content on the Web, and the software lets teachers save lesson plans and content into a repository, where it can be shared by other educators across the district.

MORE INFO: ANGEL Learning, 1.317.333.7300, <http://www.angellearning.com>

Atomic Learning is offering 45 two-minute tutorials on various features of the SMART Board interactive whiteboard and its application. The online library covers



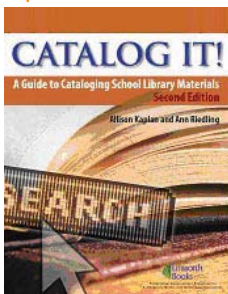
basic functions, such as using your finger as a control tool, to more advanced features, such as using the board as a multimedia platform, while integrating the board into the curriculum. The subscription-based lessons are available on the Web by short tutorial movies. Annual subscriptions cost \$79.99 and allow full access to all Atomic Learning tutorials.

MORE INFO: Atomic Learning, <http://www.atomiclearning.com>

TechLiteracy Assessment helps administrators effectively gather and report data on their students' technology skills and knowledge. Using multiple choice, knowledge-based questions and interactive, performance-based items, the tool identifies areas that need attention, which, according to the company, drives lesson planning and instruction. The assessments measure technology concepts such as word processing, databases, telecommunications, social and ethical issues, and multimedia presentations. The online tool provides reports at the district, school, class, or student level for evidence of alignment to state and federal standards. The assessments are aligned with ISTE's NETS for Students. Contact the company for pricing.



MORE INFO: Learning.com, 1.503.284.0100, <http://www.learning.com/tla>



Preservice and practicing school library media specialists can learn the fundamentals of cataloging from Allison G. Kaplan's **Catalog It! A Guide to Cataloging School Library Materials, 2nd Edition**. A how-to handbook, the book includes expanded coverage on cataloging electronic information, Library of Congress subject headings, Dewey Decimal Classification, and Machine Readable Cataloging. The appendix has a hint sheet as well as exercises to reinforce the content. The paperback book costs \$44.95.

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

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