

WHAT'S **new**

The Intel Foundation will award \$250,000 to 20 schools during the **2006 Intel and Scholastic Schools of Distinction Awards**. This national award program recognizes outstanding American schools for academic, literacy, mathematics, and science achievement, technology excellence, technology innovation, collaboration and teamwork, leadership, and professional development. 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 be entered for consideration in the overall "Best of the Best" prize of an additional \$15,000. Applications are due January 5, 2006.



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MORE INFO: Intel Foundation and Scholastic Inc., <http://www.schoolsofdistinction.com>

Knowledge Adventure has released two software titles that focus on teaching basic math and reading skills while adhering to national and state standards. Each program provides instruction at a student's own pace, as well as automatic progress tracking for each student so teachers can provide additional instruction to those who need it. **Math Blaster—Master the Basics** is for students ages 6–12, and uses math games to master everyday math skills and increase problem-solving and mental math abilities. **Reading Readiness** incorporates adaptive learning tools to build phonemic awareness and phonics skills for primary school children. Teachers can create customized lessons using 30 phonics activities, pre- and post-tests, supplemental books, classroom management tools, in-class or take-home readers, and skill-building materials. Pricing depends on age level and number of licenses.



MORE INFO: Knowledge Adventure, <http://www.knowledtheadventureschool.com>

The **Notebook Storage Cart** from Toshiba stores and charges up to 30 notebook computers in individual compartments and provides room on the top shelf for a work surface or for use with a digital projector or printer. The cart is made of steel, and has multiple-point locking doors and a padlock. The top shelf has a non-slip rubber mat and a grommet hole at the back for cord management and access to power. The cart comes pre-assembled and is available in 15-, 18-, 24-, and 30-unit configurations. Prices start at \$940.



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



Using Technology Wisely: The Keys to Success in Schools uses national data to measure technology's effectiveness on student academic performance in mathematics, science, and reading. Harold Wenglinsky links the National Assessment of Educational Progress test scores of more than 40,000 students with reports by the teachers of various aspects of technology use. The book includes case studies of traditional-

ist and constructivist uses of technology, a non-technical presentation of the results, and the use of real data to show which practices are most prevalent and most effective in the K–12 classroom. The book costs \$21.95.

MORE INFO: Teachers College Press, 1.800.575.6566, <http://www.tcpress.com>

PRODUCTS & SERVICES

The National Education Association (NEA) and Progress Education Corporation have joined together to create the **NEA Teacher ToolKit** to help teachers keep up with IDEA and NCLB demands. The Web-based electronic tools were designed by teachers to offer educators tools for student attendance and behavior tracking, individualized education plans for students with special needs, state learning standards, searchable lesson plans, assessment items for test creation, a cus-



tomizable electronic grade book, student progress reports, online resources, and up to 12 hours of online professional development. Some of the tools are available at no cost; advanced tools are available for a subscription.

MORE INFO: National Education Association, <http://www.neateachertoolkit.com>

JASON Adventure: Lost City Hydrothermal Vents is a virtual journey with a team of scientists and oceanographers that follows an expedition 2,000 feet below the surface of the Atlantic Ocean. Four in-depth lessons, aligned to national and selected state standards, use expedition



journals, video segments, interactive digital labs, inquiry-based investigations, hands-on activities, and assessments to teach students about a deep-sea ecosystem. The online subscription includes behind-the-scenes access, and

a corresponding CD/DVD has activities and materials. The subscription costs \$49, and the CD/DVD is \$99.

MORE INFO: JASON Foundation for Education, 1.888.527.6600, <http://www.jason.org>

Pocket Prep for the NEW SAT is a portable interactive handheld tutor for SAT test preparation that lets students prepare anywhere.



The handheld features comprehensive verbal, math, and essay preparation; full-length practice tests; instant scoring; and personal diagnostic reports. Also included are

practice drills, flash cards, and an extensive verbal and essay reference suite to maximize grammar and essay scores. The device has a 240 × 200 pixel screen and costs \$179.95.

MORE INFO: Franklin Electronic Publishers, <http://www.franklin.com>

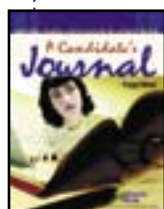
Six DVDs from Goldhil Educational help students prepare for the SAT. **SDS SAT Prep Critical Reading & Writing Modules 1, 2, and 3** teach time-saving techniques, such



as critical reading for main ideas and eliminating wrong answers, as well as strategies to organize and write essays. The DVDs include practice quizzes and tips to increase the odds of guessing correct answers. The **SDS SAT Prep Math Modules 4, 5, and 6** focus on introductory math, algebra, and geometry. The software teaches students how to succeed on the multiple choice and student response (grid-in) strategies, as

well as how to avoid classic SAT “traps” and get the most from their calculators. The interactive DVD can be paused and repeated as necessary. Each DVD costs \$29.98. A full boxed set is \$160.98.

MORE INFO: Standard Deviants, 1.800.613.0368, <http://www.standarddeviants.com>



National Board Certified library media specialist Peggy Milam documents her experiences from application to library media certification in **National Board Certification in Library Media: A Candidate's Journal**. According to the publisher, the book is a comprehensive guidebook for all library media specialists who are seeking national board certification. Milam includes informational resources, personal experiences, and practical approaches in the process of preparing and applying for the certification. The book costs \$44.95.

MORE INFO: Linworth Publishing, 1.800.786.5017, <http://www.linworth.com>

The **Sagebrush In-Hand v3.3** is upgraded software for the Sagebrush InfoCentre Library Management System. The system allows libraries to scan barcodes right at



the shelves and then synchronize the data into their system. In-Hand also searches for, verifies, and cross-checks patron and collection data without being confined to a particular location. The system includes fully customizable reports, simplified MARC record cleanup, virtual union creation, and cross-platform functionality. Contact the company for pricing.

MORE INFO: Sagebrush Corporation, 1.800.533.5430, <http://www.sagebrushcorp.com>

The ABC-CLIO subscription Web site **United States at War: Understanding Conflict and Society** looks at 14 American-involved wars and allows users to



compare the military, economic, and social aspects of each conflict. The site covers major conflicts from the founding of the country to current affairs, detailing the events that shaped them and the themes that defined them. Presented by working historians, the site includes essays detailing defining moments, research and journalism, statistical data and maps, biographies, profiles of all other

nations and combatants involved, and extensive supporting media, including archival video, audio, and still images. Contact the company for subscription pricing.

MORE INFO: ABC-CLIO, <http://www.abc-clio.com>

The Handbook of Special Education Technology Research and Practice

reviews assistive technology (AT) research and practice, and provides evidence confirming the benefits and utility of AT for educating people with disabilities. Edited



by Dave Edyburn, Kyle Higgins, and Randall Boone, the book highlights the outcomes of research in the AT field while addressing the fragmentation of quality research studies, exposing gaps in areas such as cultural diversity, personnel preparation programs, and in the design, development, and implementation of special education technology. The book is divided into eight sections: history and politics; access for diverse populations; assistive technology; disability specific applications; instructional design; professional development; and trends and issues. The book costs \$119.

MORE INFO: Knowledge by Design Inc., 1.414.962.0120, <http://www.knowledge-by-design.com>

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