

WHAT'S **new**

Turnitin has released



GradeMark version 3, a paperless online grading and writing assessment tool for educators. GradeMark is an Internet-based application, and features a customizable rubric support that enables educators to use standardized or common assessments for student writing assignments across class sections or across subject areas. GradeMark supports integration with LMS/CMS systems from Blackboard, WebCT, Moodle, and ANGEL, and does not require users to install additional hardware or software. To view pricing information and a product demo, visit the Turnitin Web site.

MORE INFO: Turnitin, 1.866.816.5051, <http://www.turnitin.com>

Discovery Education's **Discovery Educator Network** has launched three educational technology weblogs. The blogs, Media Matters, Digital Passports, and Digital Storytelling, are designed to share insights from leading educational technology experts on how to incorporate the latest digital products in the classroom to help meet the challenges of teaching 21st-century learners. The blogs assist educators, administrators, and parents to exchange ideas, resources, and best practices in the classroom.



MORE INFO: Discovery Education, 1.800.323.9084 <http://www.discoveryeducation.com>



The programs formerly known as Verizon MarcoPolo and the Verizon Literacy Network have merged into **Verizon Thinkfinity**, a free, comprehensive digital learning platform. Verizon Thinkfinity is a partnership of the Verizon Foundation and other U.S. literacy and

education organizations. Together with its partners, Verizon Thinkfinity is providing more than 55,000 educational and literacy resources including standards-based K–12 lesson plans, student materials and interactive tools, and Web sites spanning seven academic disciplines. The online program is available at no cost to educators, students, parents, and volunteers.

MORE INFO: Verizon Foundation, 1.800.360.7955 <http://www.thinkfinity.org>



Education Insights has released a set of resources for the classroom. The devices are intended to provide children with the resources to learn while having fun. The **Quick Start Classroom Countdown Clock** is a three-in-one timepiece that serves as a classroom clock, countdown timer, and super-sized stopwatch. Teachers can track quizzes, tests, or other timed activities using the LED numeral clock. **PlayFoam** is made of remoldable sculpting beads that don't dry out or require cleanup, and is designed to facilitate learning by heightening a child's creativity. The **Talking Hot Dots Pen** talks, glows, and uses sound effects to indicate correct or incorrect answers when touching a Hot Dot card. **FlashFLIPZ** is an electronic/print flash card program wherein children attach a set of flashcards to the hand-held electronic FlashFLIPZ Score Tracker that displays elapsed time and the number of correct and incorrect answers. The preprinted card sets cover a variety of math concepts.

MORE INFO: Educational Insights, Inc., 1.800.995.4436 <http://www.educationalinsights.com>



Learning Resources announced the launch of **Radius Audio Learning System**, a teaching platform that combines digital CD technology with advanced card-reading capabilities.

The system enables students to learn a diverse number of subjects through varied lesson patterns and hands-on interaction. The Radius components are correlated to state, national, and provincial standards, and include lessons for students in math, reading, science, and the English language. The Radius Audio Learning System is available for around \$300, and the Radius CD Card Sets are priced between \$40 and \$70. The company has also released the **Reading Mentor**, a literacy tool that works with Learning Resources' Reading Rods. To use the electronic device, students place Reading Rods in the Reading Mentor and select three modes of instruction: Letter Mode, Word Mode, or Sentence Mode. Students can dissect a sentence down to the word level, giving them targeted practice in areas of difficulty. The Reading Mentor has a 23,000-word vocabulary and is compatible with all Reading Rods products. The device also includes comprehensive kits that include phonemic awareness, word families/rhyming words, word building, and sentence building. It also includes kits for English language learners.

MORE INFO: Learning Resources, 1.800.333.8281
<http://www.learningresources.com>



eJamming released **eJamming AUDiiO**, an Internet service and software for musicians. The software provides a virtual practice and recording studio where

musicians can write, rehearse, record, and play with each other over the Internet, in real time and in sync. Users need access to a computer, broadband connection, an audio interface device, and a microphone. eJamming AUDiiO incorporates algorithms, codecs, and data-thinning schemes to achieve real-time synchrony among musicians in different locations. The software includes features such as CD-quality recording capability, searchable profiles, JamVite instant messaging, an automated calendar, and full MIDI capability. The software can be downloaded for no charge. Connectivity subscriptions cost \$14.95 per month or \$150 annually. Teacher and student discounts are also available.

MORE INFO: eJamming, <http://www.ejamming.com>

John Wiley & Sons, Inc. announced the release of the first of six official academic course texts and e-learning tools for Microsoft



programs it is developing in partnership with Microsoft Learning. The **Microsoft Official Academic Course (MOAC)** series aims to provide students and instructors with the skills and knowledge they need to use Microsoft technology effectively in all aspects of their personal and professional lives. The Wiley MOAC titles offer resources including: teacher training in technology and curriculum development; software updates; a faculty peer network; and classroom materials such as lesson plans, solutions, syllabus, student data files, figure files, test bank, and PowerPoint slides.

MORE INFO: John Wiley & Sons, 1.888.7647001
<http://www.wiley.com/college/microsoft>

Corel Corporation announced the release of the **Corel Painter X** and its accompanying curriculum. The Painter X features a



painting system that improves the responsiveness of the brush for the artist and replicates traditional art media with individual bristles that blend and splay. In addition, the Painter X adds composition tools as well as a photo-painting system, match palette effect, and a universal mixer palette. These components, along with performance and productivity features combine to make the Painter X a natural painting and illustration software for professional artists, designers, and photographers. The Corel Painter X curriculum is divided into three units, each covering five 45-minute classes. Subject areas include: an introduction to the tools, paints, and brushes in Corel Painter X; exploring composition with the Divine Proportion tool; transforming photographs into paintings; and techniques for creating digital characters and painting line drawings. The Corel Painter X software is designed to be integrated into traditional art education, and features a Workspace Manager that allows teachers

