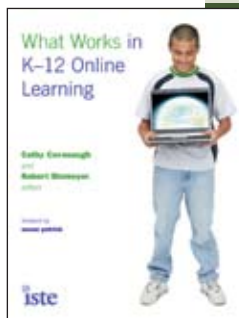
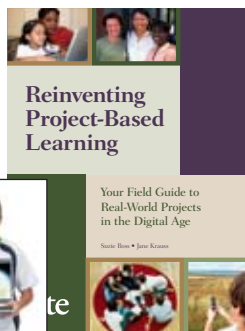


ISTE has released two new books. **What Works in K–12 Online Learning** by Cathy Cavanaugh and Robert Blomeyer provides a comprehensive overview of effective online teaching and learning practices. A new form of distance learning, online learning is education in which instruction and content comprising a formal course of study are delivered primarily via the Internet. K–12 enrollments in online courses continue to grow, and while there is great potential in the virtual schools movement, there are many challenges inherent in this relatively new method of education delivery. Chapters cover a wide spectrum of topics including virtual course development, online learning in elementary classrooms, differentiating instruction online, professional development for teachers of virtual courses, and the challenges that virtual schools will face in the future. The book sells for a member price of \$26.55 and \$37.95 for non-members.

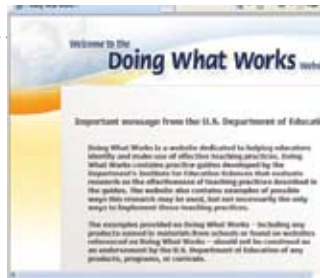


Reinventing Project-Based Learning: Your Field Guide to Real-World Projects in the Digital Age

by Suzie Boss and Jane Krauss offers educators an accessible guide for maximizing the benefits of project-based learning in today's technology-rich learning environment. This reader-friendly book speaks directly to educators, administrators, and professional development specialists who want to transform learning into a more active, student-driven experience, using technology tools for inquiry, collaboration, and connection to the world beyond the classroom. Examples from educators in many different countries showcase this new vision of instructional design. The book sells for a member price of \$24.45 and \$34.95 for non-members.



MORE INFORMATION: ISTE; <http://www.iste.org/k12oll/> and <http://www.iste.org/reinv/>.



The U.S. Department of Education has unveiled a new Web site, **Doing What Works**, dedicated to helping educators identify and make use of effective teaching practices. Doing

What Works relies primarily on the Institute of Education Sciences at the U.S. Department of Education to evaluate and recommend practices that are supported by rigorous research. Doing What Works also provides examples of possible ways educators might apply those research findings, but these are not necessarily the only ways to carry them out. The site is designed to support No Child Left Behind by creating an online library of resources for teachers, schools, districts, states, and technical assistance providers as they work to implement research-based instructional practice.

MORE INFO: Doing What Works, <http://dww.ed.gov/index.cfm>.

The U.S. Department of Education is currently accepting nominations for its **2007 American Stars of Teaching awards**, recognizing educators who are improving student achievement using innovative instructional strategies and making a difference in the lives of their students. Anyone can nominate an American Star. After the department receives a nomination, a verification form is sent to the teacher's principal. One teacher will be recognized from each state as well as the District of Columbia. *The deadline for nominations is March 31.* To see winners from 2004–2007, visit the department's Web site.

MORE INFO: U.S. Department of Education, <https://www.t2tweb.us/AmStar/About.asp>

This information is compiled by *L&L's* editorial intern, Lindsey Durrell, 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.

TeacherTube is a free online community for teachers to share educational videos. The founders say that they seek to fill a need for a more educationally focused, safe venue for teachers, schools, and home learners, describing it as a site to provide anytime, anywhere professional development with teachers teaching teachers. Teachers can also post videos designed for students to view in order to learn a concept or skill. With TeacherTube, members can upload, tag, and share videos; upload support files to attach lesson plans or activities to a video; browse hundreds of videos; join and create video groups based on similar interests; customize the experience through subscribing to users' videos; use the rating and comment features; save favorites; create playlists; adjust privacy settings; and integrate video embeds or APIs.

MORE INFO: TeacherTube, LLC; <http://www.teachertube.com>.

Teachscape is offering its **Early Childhood Series** study programs, designed to help teachers boost emerging literacy in prekindergarten students. The programs include a blend of face-to-face and online training, facilitated by access to training content and communication, data reporting, and other work management applications within Teachscape's Online Program Manager. The three programs of study include Setting the Stage: Developing a Language-Rich Environment, which focuses on creating physical environments that provide stimulation and support; Supporting Emerging Literacy: Developmentally Appropriate Approaches to Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing, which highlights strategies for the use of read-alouds to introduce the richness of language, promote phonological awareness and teach letter and language concepts; and Strategies for Mentors and Instructional Leaders: Helping Teachers Build Language-Rich Environments, which trains principals, mentors, and other teacher supporters in the creation of classroom environments that promote rich language experiences. Participants can access a library of video case studies, publications, and research articles for review and discussions. They can also practice modeled approaches, collect data and samples of student work, and learn how to promote children's language mastery.

MORE INFO: Teachscape, <http://www.teachscape.com>.



Innovation First, Inc. has announced the **Vex Robotics World Championship** competition at California State University, Northridge on May 2–3.

More than 1,000 high school students will compete in the inaugural competition, playing the company's "Bridge Battle" game.

The game is played on a 12'x12' square field divided into two sections—one red and one blue—with two teams on each side. Each team controls its robots to place tennis balls in respective red and blue colored sections of a bridge platform, working closely together to accomplish the task. Winning teams from local and state competitions are invited to compete with teams from the Asian Robotics League Bridge Battle as well as top teams from other competitions using the Vex Robotics Design System. According to the company, only 5–10% of schools take advantage of robotics programs, despite their recent increase in popularity. According to the company, Vex Robotics competitions such as Bridge Battle are designed to give more students the chance to learn about STEM education and help foster the next generation of future engineers.

MORE INFO: Innovation First, Inc., <http://www.vexrobotics.com>; Vex Robotics World Championship, <http://www.robotevents.com>



PBS TeacherLine Peer Connection is now available with more content and resources in K–12 reading, math, and

instructional technology. The online community site provides multimedia-based resources from PBS including interactives, video tutorials, and research-based articles for instructional coaches to use to help teachers deepen their subject area knowledge while encouraging them to integrate technology in the classroom. Through the site, coaches can build a customized professional development program for teachers whether they use face-to-face, online, or blended models. Coaches and teachers can enhance their working relationships through the site's tutorials, videos on best practices, research-based articles, coaching modules, and the embedded communication system to facilitate resources to one or more teachers.

MORE INFO: PBS TeacherLine Peer Connection, www.pbs.org/teacherline/peerconnection.

MeetMeAtTheCorner.org is a new Web site that provides virtual field trips for home-schooled children ages 8–12. This “educational ‘YouTube’ for homeschooled children,” as the site’s developers call it, offers virtual education and informational “tours” of various landmarks from a child’s point of view via video podcasts. Each of the 26 episodes offers suggested readings and follow-up activities, as well as lesson plans for the homeschool parent. Some of the three- to four-minute episodes include a visit to New York to see Broadway, the Forbes Museum and a birdwatching expedition in Central Park. With detailed instructions, children are encouraged to create and submit their own videos, which the creative staff will edit and upload to the site.



MORE INFO: MeetMeAtTheCorner.org,
<http://www.meetmeatthecorner.org>.

Adesso Inc. has announced the release of the **AKB-220**, a water resistant, flexible, and dust- and contaminant-proof keyboard. According to the company, its silicone-based material and flat design encourages proper typing form, so the wrists don’t recidivate to negative-angle placement, causing stress. The keyboard boasts raised keys that provide better tactile feedback than previous flexible designs and an indestructibility from ripping, tearing, and pulling. Compatible with Windows Vista, XP, 2000, ME, and 98SE, the keyboard is equipped with a USB and PS/2 adapter. Its 105 keys and LED lights for Num Lock and Caps Lock equate to a 0.5 lb. keyboard. The AKB-220 costs \$34.99 and is available through Ingram Micro, Synnex and D&H direct vendors, including Amazon, Buy.com, PC Mall, CDW, mWave, tigerDirect and Insight; retail stores such as Fry’s and Micro Center; and leading catalogs, including CDW, PC Mall, and PC Connection.

MORE INFO: Adesso Inc., <http://www.adesso.com>.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology has created a free OpenCourseWare site for high school students and teachers called **Highlights for High School**. The site provides teachers and students with materials designed to help students understand concepts by watching video demonstrations, study for Advanced Placement exams, or sample the work they’ll be doing in college. Recent MIT courses, as well as some developed and taught by MIT students themselves, are posted online with video and audio lectures in subjects ranging from genetics to furniture making. MIT has also borrowed from its courses to create AP study guides for biology, calculus, and physics. To explore hands-on learning, students and teachers can view labs, competitions, and demonstrations on video.

MORE INFO: MIT OpenCourseWare,
<http://ocw.mit.edu/OcwWeb/hs/home/home/index.htm>

Topics Education, a developer of custom curriculum and education outreach campaigns, is enlisting eighth, ninth, and tenth grade educators to review the content of its new curriculum, **Intellectual Property Rights in the Digital Age**. The curriculum is designed to foster greater awareness and understanding of intellectual property, helping students understand digital rights and wrongs and sparking discussion around gray areas in “protected and shared content.” Sponsored and made available for free by Microsoft, it will be a combination of Web resources targeting middle school and high school students and case-study driven, experiential learning lesson plans for subject areas. A corresponding Web site, MyBytes, provides a venue for students to create and share their own content and offer their opinions.



MORE INFO: Topics Education, <http://www.ipreducation.com>.

Coming Next Issue in **I&L**

Don’t Feed the Trolls

Spreading gossip and innuendo, leaving mean-spirited, ugly comments on social networking sites, or posting inflammatory information about a classmate, school, or teacher contributes to a general sense that incivility is just part of the culture of the Web. Educational technologist Karen Work Richardson outlines effective ways to instruct students in civil online discourse.

One Size Doesn’t Fit All

In the third of her four-part series on educational technology professional development, Judi Harris addresses how to combine ETPD goals and models to fit teachers’ particular characteristics.

Online Literacy

Although many teachers create Web sites for their classrooms, they may not have considered the vast array of opportunities such a site can provide. Professor Betsy Baker discusses ways in which classroom Web sites can be used to promote student literacy beyond the confines of the school day.

Celebrating **35** Volumes