

News from the Technology Lab

May 2011

Cybersafety! Digital Photography! Spreadsheets! These are just a few of the projects that have been going on in the computer lab recently. Here are some highlights of the projects that students have been working on:

Kindergarten- Kindergartners have learned so much in the computer lab this year! They completed projects using Kid Pix, Kidspiration, learned many great websites, and also had a basic introduction to keyboarding skills. Most recently, they have been working on a Community Helper project. They used an application called “Comic Life” to create a mini-poster about a favorite community helper. Their projects include text and pictures. They are learning how to import, drag and drop, and resize photos. It is amazing to see what children this age are able to do with technology! I can’t wait to work with them again in first grade!

First Grade- In connection with their unit on solids and liquids, first graders used digital cameras to take pictures of solids and liquids around Pritchett School. After uploading their photos to iPhoto, they imported them into Kid Pix, and then wrote about the examples they found. Next, students practiced using a website to help them locate specific information. Using the website www.bensguide.gov, they answered questions about United States Symbols.

Most recently they created Wordles, or word cloud designs, using vocabulary words about Goods and Services.

Second Grade- Second graders have been so busy in the computer lab. They used Internet websites to research information about George Washington which they used to create a timeline using a Microsoft Excel template. Next, we spent some time discussing Internet Safety and how we can keep ourselves and our computers safe when we use the Internet. We discussed the importance of never giving out personal information on the Internet, and to make sure our parents always are aware of what we are doing on the Internet. We also learned some helpful tips for using the Internet, such as creating bookmarks to save website addresses. Currently, the students are using Microsoft Excel to create graphs of our weather and temperature data that we collected over the past few weeks.

Third Grade- Our major focus in third grade this trimester has been proper Internet use and Internet safety. We have spent a lot of time working with the students over the past couple of months to make sure they understand the importance of using the Internet safely. We also learned new tips and strategies for using the Internet. We covered important vocabulary and rules, as well as how to use features of our web browser, such as the history

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menu and bookmarking options. Students also practiced using search engines to conduct an effective search to locate information on the Internet. We practiced using kid-safe search engines such as “Yippy.com” and “Boolify.org.”

Fourth Grade- Fourth graders have been working on an extensive research project about the Southeast region. They used a variety of Internet resources to gather their information. Then they used The Print Shop to create a 6-panel brochure. A lot of time and effort went into these projects and the final results are amazing! To finish up the year, we will revisit some Internet safety guidelines and do some more work with Internet searching using different types of search engines such as meta-search engines and subject directories. The fourth graders certainly possess a wide range of technology skills and should be well prepared as they go on to Meridian! It has been a pleasure working with them all these years, and I will really miss them!

It has been a busy, technology-filled year. If you have any questions about technology at Pritchett, feel free to contact me. Have a great summer!

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