Message from the President—
A Penny for your Thoughts

Your thoughts, ideas and opinions are important! They are important to your students, colleagues and to us and we want to hear from you. Express yourself on FaceBook and Twitter and tell us about NETA.

The strength of many
We all have different talents and strengths that contribute to the good of all; NETA is a wonderful pool of those gifts. We have members from all disciplines of the education community. Some are great at sharing ideas they have learned from conferences they attended or chats they had with others that are influential in education. Others are leaders, willing to take care of the necessary little details that keep the organization strong. There are those who are inspirational, thinking outside of the box and bringing to the table visions that keep NETA fresh and exciting. And there are workers, always willing to step in and do the tasks that help benefit all of us.

What do you have to contribute to the educational technology community and NETA? There is a lot of valuable information in your resource bag—why not share it?

In recent articles in the NETA Newsletter you have read many articles with ideas to help you create a strong and vibrant learning community for yourself, your students and your school. There were: Top Tech Tools for Teachers, Creating Portfolios using Wikis, Great Websites and Exciting Apps to enhance your electronic tools, mobile technology in the classroom and many more inspirational and informational ideas.

There is a season
“...learn, experiment, grow, reflect, teach, and rest. NETA helps provide all of these elements for you to help with your professional outreach to your educational community. Lest we forget, the biggest part of growth for our students and us as professionals is in what we share with others. It is hard to grow if you take everything in and have no avenue to interact with others.

Next year when the call goes out to run for the NETA Board, ponder if the time is right for you. While it is

Continued on page 21

Issue Highlights

| NETA Officers and Directors Election Results | 5 |
| Google in the Classroom | 10 |
| Student and Teacher Contest Winners! | 12 |
| Top 10 Predictions for 2011 | 18 |
In this issue

Message from the President—A Penny for your Thoughts ......................... 1
Message from the President Elect—All About the Cloud: FETC 2011 ........... 3
NETA Conference 2011 Network—New Challenges! ................................. 4
Election Results are In! ............................................................................ 5
Report from TCEA in Austin .................................................................... 6
Making Connections .................................................................................. 7
Fab 5 Web Sites for April .......................................................................... 8
Google in the Classroom: Beyond Surfing the Net .................................... 10
Thinking of Going Google? ...................................................................... 11
The Winners! Student and Teacher Contests ........................................... 12
Excellence in Teaching with Technology Award ....................................... 15
Excellence in Leading with Technology Award ........................................ 16
NETA Conference Site 2011 ................................................................... 17
Top 10 Predictions for 2011 (with proof!) ................................................ 18
NETA’s Technology Grant Program Midterm Reports .............................. 20
Meeting Minutes on the Web ................................................................... 21
Calendar of Technology Conferences & Seminars ................................. 23
NETA Membership Form ......................................................................... 24

If you can share a success story related to technology in the classroom, or a software solution review, we’d love to print it in a future newsletter. For making the contribution, you will receive a 2011 Spring Conference T-shirt.

Contact Sandy Blankenship, phone (402) 540-1904 or e-mail executivedirector@netasite.org with a short summary to see if your story can be included in a future issue!
I’VE LOOKED AT CLOUDS from both sides now, the ups and downs, and still somehow...I believe we have to go to the cloud. I have listened to various speakers over the last couple of years speaking on cloud computing and if we aren’t using or starting some of these practices, we are behind. Google for Education is a great start. Students and teachers can have access to online documents and email to enhance their learning experience, plus share documents and communicate easily with teachers and students alike.

A bonus in savings
A bonus to cloud computing is that at some point servers that used to house student documents may no longer be necessary, thus saving the district money in hardware costs. The same can be said for servers now used with programs like Moodle and other learning environment systems. There are online hosting sites where Moodle data can be housed for a yearly fee. As budgets decrease, it may be necessary to use some of these alternatives.

The online applications available for use will aid our students’ creativity and communication. Students can access files from anywhere in the world and have their work at their fingertips with any mobile device.

FETC session highlights
Here are a few highlights from some FETC presentations I attended:

Hall Davidson, Leslie Fisher and John Kuglin
A Technology Shoot-out.

Each shared their favorite resources, gadgets and programs. Here are some of interest:

- **Paper.li**—Read Facebook and Twitter feeds as a daily newspaper
- **Pogoplug**—Access your files on your computer and play media files from anywhere.
- **Jamendo.com**—Royalty free music
- **Googlevoice**—A single phone number that rings all your phones
- **Sliderrocket.com**—Online PowerPoint presentations
- **Dropbox.com**—Access files from anywhere
- **youtube mobile**—Upload videos to youtube immediately from your phone
- **camstudio.com**—Free video streaming video software
- **weebly.com**—Create free website and blogs
- **google city tours**
- **google apps marketplace for education**

Hall’s website: www.halldavidson.net
Leslie’s website: www.lesliefisher.com
John’s website: www.kuglin.com

Anthony Luscre
OMG, I c’n’t bliev w’e r really gttng 2 do this ln skul

Anthony’s presentation was centered on capturing your student’s attention. Digital natives crave technology rich and engaging projects using wikis, twitter, google earth field trips, online animation, cartooning and more. One project he suggested was to have students read a short story or poem and then using 140 spaces or less (Twitter maximum) describing their reactions.

Anthony’s website: www.oetn.org
Recommended websites:

- **wordpress.com**—Blogging site
- **glogster.com**—Create your own poster
- **litkicks.com**—Literature opinion, observations and research
- **edmodo.com**—Classroom materials sharing site

John Kuglin
Next Generation Computing: Using the Cloud to Build Innovative Learning Environments

This was by far the most cloud-oriented session I attended. His definition of cloud computing is Internet-based computing, whereby shared resources, software and information are provided to computers and other mobile devices on-demand. John insists in order to insure 21st century readiness, we must fuse the 3 R’s and 4 C’s (critical thinking and problem solving, communication, collaboration,

(Continued on page 4)
a note from Mr. Wi-Fi

NETA Conference 2011 Network

New Challenges!

By Dennis McIntyre
NETA Site Coordinator

5. A recent New York Times article put it very well,

“Technology conferences are like revival meetings for entrepreneurs, deal makers and the digitally obsessed. Attendees compulsively blog, e-mail, text and send photos and video from their seats”...

“Technology conferences are like revival meetings for entrepreneurs, deal makers and the digitally obsessed. Attendees compulsively blog, e-mail, text and send photos and video from their seats”...

Wi-Fi Overload at High-Tech Meetings, December 28, 2010—By Verne G. Kopytoff

6. This year we have some added challenges and required commitments. We now have smartphone technology that allows a user to set up a wireless “hot-spot” using their phone. Any such use during the conference creates another threat to the reliability of the conference network system. Please...don’t!

7. Together, we can do this! We can work together to help assure network capacity and reliability. Remember only you can prevent “network storms!!” ❖

Are you coming to the NETA 2011 Conference?

Here’s a few things we hope you will remember and apply while at the Conference.

1. Having 2000 people—active technology advocates!—in one facility is more than almost any wireless (WiFi) network can handle.

2. Last year, along with some upgrading of the facility, and management of the network equipment, the conference participants also did their job—they were careful and thoughtful about WiFi dependent usage. **Bravo! Thanks!**

3. The cooperation and collaboration of those in attendance did make a difference!

4. Again this year, we will need everyone to be “mindful” about using WiFi based technologies during the conference, in the major conference areas.

- Technology conferences are like revival meetings for entrepreneurs, deal makers and the digitally obsessed. Attendees compulsively blog, e-mail, text and send photos and video from their seats”...

- "The problem is that Wi-Fi was never intended for large halls and thousands of people, many of them bristling with an arsenal of laptops, iPhones and iPads”...

- **Wi-Fi Overload at High-Tech Meetings**, December 28, 2010—By Verne G. Kopytoff

- This year we have some added challenges and required commitments. We now have smartphone technology that allows a user to set up a wireless “hot-spot” using their phone. Any such use during the conference creates another threat to the reliability of the conference network system. Please...don’t!

- Together, we can do this! We can work together to help assure network capacity and reliability. Remember only you can prevent “network storms!!” ❖

- Are you coming to the NETA 2011 Conference?

- Here’s a few things we hope you will remember and apply while at the Conference.

- Having 2000 people—active technology advocates!—in one facility is more than almost any wireless (WiFi) network can handle.

- Last year, along with some upgrading of the facility, and management of the network equipment, the conference participants also did their job—they were careful and thoughtful about WiFi dependent usage. **Bravo! Thanks!**

- The cooperation and collaboration of those in attendance did make a difference!

- Again this year, we will need everyone to be “mindful” about using WiFi based technologies during the conference, in the major conference areas.

Steve Dembo
*iThink I Need iPods, iPhones and iPads in the Classroom*

This energetic, engaging presenter who is a Discovery Ed employee discussed the need for mobile technology in the classroom. Steve called the iPad the most advanced technology that can be used by all age groups stating that a Houston library will test a program to allow children age 2–6 to use iPads. He highlighted a pilot project entitled “The iPad Project—What kind of Day has it been?” by Fraser Speirs. He showcased some of the more unusual apps including Reel Editor, Shiny Drum, Looptastic, Flipboard, and Logmein Ignition that he uses. He noted that he feels the iPad is more of a personal device and difficult to share. Use the following link for more information on iPads and applications: www.delicious.com/Teach42/ipad

Steve’s website: www.teach42.com

Recommended Websites:
- iear.org—educational apps review
- goo.gl/yCxzH—47 interesting ways to use the iPad in the Classroom

Recommended Reading:
*It’s an Experience by Fraser Speirs* (Speirs.org) ❖
The Election Results are In!

Announcing the new 2011 NETA Officers and Directors

Many thanks to all of you who voted during the online election. The membership seems to do very well with the online voting procedures, and few had trouble finding their membership ID code number. Thanks also to all of the candidates on the ballot for their willingness to serve. All candidates were certainly worthy and you will hopefully see some of them on the ballot again in the future! The following people were elected.

Officers

Bob Goeman
President-Elect
University of Nebraska—Omaha

Rich Molettiere
Treasurer—Omaha
North High School

The President Elect serves for one year in this position and then moves into the role of the president. The president elect is responsible for helping to plan the spring conference.

Darci Lindgren
Lindsay Holy Family
Director—2014

Dawn Prescott
Schuyler Middle School
Director—2014

Gregg Robke
ESU 4
Director—2014

Leaving the Board this Year

The following people will be leaving the board this year as their terms expire. Each retiring Board member has willingly contributed endless hours of time, thought and effort into the organization and will certainly be missed.

Sue Oppliger—ESU 7
Sue has been an active member of the NETA Board and also served as President-Elect, President, and now Past President. Sue has taken on many responsibilities throughout her years on the Board and always followed through with her commitments. As President-Elect Sue encouraged the board to begin having a group of reviewers decide which session proposals to accept, instead of just the President-Elect. This was a much needed change for our organization. She has also helped create “punch lists” for each office, outlining the tasks of the various offices and when those tasks need to be completed. Sue has served on a variety of committees throughout her tenure, and chaired the Teacher and Leader Award Contests for 2011.

We will all miss Sue’s presence on the NETA board as she has truly been an exemplary leader!

Susan Prabulos—Lincoln PS
Susan is always quick to lend a helping hand. She has assisted many NETA members as they purchase books or T-shirts from our sales booth during the NETA Spring Conference. She has been very active with the Contest Committee and has annually helped judge contest entries. Susan chaired the “NETA Movie Contest” and this year chairs the new “Creative Comics Contest.” You may have also read one of her articles in a newsletter. With Susan working directly with students, she has been able to keep board members “in touch” with what’s happening in the classroom! She has also been willing to share her expertise through the many sessions and workshops she has provided during our conferences. We will miss having Susan on the NETA Board, but hope she will continue to share what she and her students are learning through presentations at NETA and newsletter articles.

Sue and Susan contributed with their ideas, their energy, and they were definitely team players. Our sincere thanks to both.

If you would like to be more active in NETA by serving on the NETA Board of Directors, consider being a nominee in 2012. Four Director positions are open each year as well as the President Elect and either Secretary or Treasurer (elected every other year). Watch for the call for nominees in the November newsletter. ❖
I was lucky to attend the Texas Computer Education Association conference February 7–11, 2011 in Austin, TX. I first attended TCEA last year and was impressed enough to attend again. Although the weather was cold with temps many days below freezing, the conference more than made up for it. Here are my notes on the most significant items gained from the conference.

The conference is HUGE, breaking new records at 12,975 attendees, 400 exhibitors and a budget of over $3,000,000.

Keynote highlights
Leigh Anne Touhey (the mother behind “The Blind Side”) gave the opening keynote and was inspiring, not only as she related the real story behind the movie, but as she encouraged everyone to help other students. That even one person can make a difference in the life of a student. She brought many a tear to one’s eyes.

David Pogue (the New York Time technology columnist and a previous keynoter at NETA) entertained the group with his insight on how technology and culture are not only interacting but also impacting each other. One specific example—using an augmented reality app on a smartphone, he demonstrated how pointing the smartphone at the ground in a major city identified the subway tracks underground as well as the location of the nearest station by tying together the GPS on the phone with the drawings of the subway system. Or, pointing a smartphone at a specific person would allow the system to identify the tweets coming from that device—again GPS and a connection back to the Twitter site. I’m sure those privacy guardians are having a fit, but the technology does offer some interesting long-term possibilities.

“The iPad was ‘the’ swag item of choice… iPad use by attendees easily outdistanced the number of laptops being used. The iPad has arrived in schools.”

Web 2.0
The BIG topic was Web 2.0—applications that run on the web and allow user interaction. Browsing a website, for example, is Web 1.0 You don’t have any control and/or input. Web 2.0 is Facebook Twitter, online banking, fantasy football, etc. Web 2.0 use is, according to this conference, exploding in Texas.

The iPad was “the” swag item of choice. If a vendor was giving anything away, it was an iPad. Also, and more revealing, iPad use by attendees easily outdistanced the number of laptops being used. The iPad has arrived in schools. My only regret is that I didn’t ask the iPad users if the device was a personal device or, if it belonged to the school, was it for staff and/or student use.

The two most valuable sessions were presented on the last day of the conference—digital storytelling and the use of social media.

Digital Storytelling
If you have staff interested in writing, you might want to pass this information on to them. Check out http://www.armieabrams.net/handouts.htm for the handout for this session “Digital Storytelling Goes Social—Web Links.” The presenter teaches digital storytelling at the college level, but the resources listed work with most any grade level. We received verbal permission to distribute the link and copy the page. Anyone already doing digital storytelling or looking at getting their feet wet will benefit from this compilation of resources.

The resources are Web 2.0 (hence the “digital” in storytelling) and range from apps that make storyboarding cards, sources of photographs, online comic books, how to create music videos and capture YouTube videos, as well as sources for sharing information on digital storytelling (VoiceThread is the best) and tips for teaching digital storytelling.

Use of Social Media
Birdville (TX) High School uses Facebook, Twitter, UStream, email, a website and YouTube to communicate with its audience—parents, students and staff.

This session, presented by the very tech-savvy principal and two math teachers, examined how and why the school uses these Web 2.0 technologies. Essentially, they are interested in getting the school message out and know that in order for it to be successful, the message has to be delivered where the kids and parents are.

Neither Facebook nor the other Web 2.0 technologies are blocked at the
“If you generally think of the Internet as a place to ‘look up stuff’ you’re missing the best part.”

That’s a quote from my friend, Dean Shareski, a digital learning consultant in Saskatchewan, Canada. You can read Dean’s blog at http://ideasandthoughts.org/ and you can follow him on Twitter—@shareski.

Dean’s quote has really resonated with me lately. As the Web has evolved, so have its users. We have moved from consuming content to being able to produce and interact with amazingly dynamic content and, perhaps more importantly, with each other—making connections. Those who know how to leverage these connections will increasingly find advantages over those who do not.

**Making connections—what does it mean?**

When I ask other educators what making connections means to them, most responses center around three main points:

1) helping kids to connect what they are learning in school to the world around them,

2) helping themselves as educators to connect with each other and initiate discussions and conversations that challenge and help each other grow, and...

3) seeing outside the physical walls of a ‘brick and mortar’ school so that your ‘classroom’ includes people and places all around the world.

**Students—are they making connections?**

I think about some of the web tools and games to which many students have access outside of the school day. They’re interacting, problem-solving, creating, and learning with other kids around the world—all on their own.

Are we providing similar opportunities in their daily learning activities in our schools? What about those kids who do NOT have access outside of the school day? How can we find new ways to help our students make connections? How can we find new ways to help ourselves and other educators to make connections?

The tools are there! In my elementary music classroom, we often use Skype to connect with other classrooms to share what we’re learning. We also develop mash-ups using Google Earth and Creative Commons licensed Flickr photos to create trips centered around folk music of other countries.

If you’re interested in learning more about making connections, please join us at the NETA conference April 28–29 in Omaha. You’ll find some great sessions to gain new information, as well as a new strand of sessions called Conversations. In these sessions, all participants are free to join in a discussion about the featured topic. The presenter will pose questions and help facilitate conversation among the participants.

You can also stop by the PLN Plaza to connect with other educators to learn more about Personal Learning Networks (PLNs). Whether you’re new to online networking or a veteran, the Plaza is a great space to learn with each other! ❖

**Connect with Michelle:**

Skype: michellekbaldwin
Twitter: michellek107

---

(TCEA, continued from page 6)

The school uses a Facebook fan page (I would have preferred the more secure group). There are three staff members with access to update the page—two assistant principals and the principal. Most updates, however, are done by the principal from his smartphone. Their daily announcements are video recorded and archived using uStream and YouTube.

Teachers are allowed to create a fan page but there is an absolute division between a personal Facebook page and the professional one. The two math teachers talked about how they use Facebook in support of their math instruction (see the presentation for more info on this).

You can access their presentation at: http://tinyurl.com/tcea-birdville-prezi

Here is a link to another Facebook-related session (wasn’t as good but does have some interesting resources)—https://sites.google.com/site/tceafacebook❖
Fab 5 Websites for April

What can I do with Qwiki?
To start, Qwiki covers over 3 million reference terms—including a wide variety of people, places and things. You can type in any indexed term and Qwiki will generate an “information experience” describing it. It’s a great place to find out facts, maps, pictures about any topic that might peak your curiosity.

Do you have a new iPad or iPod Touch?
http://esu9ipadipod.wikispaces.com

I started a wiki with many many links, teaching ideas and videos, all compiled in one place for you to research, find great apps and how-tos! Check out the links to other websites for the iPad on the resources page.

Book Drum
http://www.bookdrum.com

Take your favorite book your students are reading and enhance your lessons by bringing them to life with immersive pictures, videos, maps and music. Each page has bookmarks (with important pages marked, videos and photos), a summary page; setting page (with videos and pictures), glossary of terms (my favorite part for students); information about the author and book reviews. If you are a Literacy teacher you will LOVE Book Drum!

Google body labs
http://bodybrowser.googlelabs.com/body.html#

Anatomy teachers will love this 3D body. Look at the organs, the bones, vascular system or any other system of the body in 3D. Change the opacity of the ‘layers’ so you can see through the skin and bones right to the organ you are learning about. If you don’t know where something is, there of course is a google search in the top right, so type in ‘pancreas’ and it will show you where it is. ✤
As a company started BY teachers FOR teachers, we’re committed to bringing you technologies that make the largest impact on teaching and learning in your classrooms. From needs assessment and planning your technology purchases to implementing technology using effective teaching strategies, we’re here to help you make technology in your school more fun, effective, and efficient.

We’ve done the sizing up and added to our current offering of quality engaging technologies. Stop by our booth at NETA 2011 to get some hands-on practice with the latest additions to our lineup!

800.705.4049
Visit us online at www.engaging-technologies.com

NETA Booths 23-26
Adults often use Google Docs to collaborate with others. We create and collaborate on documents with colleagues and graduate classmates. What would happen if elementary students had this same capability?

This school year, fourth and fifth grade students at Meadow Lane Elementary and Humann Elementary began the school year by learning to access and use their own Lincoln Public Schools Google Apps accounts. It was decided to have the students use their Google Accounts because it could provide a way for students, classroom teachers, and the technology teacher to collaborate on a variety of levels. We were both excited by this opportunity but also a bit apprehensive about how things would go.

The boundaries
The students easily adapted to using Google mail, documents, and presentations. They only have access to e-mail and share documents with other students or teachers within LPS. This allows students to experience these activities within the boundaries of our school district.

At Meadow Lane, Ms. Prabulos had one specific project in mind when she first heard her students would have access to Google accounts. Mrs. Ardis Koehn, a fourth grade teacher, loves to have her students type up their personal narratives in preparation for the state writing test. She can then easily type feedback and help students publish finished pieces. Last year, the students would save work to a server. Several times students accidentally saved on the laptop they were working on and teachers had to spend a lot of time finding the documents.

At Meadow Lane, Ms. Prabulos had one specific project in mind when she first heard her students would have access to Google accounts.

About spreadsheets
The Meadow Lane fourth grade teachers and Ms. Prabulos recently began incorporating Google Spreadsheets into a classroom management program. The fourth graders can earn Deserving Dollars for following school rules. Instead of keeping track of their accounts on paper, each student has access to view their “online bank account.” The fourth grade teachers add student earnings to the spreadsheet accounts each week. The students are loving being able to view their accounts each week.

Research and rubrics
At Humann, Mr. Rushing asked his fifth graders to use Google Docs and Google Presentations to create a digital project during their computer class. This was their first research project of the year. Students were taught how to share the document with Mr. Rushing and it was an interesting and fruitful experience giving them formative feedback while they were in the process of creating the presentation.

At the end of the project, Mr. Rushing shared the grading rubric that was created for the project with each student. This rubric had a section for each student to self-assess, as well as an area for Mr. Rushing to add his assessment scores for the project.

Students are also sharing their science fair documents with teachers so they can provide feedback.

Google in the Classroom: Beyond Surfing the Net (continued on the next page)
Collaborative writing
Fourth grade students at Humann focused on a creative writing activity written in Google Docs. Two or more students worked simultaneously on the writing activity using their individual, different computers. The document was originally created by one of the group members and shared with all the others.

During the computer class, students added to the story while participating in a Google Chat. During the chat, ideas for the story’s progression were shared and discussed. Each student took ownership in the story that was being created and the collaboration between all of the students was very successful.

Mobile labs
Due to the success of these collaborative projects, the Fourth and Fifth Grade classroom teachers have adapted many of their writing assignments so that Google Apps is used. All Lincoln Public Schools Elementary buildings have a mobile lab that can be checked out and used in the classroom. Ever since the use of Google Apps has been introduced to the fourth and fifth graders, the mobile labs are being used every day.

Overall, the teachers and students are excited about using Google Apps and the possibilities this solution has opened up for student to student and student to teacher collaboration.

Editor’s note: If you are ready to give Google Apps a try, read the rest of the good news on this page!

Thinking of Going Google?
By Jason Everett (ESU 10) and Mike Kozak (NDE)

In a collaborative effort, NDE, ESU PDO and GNENC have been working to provide all K–12 schools across the state with free access to Google Apps Education Edition. Students and educators have the opportunity to be connected to a common e-mail, chat and calendar system (Gmail, Google Talk and Google Calendar), cloud collaboration tools (Google Docs, Google Sites & Google Groups) and multimedia tools (Google Video for Education) that will enable them to work together and learn more effectively.

Schools that choose to use Google Apps will see many benefits including significant savings in their IT budgets, and most importantly, will be teaching students the skills they’ll need to use these types of digital tools in the workplace. Districts will have access to statewide as well as regional and online training opportunities.

More information about deployment, timelines and training opportunities will be available at NETA 2011.

Google Apps Education Edition allows schools to give Google’s communication and collaboration applications to their entire education community for free. All services are hosted by Google and are available to users via any Internet-connected computer and many mobile devices. Google Apps includes the following services:

- Gmail—provides gigabytes of email storage, highly effective spam filtering and powerful search with integrated voice and video chat
- Google Calendar—allows easy coordination of work or class schedules, meetings and events online;
- Google Video—online video private to a school’s domain
- Google Docs—allows users to create and collaborate on documents, spreadsheets, presentations, forms, and drawings in real-time as well as upload and share any file type
- Google Sites—develop and customize rich websites and embed Google Docs, Google Calendars, videos, and other media—no HTML required.
- Google Groups—create mailing lists and discussion forums allowing students and teachers to easily and efficiently sharing documents, calendars, sites, and media with specific groups.

Join us at NETA on April 28th, 2011 to learn more!
Get your questions answered by visiting with those involved in the planning during playground session, Nebraska Going Google, Thursday from 11:30-1:15, Gatsby Room.

To learn about the technical issues, there will be a session in the Sugarloaf Room, The Technical Side of Going Google, Thursday, 12:30-1:15.

Google, Google Apps, Gmail, Google Talk, Google Calendar, Google Docs, Google Sites and Google Video are trademarks of Google Inc.
NETA’s Student Logo Contest
The NETA Conference Logo Contest, based on the conference theme e³ empower, encourage, engage, was judged by a subcommittee in January, 2011. There were numerous entries for each division, making the task of judging challenging but very enjoyable. Our thanks to Jason Rushing, Lincoln Public Schools, for his work as the NETA Logo Contest coordinator.

Winner—K-12 NETA Conference Logo Contest
Candice Schulte, Omaha Benson Magnet High School. Sponsor: Astra Patterson

K-12 Digital Imagery Contest

▲K-2 Graphic Imagery
Rosie Ramos, Dodge Elementary, Grand Island PS

▲6-8 Graphic Imagery
1st: Tim Reis, Westridge Middle School, GIPS

▲3-5 Graphic Imagery
1st: Taylor Keyes, Newell Elementary, Grand Island PS
Technology Grants for the Classroom

The following worthy projects were chosen for this year’s technology grants for the classroom. Grant winners will submit updates on their project during the next school year to the NETA newsletter and will participate in poster sessions at the NETA conference in April, 2012.

Thanks to Nicole Badgley, Arnold Public Schools, for coordinating this contest.

iPads for 21st Century Literacy

Create iPad literacy stations to build necessary literacy skills for 7th grade students and support meaningful student engagement and continuous learning. ($1497)

Teacher: Jenna Krambeck
School: Elkhorn Ridge MS, Elkhorn

The Green Monkey Project for Recycling and Renewable Energy

The Green Monkey Project integrates a wide range of curricular areas as part of a multi-year (grades 6-8) science and technology program built around recycling and renewable energy. ($1219)

Teacher: Mike Mansour
School: Jesuit Middle School, Omaha

Crawford Historical Documentaries

Students will produce documentaries recording the history and promoting the Crawford, NE region. Student documentary projects will be presented in a kiosk in the Crawford visitor center. ($1500)

Teacher: Moni Hourt
School: Crawford High School

ISTE Teacher Trek Contest

Teachers applying for the ISTE Teacher Trek Contest were to share how they use technology and how attending ISTE would strengthen what they already do in the classroom. Expenses will be paid up to $1500 to attend the conference, held in Philadelphia, PA, June 26–29, 2011.

- Jill Domina, Schuyler Middle School ($1500)
- Kevin Morrow, O’Neill Public Elementary ($1500)
- Jan Tell, Dodge Elementary, Grand Island PS ($1500)

Thanks to Nicki Noordhoek, Waverly Middle School for coordinating this contest.

Free NETA Registration for Teachers in First Three Years of Teaching

These teachers were selected through a drawing of entries, with each winner receiving a free registration to attend NETA.

- Laura Bishop, Hartington Cedar Catholic
- Kaye Morris, West Point Guardian Angels
- Kristen Zwick, Trinity Lutheran, Grand Island

Thanks to Contest Coordinator, Dr. Lynne Herr from ESU#6, for coordinating this event.

K–12 Graphic Imagery Contest

For this contest, students could digitally capture, create, enhance, or draw the image themselves (no clip art). They were permitted to create their image using a digital camera, image creation program, drawing tablet, or other digital device. Winners will receive medals. First place winning images are displayed on this and the previous page.

(Winners on the next page)
(Contest Winners, continued)

K-2 Graphic Imagery
1st—Rosie Ramos, Dodge Elementary, GIPS
Sponsor: Pamela McDifft

2nd—Alyssa Earl, Gates Elementary, Grand Island PS
Sponsor: Chandra Myers

3rd—Spencer Hunter, Gates Elementary, Grand Island PS
Sponsor: Tammy Verba

Grade 3-5 Graphic Imagery
1st—Taylor Keyes, Newell Elementary, Grand Island PS
Sponsor: Janel Keyes

2nd—Ashley Santiago Sopon, Dodge Elementary, Grand Island PS
Sponsor: Kate Crowe

3rd—Julia Bauer, O'Neill Public Schools
Sponsor: Jennifer Troester

K-12 Open Class Contest
As NETA continually seeks to develop contests that accurately reflect classroom uses of technology, the Open Class Contest was created, and has been a very popular contest. Winning students will receive medals.

K-4: Trouble in Candumbul, J. Campbell, C. Benson, S. Duncan, Trinity Lutheran, Grand Island

K-4: Transformed, Mia Pemberton, Dodge Elementary, Grand Island

K-4: Claire’s Animations, Claire Morrow, O’Neill Public Schools

5–8: Got Sleep?, C. Steffes, K. McCutcheon, N. Pick, St. Vincent de Paul, Omaha

5–8: Legomination, Don Nguyen & Nate Hazard, St. Vincent de Paul, Omaha

5–8: Ye Olde Tale of Bullying, I. Paiz, C. Staehr, J. Reeser, Trinity Lutheran, Grand Island

9–12: Texting and Driving, Jaz Schoeneck & Nate Wiesen, Information Technology Focus Program, Lincoln

9–12: Identity, Jasmine Ruch, Benson High School Magnet, Omaha

9–12: Animationish Poetry Project, Jeffrey Bantam, Alma Public Schools

Web 2.0 Student Group Winners
Grammar Cartoons
Mrs. Townsend’s 4th Grade Class, Dodge Elementary, Grand Island

Eagles On Air
Mr. Peterson’s Audio/Visual Production Class, O’Neill High School

Thanks to Jane Davis of Hershey Public Schools contest coordinator.

Web 2.0 Teacher Winners
4th Grade Glogster, Julie Hartman, St. James/Seton School, Omaha

Cameras & Curriculum
Kate Crowe, Dodge Elem., GIPS

Middle School Science Page
Jennifer Hasiak, St. James/Seton School, Omaha

Thanks to Dawn Prescott of Schuyler MS, contest coordinator.

Web 2.0 Tools Contests

Web 2.0 tools are characterized as online tools to encourage and foster communication, information sharing and knowledge in a user-centered design, allowing the user to navigate through the information and therefore interact with it.

Word Wizard
Juan Sanchez, Dodge Elementary, Grand Island
Sponsor: Julie McCoy

Comparing Cultures, Francisco Salazar, Chandler View, Bellevue
Sponsor: Charity Walker

Virus, Nick Schroeder, Barr MS, Grand Island PS
Sponsor: Kelley Ward

Creative Comics for Students

Creative Comics for Teachers

Tech Guy, Tom Gamble, Indian Hill Elementary, Omaha

Thanks to Susan Prabulos, Lincoln PS, for coordinating this contest.

Creative Comics
We asked for the best original digitally created comic strips!

• Students—a comic strip that highlights learning or showcases curriculum topics

• Teachers—original classroom or technology humor.

The winning comics will be published throughout the year in the NETA newsletter.

Creative Comics for Students

Word Wizard, Juan Sanchez, Dodge Elementary, Grand Island
Sponsor: Julie McCoy

Comparing Cultures, Francisco Salazar, Chandler View, Bellevue
Sponsor: Charity Walker

Virus, Nick Schroeder, Barr MS, Grand Island PS
Sponsor: Kelley Ward

Creative Comics for Teachers

Tech Guy, Tom Gamble, Indian Hill Elementary, Omaha

Thanks to Susan Prabulos, Lincoln PS, for coordinating this contest.

NEW—Creative Comics

We asked for the best original digitally created comic strips!

Students—a comic strip that highlights learning or showcases curriculum topics

Teachers—original classroom or technology humor.

The winning comics will be published throughout the year in the NETA newsletter.

Creative Comics for Students

Word Wizard, Juan Sanchez, Dodge Elementary, Grand Island
Sponsor: Julie McCoy

Comparing Cultures, Francisco Salazar, Chandler View, Bellevue
Sponsor: Charity Walker

Virus, Nick Schroeder, Barr MS, Grand Island PS
Sponsor: Kelley Ward

Creative Comics for Teachers

Tech Guy, Tom Gamble, Indian Hill Elementary, Omaha

Thanks to Susan Prabulos, Lincoln PS, for coordinating this contest.

Thanks to Jackie Ediger, ESU#9, for coordinating this contest.
Excellence in Teaching with Technology Award

Moni Hourt, Crawford High School

Moni Hourt, Advanced Research, Advanced Computers, Art, English and Math teacher at Crawford High School is NETA’s recipient of the 2011 Excellence in Teaching with Technology Award. Moni was first a journalist. She became a teacher in rural northwest Nebraska in 1991 at age 40. As noted by her principal, “technology is woven into her curriculum at all levels, which is demonstrated by the high level of learning and engagement of her students.”

Examples of Moni’s involvement in her school reflect her strong belief in the importance of technology skills in a changing world.

Classroom & School Building Projects

Assist students to create:
- Weekly Newscasts on the school website
- School Newspaper
- Sports Highlight Videos
- School programs, greeting cards and posters
- Sports Memory Mate photos
- Fashion and auto design projects
- History Day Projects

Students scanned photos from previous yearbooks to produce a video of the school’s history for the alumni banquet.

Through grants, fundraisers and job trading, Moni and her students strive to keep their technology lab up-to-date.

Community and Regional projects

Students are researching history of the community and interviewing local residents to produce a video to promote the community in celebration of Crawford’s 125th anniversary.

Western History Day Coordinator—assists students in the region in producing History Day projects

Collaborated with the museum committee to create Ranchman Room at the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center on the Chadron State College campus. Through documentaries and databases, history of the ranching industry has been archived and educational programs have been created.

During the summer, Moni is the Director of Educational Outreach and Exhibits at Chardon State College. She constructs lesson plans to support museum exhibits, organizes historical education programs for educators and students and interviews and archives stories of area residents who shaped the high plains region.

Awards

- Nebraska nominee for the Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year Award that recognizes outstanding History Day educators—2010
- Presidents’ Award Midwest Archives Conference—2008
- NE State Historical Society James C. Olson Educator Award—2007
- Nebraska VFW Teacher of the Year —2005
- Chadron State College—Distinguished Alumni Award—2004
- National Rural Education Association Teacher of the Year—2004

Organizations

- Nebraska Educational Technology Association
- National Rural Teachers Association
- Nebraska Historical Society
- Nikon Professional Photographers Association
- Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Association

Along with being recognized by NETA at the Spring Conference in April, Moni will be Nebraska’s nominee for the ISTE Outstanding Teacher Award.

The NETA Board will recognize Moni Hourt at the 2011 NETA Conference as this year’s Teaching with Technology recipient.
Mr. Kent Kingston,
Executive Director Administrative and Technology Services at Westside Community Schools, is NETA’s recipient of the 2011 Excellence in Leading with Technology. Kent moved from the position of Westside High School principal to a technology position in 2004.

As a colleague noted, “Kent’s vision for technology integration has always been based on one critical tenet—that technology must always be the tools we use to learn and not the learning itself.”

Achievements
- Apple Distinguished Educator
- Administrator at an Apple Distinguished School
- Led Westside High School to implementation of one-to-one initiative

Member of:
- ISTE—International Society for Technology in Education
- NETA—NE Educational Technology Association
- AASA—American Association of School Administrators

Local Leadership
Kent was the force and the inspiration behind Nebraska’s first public school 1:1 initiative implemented at Westside High School in the fall of 2004.

He has systematically upgraded technology and added technology improvements at middle and elementary schools so that today Westside has a K–7 student-computer ratio of 2:1.

Kent is a member of the district Curriculum Instruction and Assessment team, Student Services Administrator, Learning Community Task Force liaison, co-leader of the Strategic Planning Initiative, and co-leader of Leadership Development.

He promotes using ISTE NETS standards to teach and learn academic standards in every content area.

Kent implemented the PowerSchool student information system and PowerGrade electronic reporting systems.

State & National Leadership
Presentations on One-to-One Computing and/or Student Information Systems at:
- NETA—Nebraska Educational Technology Conferences on 1:1 planning and implementation
- Educational Service Unit sponsored technology events

Mr. Kent Kingston,
Westside Community Schools

Local Leadership
Kent was the force and the inspiration behind Nebraska’s first public school 1:1 initiative implemented at Westside High School in the fall of 2004.

He has systematically upgraded technology and added technology improvements at middle and elementary schools so that today Westside has a K–7 student-computer ratio of 2:1.

Kent is a member of the district Curriculum Instruction and Assessment team, Student Services Administrator, Learning Community Task Force liaison, co-leader of the Strategic Planning Initiative, and co-leader of Leadership Development.

He promotes using ISTE NETS standards to teach and learn academic standards in every content area.

Kent implemented the PowerSchool student information system and PowerGrade electronic reporting systems.

State & National Leadership
Presentations on One-to-One Computing and/or Student Information Systems at:
- NETA—Nebraska Educational Technology Conferences on 1:1 planning and implementation
- Educational Service Unit sponsored technology events

Mr. Kent Kingston,
Westside Community Schools

Local Leadership
Kent was the force and the inspiration behind Nebraska’s first public school 1:1 initiative implemented at Westside High School in the fall of 2004.

He has systematically upgraded technology and added technology improvements at middle and elementary schools so that today Westside has a K–7 student-computer ratio of 2:1.

Kent is a member of the district Curriculum Instruction and Assessment team, Student Services Administrator, Learning Community Task Force liaison, co-leader of the Strategic Planning Initiative, and co-leader of Leadership Development.

He promotes using ISTE NETS standards to teach and learn academic standards in every content area.

Kent implemented the PowerSchool student information system and PowerGrade electronic reporting systems.

State & National Leadership
Presentations on One-to-One Computing and/or Student Information Systems at:
- NETA—Nebraska Educational Technology Conferences on 1:1 planning and implementation
- Educational Service Unit sponsored technology events

Mr. Kent Kingston,
Westside Community Schools

Local Leadership
Kent was the force and the inspiration behind Nebraska’s first public school 1:1 initiative implemented at Westside High School in the fall of 2004.

He has systematically upgraded technology and added technology improvements at middle and elementary schools so that today Westside has a K–7 student-computer ratio of 2:1.

Kent is a member of the district Curriculum Instruction and Assessment team, Student Services Administrator, Learning Community Task Force liaison, co-leader of the Strategic Planning Initiative, and co-leader of Leadership Development.

He promotes using ISTE NETS standards to teach and learn academic standards in every content area.

Kent implemented the PowerSchool student information system and PowerGrade electronic reporting systems.

State & National Leadership
Presentations on One-to-One Computing and/or Student Information Systems at:
- NETA—Nebraska Educational Technology Conferences on 1:1 planning and implementation
- Educational Service Unit sponsored technology events

Mr. Kent Kingston,
Westside Community Schools

Local Leadership
Kent was the force and the inspiration behind Nebraska’s first public school 1:1 initiative implemented at Westside High School in the fall of 2004.

He has systematically upgraded technology and added technology improvements at middle and elementary schools so that today Westside has a K–7 student-computer ratio of 2:1.

Kent is a member of the district Curriculum Instruction and Assessment team, Student Services Administrator, Learning Community Task Force liaison, co-leader of the Strategic Planning Initiative, and co-leader of Leadership Development.

He promotes using ISTE NETS standards to teach and learn academic standards in every content area.

Kent implemented the PowerSchool student information system and PowerGrade electronic reporting systems.

State & National Leadership
Presentations on One-to-One Computing and/or Student Information Systems at:
- NETA—Nebraska Educational Technology Conferences on 1:1 planning and implementation
- Educational Service Unit sponsored technology events
NETA Conference Site 2011

By Dennis McIntyre, NETA Site Coordinator & Sandy Blankenship, Executive Director

Welcome to the La Vista Conference Center, Embassy Suites and so much more!

The NETA 2011 annual conference is proud to again use one of the newest facilities in the Metro Omaha area. This location offers easy access, state of the art facilities, adequate free parking, and more productive conference activities space.

Location
- I-80 Exit 442 - Giles road @ Southport Parkway
- Other landmarks @ Exit 442—Cabela’s and PayPal.

Parking
1700 spaces, shared (All spaces in commercial area are available—owned by city of La Vista.)

Lodging accommodations
Embassy Suites, Marriott Courtyard, and Hampton Inn hotels are full, but please check the NETA website for additional options: http://netasite.org/housing

Food accommodations
- Embassy—complimentary full breakfast & Manager’s reception afternoon/evening
- Hampton Inn—Complimentary breakfast & Manager’s reception
- Marriott—check out their Bistro area

Lunch
- Embassy—Nines Restaurant, Caffenia’s, and Atrium (box lunch pickup & sales)
- Marriott—Bistro Area
- Giles Road—Summer Kitchen, Runza, Jimmy Johns, and Pizza Gourmet

Services
- Embassy—Internet & wireless, Public spaces free, Sleeping room charge
- Conference Center additional wireless facilities—free
- Marriott—Free Internet wireless in public spaces & sleeping rooms
- Hampton Inn—Wireless all areas

BYOL (Bring Your Own Laptop) Sessions
- located in Wingtip
- must pre-register
- must have ticket for admittance

NEW—Conversation Strand
- held in Marriott Library
- come learn from the group

Registration
- Conference Center main door area
- Thursday mass registration—Main doors, turn right, Gatsby room
- Wednesday night registration hours are 5:00–7:00 PM

Lunch Tickets for Sale
As you register on Thursday morning, please look for a special booth where you can purchase a lunch ticket for your noon meal, then use your pre-purchased ticket to retrieve a meal. We are hoping to again eliminate the long wait time if lunch tickets are pre-purchased.

Graduation Credit for NETA
Participants who attend both days of the NETA Conference can earn one hour of graduate credit through Peru State College. Interested participants will meet briefly with Gregg Robke on Thursday morning at 9:50 near the NETA Sales Booth, directly after the keynote. Resident tuition is $194.50 per credit hour + any applicable fees. Nonresident tuition is $358 per credit hour + any applicable fees.

We look forward to welcoming you to the LaVista Embassy Suites and Conference Center!
Top 10 Predictions for 2011 (with proof!) By Ellen Ullman

This article is reprinted by permission from Tech & Learning magazine online, http://www.techlearning.com/article/35406

Forget auld acquaintances and don’t worry about resolutions, the most popular thing to do this time of year is to make predictions for the next 12 months. See below for our list, along with some backup from people who put the proof in our pudding. Throughout the year, we’ll track their progress and grade our conjecture this time next year.

Textbooks are dead!
For real this time!

“We are at approximately 80 percent electronic books right now,” says Paul Wood, technology director at Bishop Dunne Catholic School in Dallas. The three-year process has spurred a major network upgrade, allowing students to bring their own connectivity, and has educated parents. “While there are many pros and cons of being that immersed in ebooks, I truly believe that the cons will continue to disappear and the pros will only become greater,” Wood says. “Features such as text-to-speech, highlighting, marking in the book, and others continue to be things that will get better not only with the books but also with the technology.”

Assessment will be comprehensive and constant!

“Learning happens all the time. If progress is based on competency, then learning anywhere should count,” says Kim Carter, executive director of the QED Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to creating and sustaining student-centered learning communities. They’ve been doing this for the last nine years at the Monadnock Community Connections Public High School of Choice in Swanzey, New Hampshire. Each student works collaboratively with a teacher advisor to establish her or his education plan. For example, one student learned all his geometry standards through origami. Another worked with a glass geometrician who creates stained-glass lamps.

1:1 becomes BYOT!

With today’s children all but glued to their iPhones, is it any wonder that schools are beginning to let the kids bring in their own tech? That’s what’s happening in Walled Lake (MI) Consolidated School District. “We’re seeing an increasing number of students using their own laptops, netbooks, cell phones, iPods, and FlipCams,” says Pamela Shoemaker, instructional and assistive technology coordinator. “Walled Lake is working on setting digital norms and updating our acceptable use policy so that these types of devices are allowed and encouraged in school, as long as they’re being used for educational purposes.”

Facebook will be encouraged!

“Kids often ask if they can ‘friend’ us,” says Cathy Swan, technology integration teacher at New Canaan (CT) High School. “They use it to ask classmates for help, to share event photos, and to poll their friends, so why not ask teachers to use it with them?”

Educators throughout her high school have come up with several ways to use Facebook. Swan suggests starting by asking students to create a Facebook page for a historical figure (instead of writing a report). “This format makes them consider the historical figure differently: Who would she ‘friend’? What would you read on his wall? What would her photo albums look like? Which Facebook groups would he join or sponsor? What events would she plan?”

Students will surf away (kind of)!

“At my school we have shifted the focus from removing our filter to making the resources available that our teachers need while still being CIPA compliant,” says Sarah Rolle, director of technology at the Elisabeth Mor-
row School in Englewood, New Jersey. “Our focus is on communicating with teachers and understanding their needs.”

Rolle, a former teacher, knows that when her teachers ask for something to be unblocked, it’s because it’s valuable. She believes that filters should not get in the way of educating students but knows she can’t ignore the law if she wants to receive E-Rate funding. Her teachers know whom to contact to unblock the filter, and she thinks it is essential in every school system to know who can unblock sites. If that information is not available, teachers must take the initiative to find out.

**The end of testing is nigh!**

“I think we can get to a place of understanding the role of tests a whole lot better,” says Chris Lehmann, principal of the Science Leadership Academy (SLA), a four-year-old Philadelphia magnet school developed in partnership with The Franklin Institute. “Tests are really about the ability to regurgitate what someone else told them. The point isn’t to just know the information but to use the information to create, figure out, learn, or make something. Any of those is far more important than just spewing out facts.”

Learning at his school is authentic, powerful, and meaningful, Lehmann says. To get there, educators have to ask different questions, such as, What if high school weren’t just prep? What if the work kids did in high school mattered now? What could they create?

---

**Students forced to use phones in class!**

T&L advisors and educators Lisa Nielsen and Willyn Webb know how schools can harness the power of cell phones. Their progressive five-step plan starts with helping educators use cell phones for professional purposes, moves to using the devices to strengthen the home-school connection, and ends with empowering students to use the devices for learning outside of school and, ultimately, in the classroom. “As we move into the next decade and schools go from banning to embracing cell phones for learning,” Nielsen says, “failure to bring your phone might become grounds for detention—much like failure to bring your textbook or homework was in the past.”

**Content will be free for all, all the time!**

Scott S. Floyd, instructional technologist at White Oak, Texas, Independent School District, is a free radical (so to speak): “If the government provides free education to all, why would we not make the best content available and within easy reach?” he asks. “Instead we spend billions every year on paper copies from companies that package the same thing in a new wrapper.”

At White Oak he encourages staff to work within global communities to find content and teaching and learning strategies that benefit them and their students. This goal is attainable, within limits. Time is the most limiting factor. Absent an easy search engine for good content, the staff does have to spend hours vetting the content to find what is a good match for their needs. Sounds like an opportunity for publishers...

**Students will learn outside of school!**

“This year our students will have two full days of instruction delivered electronically,” says Lisa Wendel, superintendent of the Mississinawa Valley (OH) Local School District. “These two days will take place when we are unable to go to school because of unsafe weather conditions. Each teacher has already developed electronic lessons for each of their classes. When an e-day is called, students will go to the district Web site and click on their grade or teachers’ names, and the lessons will be enabled for them. The goal for the project is to equal or surpass the learning that would occur in a normal face-to-face day.”

**All data become compatible—globally!**

One hundred and sixty leading education organizations around the world are collaborating through a nonprofit organization called the IMS Global Learning Consortium to develop and conform to a framework called the Digital Learning Services Standards. So far, 30 products have been certified to conform to the new standards, which make interaction among Blackboard, Moodle, Desire2Learn, and other learning tools and platforms seamless. The standards are receiving initial support from the Florida Virtual School and the New York City Department of Education, among others.
textbook and replacing it with a laptop, projector and flip video cameras was an essential first step.

Reading and lecturing on textbook information in the classroom has been replaced with: discussions, conversations and debates after the students have been exposed to primary sources like the Constitution, Federalist papers, the amendments, and essays without the textbook commentary. Talking about current issues has been replaced with experiencing them through episodes of PBS’ Frontline, C-Span and original student made videos in which they discover what their community is thinking and how it is reacting to the issue at hand. Students are also encouraged to participate and attend lectures offered by local universities, town hall meetings, and to observe community governing meetings at all levels and then reporting what they have learned to their classmates.

The reaction of the students has been overwhelmingly positive. Over 80% of students when surveyed marked that they either ‘preferred’ or ‘greatly preferred’ this style of classroom over a traditional textbook study. Those that dissented primarily cited that too much work was expected of them. The lone disappointing stat is that test score averages have dropped.

Read Naturally focuses on reading fluency, phonic skills, vocabulary, and reading comprehension. One important advantage of this program is the ability to customize it to each student’s reading level. Our original intent was to use this program to help low reading ability students become more proficient and fluent readers. However, we have discovered that it is a great program for students with all ability levels.

Eileen Barks, from ESU 2, lead an in-service for our teachers in late October. Next, the students took a placement test to help determine their reading level. Most students were able to work at that determined level, while others needed modifications made to their story options based on the teacher’s observations. Each day, the reading teachers along with the specialty teachers and teacher assistants are progress monitoring our students as they work in the classrooms and computer lab.

Our students have been working very hard and they are proud of their success. This has been a whole school effort and we hope it will continue to generate positive attitudes towards reading among our students.

Thanks to Nicole Badgley, Arnold Public Schools, Grant Coordinator.
Meeting Minutes on the Web

Board meetings, 1:1 Laptop group meetings and Tech Coordinator meetings

Last year the NETA Board decided to save print publishing costs by posting the minutes from the NETA Board meetings on the NETA website only. The same will be true for the 1:1 Laptop group and the Tech Coordinator group.

You will find minutes from the January, 2011 NETA Board meeting on the web here: http://netasite.org/minutes

Minutes for the Laptop Community meetings can be found here: http://laptop.communities.esu10.org

Minutes for the Tech Coordinators’ meetings are available here: http://netasite.org/techcoord

Pre-registration Open Through April 8th!

We hope to see you at NETA on April 28–29, at La Vista Embassy Suites & Conference Center. Please make sure you have registered for NETA by April 8th. Your registration needs to be done online by that date, faxed, or post-marked April 8th if sent via mail. After April 8th, please plan to register onsite. Plan now to find your way to La Vista, Exit 442, for an exciting two days! The theme this year is e3: empower, encourage, engage

(Penny, continued from page 1)

rewarding, being a board member is not the glamorous role that we often visualize. You may feel you are better suited to present exciting ideas from your classroom experience or you may want to be one of the many volunteers that help the conference run smoothly. Perhaps you love to write and can contribute to the knowledge pool in the newsletter or NETA online community. Have you shared an idea with a colleague at school? Why not share it with all of us? Have you shared the benefits of belonging to NETA and attending the conference each year? No matter your talent and calling, when the time comes, your growth and our strength depends on you stepping up to the plate and contributing.

A penny doesn’t go far anymore but your thoughts are still important to all of us.

NETA Booths 85 & 108

Managed Print Services

If you’re like most schools reducing expenses and increasing productivity are keys to your success. As we are tasked with “doing more with less”, our Managed Print Service (MPS) Programs can help you achieve this goal.

MPS Incentives

- Reduce overall printing cost
- Save paper & reduce print volumes
- Send print jobs to more cost-effective devices
  - Control Color usage
- Participate in a Free Toner Recycling Program
  - Reduce Carbon Footprint
  - Ability to budget for printing
- Allocate print costs to departments
- Reduce the number of print suppliers
- Restrict “print” abusers
- Eliminate outdated printer supplies
- Allow IT to focus on critical tasks, not printers
  - Automate meter collection
  - Alerts for service maintenance
- Identify redundancies and under/over utilized assets
- Print monthly reports on print usage and trends
  - Improve document storage and retrieval
- Reduce number of analog phone lines used for faxing

Eakes Office Plus offers:

- Total Fleet Management
- Service Management
- Modification of Print Behaviors
  - In-Dept Print Study
- Easy Single Supplier

Serving Nebraska for over 65 years!
Stop by our booth at the NETA Conference!
www.eakes.com

http://netasite.org
Karen Cator Unable to Present at NETA 2011

We were notified that Karen Cator, Director of the Office of Educational Technology at the U.S. Department of Education, will no longer be able to provide a keynote presentation on Friday, April 29th.

We were planning on three speakers for “pick your own keynote” on Friday morning.

With this change, we will still have two nationally-recognized keynote speakers on Friday: Tony Vincent, specializing in handheld devices in the classroom; and Richard Byrne, high school teacher and author of the blog Free Technology for Teachers.

See our web site for more details on these two popular speakers, and about Rushton Hurley, Thursday morning’s keynote speaker, and Scott Marfilius, Featured Speaker on Assistive Technology.

Go to—http://netasite.org/speakers

NEW at Conference! Barcodes on Name Badges

This year your name badges will have bar codes on them. This will allow exhibitors to easily scan your name badge and you won’t need to complete forms to give them your information. When the exhibitors scan your badge, these are the fields of information they will receive: your name, organization, address, phone, and e-mail. At this point we do not know how many exhibitors will participate in badge barcode scanning. We anticipate quite a few since many have suggested that we add this option.

Find us on Facebook!

“Excellence is the gradual result of always striving to do better. —Pat Riley

All This and More Available at:

Moss Enterprises
137 E. Boyson Rd.
Hiawatha, IA 52233
1-800-822-4048 or www.mosent.com

PITSCO

Amazing 3D Color Printing

“Office Friendly”

Zprinter 450

ZCORPORATION®

Clean Electron Technology Trainer

Solar Photovoltaic Array Station

Solar PV

DT-1500
Calendar of Technology Conferences & Seminars

Events of every type for educators, technicians & administrators

April 2011

NSBA Annual Conference
April 9–11, 2011
San Francisco, CA
annualconference.nsba.org
(Note: NSBA will no longer host the T+L2 Conference, but will increase technology related offerings in their annual conference.)

NETA Spring Conference
e³: empower, encourage, engage
April 28–29, 2011
La Vista Embassy Suites & Conference Center
LaVista, NE
netasite.org

June 2011

Nebraska Career Education Conference (NCE)
June 7–9, 2011
Holiday Inn Younes Conf. Center
Kearney, NE
nceconference.com

Tots in Technology: Learning in the Elementary Classroom
June 13–14, 2011
Galveston, TX
www.tcea.org

Technology in Education (TIE)
June 21–24, 2011
Copper Mountain, Colorado
tiecolorado.org/conference/

ISTE Conference
Unlocking Potential
June 26–29, 2011
Pennsylvania Convention Center
Philadelphia, PA
www.isteconference.org/2011/

ISTE 2011 Philadelphia Pennsylvania Convention Center

January 2012

MacWorld Expo
January 26–28, 2012
The Moscone Center
San Francisco, CA
macworldexpo.com

Florida Educational Technology Conference (FETC)
January 23–26, 2012
Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, FL
fetc.org

February 2012

Midwest Educational Technology Conference (METC)
February 13–15, 2012
St. Charles, MO
metcconference.org

Texas Computer Education Association (TCEA)
February 6–10, 2012
Austin, TX
www.tcea.org

August 2011

Annual Conference on Distance Teaching & Learning
August 3–5, 2011
Madison, Wisconsin
www.uwex.edu/disted/conference

October 2011

ITEC (Iowa Technology Education Connection) Conference
October 16–18, 2011
Polk County Convention Center
Des Moines, IA
itec-ia.org/en/conference/
NETA
Nebraska Educational Technology Association
P.O. Box 27
Waverly, NE 68462

Membership Form

NE T A Statement of Purpose: The Nebraska Educational Technology Association exists for the purpose of providing leadership and promoting the application of technology to the educational process. Its span of interest includes all levels and aspects of education.

Name ___________________________ Position ___________________________

Preferred Address _____________________________________________________

City ___________________________ State _______ Zip ______________________

Home Phone _____________________ Work Phone _________________________

School/Agency Name ___________________________ e-mail __________________

If you attended the Spring Conference in April, 2010, one year of membership was included with your registration. If you would like to be a member, but could not attend the Spring Conference, membership dues are $25.00 and are good through April, 2011. Make checks payable to NETA. To become a member, please fill out the above form and mail with check to:

NETA Membership
P.O. Box 27
Waverly, NE 68462

[ ] I am a new member
[ ] I was recruited by this current NETA member

Address changes should be sent to the above address or e-mailed to: executivedirector@netasite.org