



Pathway to the Future

Technology Services Bulletin

FEBRUARY 23, 2017

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 6

*"We already knew that kids learned computer technology more easily than adults, it is as if children were waiting all these centuries for someone to invent their native language."
– Jaron Lanier*

From the Director

The Internal Revenue Service, everyone's favorite government agency about this time of year, recently released several notices warning organizations and taxpayers about phishing scams. One of them involved a scam targeting schools, restaurants, hospitals and tribal groups with a fake email purportedly from the CEO/President/ Superintendent asking someone in their business office to send a copy of the information from the 2016 W-2s so they could review them with board members. The desire is for that staff member to provide the information back to the scammer so it can be used for identity theft. School districts across the country have been affected. See examples [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#). It can happen to anyone. The bad guys are getting more sophisticated in their attacks. Successful phishing and malware attacks can compromise private data. In order to help increase our knowledge and avoid falling victim to an attack, our district is participating in the [Cybersecurity Education Program](#) funded through the California Department of Education and coordinated by the K12 High Speed Network and the Imperial County Office of Education. Beginning next month, I will provide resources including videos, a monthly newsletter, posters and [other information](#) to help us all become more aware of how to avoid falling for one of these attacks.

Two Great Local Professional Development Opportunities



SiliconValleyCUE

Dale Dougherty, Founder and CEO of Maker Media, Inc., will be speaking at Dublin High School on Thursday, March 2nd, from 5:30pm-7:00pm. It's a great opportunity to be inspired by the promise of Makerspaces to transform education. Free registration is available [here](#). **Silicon Valley CUE's T3 Teach Through Technology** is next Saturday, March 4th at Union Middle School from 8:00am-3:00pm. With more than 50 sessions, this is a great opportunity. More information, including registration is available on the [event webpage](#).

Free Online Professional Development from SCCOE



The Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) is expanding the offerings on their [online professional development platform](#). In addition to the 6 courses I mentioned last month, they've added micro-courses on the Google apps: Docs, Slides, Sites and You Tube. Coming March 1st, they're adding courses for these Google apps: Drive, Education Directory, Tasks, Classroom, Safety Center, Search, Sheets, Forms, Groups, Calendar, Hangouts and Mail. What a great opportunity for free professional development for everyone in our district. The proficiency-based micro-courses typically require 1-2 hours and the full courses typically require 6-8 hours to complete. Units are available through University of the Pacific for an additional cost.

"History will say, 'They had WHAT Tools? And they did WHAT with them?'" – John Davitt

Did you know Chromebooks have a Screen Reader?



Don't feel bad. I didn't either until I saw [this post](#) on the Google blog highlighting some of the recent improvements to ChromeVox. As long as your Chromebook is running Chrome OS 56 or above, ChromeVox is just a CTRL+Alt+Z away. Be sure to check out the [Accessibility page](#) for more Chromebook features that could be helpful to your students.

10 TED Talks for Educators in 2017



If you're like me, you occasionally need a motivational speech to remind you why you get up and go to work every day. Adam Gutierrez from Edudemic, shared his list of [10 TED Talks for educators to watch in 2017](#). These are great examples of people overcoming challenges and the importance of education. There's even a video called, "What's so sexy about Math?" that should catch the attention of everyone teaching math. So, next time you're a little down, pull up the list and watch a great video to help you think differently about your challenges.

District Mobile App



Last month, we released the [BerryessaUSD mobile app](#) to both the [Apple App Store](#) and the [Google Play Store](#). The app is intended to provide an easy way for parents and members of the community to get access to important school information. The app has information on each of the schools and general district resources. Take a look at the app and use the Feedback option on the "Other" menu to share your suggestions for making it better. Links to install the app, FAQs and a Quick Start Guide are available on our [website](#). Please include information about the app in your class or school newsletters.

Technology Services Monthly Training



The Technology Services department is offering monthly training on the second Wednesday of each month at the District Office Small Board room from 3:30pm-4:30pm. All district staff members are welcome to attend. The remaining sessions for this year are 3/8 – G Suite Intermediate Level Tips and Tricks, 4/12 – G Suite Basics and 5/10 – Infinite Campus Gradebook. [Register here!](#)

Ideas for STEM Tech in ELA



An English Language Arts class is not typically a setting where you'll see robots and other STEM tech. That's what made me stop and read [this post from EdTech Magazine](#) with ideas on how teachers are using those STEM tools in unexpected ways in their ELA classes. A 2014 study from Dr. Kevin C. Costley at Arkansas Tech University "found that when technology of any kind was incorporated into classrooms, students were more motivated, engaged, and confident." Check out their three examples for new ideas for your classroom.

Sharing Technology Resources

Please visit the Technology Services [department blog](#). New instructional resources and tips are added there daily. If you have something you want to share, let us know! You can also see the blog posts by [following us on Twitter!](#) The [archives](#) of this newsletter are available on our web site. Follow BUSD on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter!](#)