Technology Services Bulletin

"The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read or write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn." – Alvin Toffler

From the Director

I ran across an article recently, "*Admins: 25 Questions to Ask Your Teachers About EdTech*" which has been on my mind ever since. While I know the answers to some of the questions, particularly those about tech support, would probably be a little painful for me to hear, I'm a believer in honest reflection on how things are today vs. how I want them to be and then identifying the steps necessary to close that gap. For example, one of the questions *is "What's the best thing technology has allowed you to do in your classroom that you couldn't have done otherwise? How do we replicate that?"* Another is *"Long term, what do we want our tech setup to look like and why?"* I think these questions and the others in the article would be a great basis for some collegial conversations about how we can make better use of the incredible technology tools that we have to increase the routine use of technology and the 4C's in our classrooms.

Learn the Secrets of Google Search Pros

Have you ever done a Google search and ended up with 10,000,000 hits completely unrelated to what you wanted to find? Have you ever looked for that one document you saw last week from the middle of millions of search results? I know I have! If you have, this **free** online course might be for you. Google is reopening their *"Power Searching with Google"* online course beginning this week. If you complete it, you'll even get a beautiful certificate. Who can't use another certificate? If you can't participate in the first one, they are repeating it every two weeks through the end of June.

Digital Citizenship

Our excellent technology teacher coach Martha Campos is available to help you share the importance of Digital Citizenship with your teachers, students, or parents. She has great resources for any audience. With stories of concerns about children's Internet use in the news every week, it is even more important that our staff and students get the essential life-saving information they need to be safe and responsible users of these tools. Email Martha to discuss how she can help you.

Digital Learning Day

Did you know that Wednesday, February 17, 2016 is Digital Learning Day? The Santa Clara County Office of Education Educational Technology Services Team is helping bring this day directly to you by hosting a Google Hangout on Air from 1:00pm-4:00pm Pacific Time. Join for the entire time or any portion to receive free professional development from the comfort of your school or home. RSVP or Join Here: https://plus.google.com/events/c6b5pmh51lour0…

We're Still Looking for Your Innovative Uses of Technology

Are you or one of your colleagues using technology in an innovative or effective way? We're looking for examples of how technology is being used in our district that we can share in future newsletters, on our web site and in professional development. We would like to create a 2-3 minute video vignette explaining the use of technology to share with our colleagues. We'll do all the technical stuff so all you have to do is show us your project. Please email Dave and let us know about the great uses of technology in our district so we can help share them.

Saturday Professional Development Opportunity

You still have time to register for Silicon Valley CUE's 2016 Teach Through Technology on March 5th from 8am to 3pm at The Harker School in San Jose. Tickets start at $35 including breakfast and lunch. This is a great professional development opportunity right in our own community. Come see Martha's presentation!

An Underutilized Professional Development Resource

We have a district license for Synergyse, a great set of tutorials for Google Apps for Education (GAFE). The tutorials cover everything from Gmail, Calendar, Drive, Docs, Sheets, Forms, Groups to Google Classroom and many are under 2 minutes in length. A saddening statistic is that in January, there were only 34 uses of the tutorials in our district. Most were students with only 8 staff uses. This is a huge, untapped resource for timely, useful professional development. To access this resource, you just need to be logged into your BUSD Google account and visit the video portal. If the Chrome extension is installed on your computer (which it should be), you'll also see this icon at the top right of any Google app pages. Just click on the logo to start your training for that app.

Technology Standards

I'm happy to announce that the first draft of our District Technology Standards is now complete. These standards reflect the technology items that our district has selected for new purchases and that will be supported by Technology Services moving forward. It is still a work in progress. It has been shared with the District Technology Committee and Cabinet. It should be ready for everyone later this month. It will be updated frequently to reflect new products and our best thinking at the time.

Sharing Technology Resources

While we have a few classroom resources listed on our department web site, we wanted a way to share the resources we find in our daily work. The result is a Technology Services department blog. We post classroom technology resources and other items of interest. We would love to hear about your favorite resources and share them on the blog so everyone can see them. You can also follow us on Twitter!

Have a Suggestion?

If you have suggestions for items to be included in our newsletter, please let us know. We'd love to include your ideas! Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter and for everything you do every day for our students!