



Pathway to the Future

# Technology Services Bulletin

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*"Education is the only business still debating the usefulness of technology."*  
– Rod Paige

## From the Director

On Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, we held the first annual Berryessa Technology Extravaganza or B Tech E. I have to admit that I was a little nervous about the event. I was most nervous about a week after I opened the registration window and we had 2 people signed up. If it worked, I knew it would be a great morning for the attendees. Fortunately, it did work. Fifty people attended and I saw many smiling faces. Thank you to everyone who chose to share their Saturday morning with us. While not everything worked perfectly, including the "Mystery Sandwiches" and a couple technology issues, I strongly believe it was a good first year. Our keynote speaker was fantastic. She did a great job and several people told me they were going to try new things in their classroom without stressing over whether it worked perfectly because of Diane's presentation. The breakout sessions were also excellent, particularly the presenters from the Santa Clara County Office of Education. The vendors all walked away happy with the opportunity to talk with our staff and show off their latest. We had many door prizes and quite a bit of vendor swag. Most people walked away with something. On the evaluation form, 96% of those responding rated their satisfaction with the event a 4 or 5 on a 1-5 scale. With a score like that, it is going to be hard to keep the momentum next year, but we are going to try. We will take the feedback about longer sessions and more time to talk to vendors into account for scheduling next year. All of the vendors told me they are ready to come back. Thanks to everyone who helped to make the day special!

## Mystery Skype



I think we underutilize opportunities for connecting our students with people in other parts of the world. One great idea I discovered recently was "[Mystery Skype](#)" where two classrooms connect and students ask each other "20-questions style" yes or no questions in order to determine where the other class is located. The linked article provides an easy, systematic guide to getting your class involved. Another great resource is the [Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration](#), which has a database of videoconference resources from around the world. Many museums, centers, zoos, and monuments have free programs for you and your students. Why not give it a try?

## Being Cybersecure at Home



Not everyone is your friend on social media. The [March 2018 edition of the OUCH! Newsletter](#) provides tips for securely using social media. The tips address posting, privacy, passphrases, locking down your account, scams, terms of service and the issues with posting about work. Take a look and feel free to share with your students and parents.

*"Education Technology is the great equalizer. It brings knowledge and resources into classrooms that otherwise would be without."  
– Patrick Riccards*

## Silicon Valley CUE \$1,500 Mini-Grants



Silicon Valley CUE (SVCUE) awards mini-grants of up \$1,500 to SVCUE members for "equipment and/or software to support your great new ideas in classroom instruction." If you're not a member, it only costs \$40 to [join CUE](#), which includes your membership in SVCUE. [Apply](#) for a grant by May 1, 2018!

## 60 Seconds of STEM Videos



Troxell has started producing short videos about various STEM products called, "[60 Seconds of STEM](#)." So far they have videos on the Ozobot robot, 3D Magic Pen (a tiny 3D printer), and the AirComfort from iBebot (a science sensor). While it is a commercial, I like how they show off STEM tools you might not have seen before. Take a look for yourself. Perhaps something here will end up on your Christmas list.

## Brain Break Videos on YouTube



I thought [this webpage](#) with links to brain break videos for younger students was a great resource. You never know when you need an excuse to get up and dance around a little. I have to admit that the "I'm a Gummy Bear" song is now stuck in my head.

## Flipping Back-to-School Night



I thought [this post](#) from Caitlin Tucker was original. She applied flipped classroom strategies to her Back-to-School night. She did a short video introduction and talked about her teaching philosophy. She created a screencast virtual tour of the classroom website and resources there for parents. She created a video of their students working in the classroom. She sent an email to parents with links to these videos as the introduction to Back-to-School Night. The parents who attended really appreciated having the videos because there can be so much information shared at the event that it's difficult to remember it all.

## Folktales from Around the World



Google Earth and Reading is Fundamental have a [special exhibit](#) of Folk Tales from seven countries around the world. The stories come from China, France, Ghana, Great Britain, Iraq, Mexico, and the United States. The resource describes each story in words, includes a video, great Google Earth images, a lesson plan, a leveled reading passage, and a game.

## Monthly Technology Training



Our department offers monthly training at the DO on the second Wednesday from 3:30pm-4:30pm. Every district employee is welcome! See topics and [signup here](#).

## Sharing Technology Resources

Please visit the Technology Services [department blog](#). We add new instructional resources and tips 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](#)! Follow Dr. Fuentes on [Twitter](#)! Our HR department is now on [Twitter](#)!