

Talk Nerdy to Me...



Facts about St. Patrick's Day

According to History.com, Saint Patrick, the patron saint and national apostle of Ireland lived during the fifth century. After being born in Roman Britain, he was kidnapped at age 16 and brought to Ireland as a slave. He fled Ireland, only to later return where he has been credited to bringing Christianity to the Irish people. Patrick was believed to have died on March 17, 461, which is why we celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 17th. After he died, mythology about his life became a strong part of Irish culture. One of the well-known legends that surrounded Saint Patrick was the way he explained the Holy Trinity; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He did this by using the three leaves on a native Irish clover, the shamrock. This is why the shamrock is a traditional symbol of St. Patrick's Day.

The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place in the United States on March 17, 1762, when Irish soldiers, who were serving in the English military, marched through New York City. They played Irish music which helped them reconnect with fellow Irishmen in the English army and with their Irish roots. Today, the New York City parade is the largest in the United States with over 150,000 participants. The parade lasts more than five hours. Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia, and Savannah also have St. Patrick's Day parades.

Other counties that also celebrate St. Patrick's Day include Canada, Japan, Singapore, Russia and Australia. North America currently has the largest productions concerning the holiday.



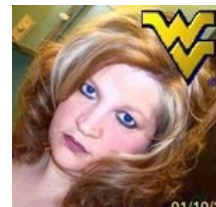
[Cathy Kingston](#)
Technology Instructor
Wood County



[Michelle Liga](#)
Music/Band
Preston County



Mary Frances Smith
Harrison County



[Terri Orndorff](#)
Special Needs
Hampshire County

Password Tips

- *Passwords should be unique for each application
- *Passwords should be changed on a regular and frequent basis
- *Passwords should be composed of both letters and numbers
- *Passwords should be composed of a string of characters not found in a dictionary
- *Passwords should be kept in a secure place if written down
- *Passwords should never be given to anyone else, especially students
- *Passwords should never be given to a tech support person who is unknown to you

Survival Tip: Creating a simple mnemonic that will help you meet the password requirements given here will save your sanity and keep you secure. Create passwords using the same criteria like the current month number, your father's first name, and the initials of the program for which the password applies.

Public Social Networking Safety Tips

- *Do not accept students as friends on personal social networking sites. Decline any student-initiated friend requests
- *Do not initiate friendships with students
- *Remember that people classified as friends have the ability to download and share information with others
- *Post only what you want the world to see Imagine your students, their parents, and your administrator visiting your site
- *Do not discuss students or coworkers or publicly criticize school policies or personnel
- *Visit your profile's security and privacy settings At a minimum, educators should have all privacy settings set to 'only friends'



Strategies for Creating and Maintaining a Safe Space

When utilizing online classroom forums make sure that the following guidelines are reviewed with your classes and followed by you and your students:

1. Use each other's names when responding to posts
2. Read questions and conversational posting carefully before responding
3. Compliment your peers when a post contributes an original idea to the conversation
4. Ask questions for clarification when a comment or statement is unclear
5. Keep your language direct and respectful
6. Avoid using slang, jargon, and sarcasm
7. Remember that there is no right or wrong answer in a discussion
8. Reread your message before sending your response
9. Critique the content and not the person
10. Avoid emotional punctuation

Tech Help.....From the Radio???

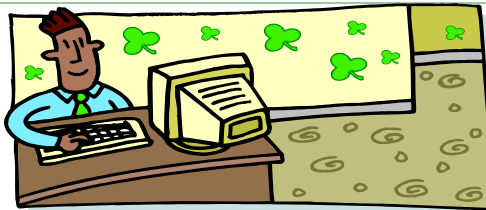


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I'm sure you have heard this before, "Hey, you are a techie person, maybe you can help me with a problem..." We want to help our colleagues with their computer problems, but we are in many cases, "software" oriented not hardware, plus many times we are asked questions about a home computer. I know because this is a scenario that I run into at least once a week, and it seems if I can help them with a home problem, they are more receptive to my suggestion for things to do at school. What if you are the person who is more software oriented? How do you help someone who has a hardware question or a question about different devices?

I don't know about you, but I do not have a lot of time to read and learn about new technologies. So I do the next best thing...I listen to the radio. Yes, you read that correctly. I listen to the radio. Not for the music. I listen to a program every Saturday morning on my local talk radio station that covers multiple topics in the technology realm. The host goes by many names, such as "The Digital Goddess", but the title of her show is simple. It is her name, "The Kim Komando Show". She covers everything from cameras, to phones, to apps and all stuff in between. I know this seems odd for a TIS to be getting advice from a talk show host, but she knows her stuff, and it has been invaluable to me when faculty and staff ask me for help. In my opinion, to be a good TIS we need to understand as many facets of technology as possible. With the help of Kim Komando, I am one up, and she is quite entertaining, too. If you want to catch her show, it is on WAJR AM in the Morgantown area, WCHS in Charleston, and WWNR in Beckley/Oak Hill. If you cannot catch her broadcast on the radio, you can subscribe to her podcasts. Just go to <http://www.komando.com>.

You know you're a geek when ... you try to shoo a fly away from your monitor with your cursor.





Are you a copyright offender?

- Do you use Google images that are copyrighted without consent?
- Do you include popular music clips in programs that are produced on the Internet for others to view?
- Do you record television shows or movies in case you may want to show them at a later time for your personal library?

“Section 107 of the Copyright Act*** sets forth the four fair use factors which should be considered in each instance, based on particular facts of a given case, to determine whether a use is a "fair use": (1) the purpose and character of use, including whether such use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes, (2) the nature of the copyrighted work, (3) the amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole, and (4) the effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work.”

<http://www.adec.edu/admin/papers/fair10-17.html>

The above site explains student and educator use.

The article by Hall Davidson “The Educators’ Lean and Mean No FAT Guide to Fair Use” in our T.I.S. WV Learns course makes it clear that copyright is not about money, but it is about control. Davidson notes “that it is okay to take things off the Internet and use them in projects but posting them back online is not.” His quiz, along with the answer key, will help to clear up any misunderstanding of copyright. Just a reminder that this link can be found in our course, as well as at <http://www.csus.edu/indiv/p/peachil/edte230/copyright/>.

COPYRIGHTS: Say What?

Sites to Use For Free Clip Art and Photos:

<http://opencart.org/>

<http://openphoto.net/>

<http://search.creativecommons.org/>

This site actually has several links to Flickr, Google, YouTube, and more where one can find music, images, and videos to use for commercial purposes or to modify and adapt as needed.

<http://www.morguefile.com/archive/>

<http://freerangestock.com/>

<http://www.clker.com/>

<http://www.public-domain-image.com/>

<http://www.pics4learning.com/>

Factoid: There is also a tech4learning.com site.

<http://www.flickr.com/creativecommons/>

<http://search.yahoo.com/cc>

Most U.S. government sites are public domain. Look for extensions ending in .gov.

“The information on government web pages is in the public domain unless specifically annotated otherwise (copyright may be held elsewhere) and may therefore be used freely by the public.” – [copyright notice on NOAA](#)

One may use these sites, but he or she should still credit the source. Examples include: NASA Image Library, U.S. National Park Photographs, White House Photo Gallery, NOAA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Digital Library, and U.S. Government Photos and Images.



Changes Coming for the GED

There are big changes in the future of GED testing. According to the GED Testing Service thirty-nine million Americans do not have a high school diploma. The current GED testing program reaches just two percent of these people.

The first change hopes to improve test availability by allowing the Official GED test to be offered as a computer based test. The current 2002 Series of the GED Test is being offered on computer at a limited number of areas in West Virginia, with additional locations being added as the year progresses. It is the belief that computer based testing will give adults needing their GED credential better access to the test and also help them better prepare for their future whether it be college or a career. Changing the 2002 Series to computer based testing will also pave the way for the new GED assessment that will launch in 2014. While computer based testing will give the test-takers online registration and scheduling that is easy to use, it will also allow for instant score reports for four of the five content areas. All GED test takers will still be required to attend an ABE center where they will take an Official Practice Test. They must take and pass all parts of the Official Practice Test before they can register for the Official GED Test. They go to an official testing center in person to take the test. They cannot just take it online. There are many sites that offer high school diplomas and credentials, but these are not valid GED test credentials. You must be at an Official GED Testing Center to take and receive the actual GED test.

Anyone not completing and passing the entire 2002 Series GED Test by December 2013 will have to retake the entire test when the 2014 series is launched. The new 2014 Series will have four content areas that assess a foundational core of knowledge with questions from literacy, mathematics, science and social studies. Most questions will remain multiple choice. There will not be a separate essay portion, but instead the test taker will be asked questions in the four areas above that require a short paragraph or two to answer. Students preparing for the GED test are required to study the four content areas, as well as be able to think objectively in a way that will lead to success in a college setting or career advancement. Students will also need keyboarding skills to complete the computer based test. It is suggested that keyboarding at 35 words per minute be required to successfully complete the test in the time allowed. This will require additional training and practice for those students that do not possess these skills.

The following website has been built to give everyone more information about the changes that are happening. Visit it and read about the future for GED testing. The sight also gives students and educators a look at sample questions for this new 2014 Series test. Good luck to everyone that will be involved in this process, educators and students alike.

Here is the site: [GED Testing Service](http://www.gedtesting.com) .

<http://www.gedtesting.com>

Back Issues of “Talk Nerdy to Me”

Oh, no! I deleted that email that had the latest edition of the “Talk Nerdy to Me” newsletter! What am I going to do now? I really needed that article on “Kickstarter” for my new invention!

Well, now you no longer need to pull your hair out trying to find your past issues. You can now find them all in one convenient location. Just go to <http://www.ligabytes.net>, look down the menu on the left side of the page and three from the bottom you will find a link to our newsletters.



“Yes, it can be risky if you purchase a laptop or iPad off of eBay, but there are some purchases that are safe. You just have to know where to look.”

Used Technology

I don’t know about you, but I do like to purchase new tech devices. But who has that kind of money?

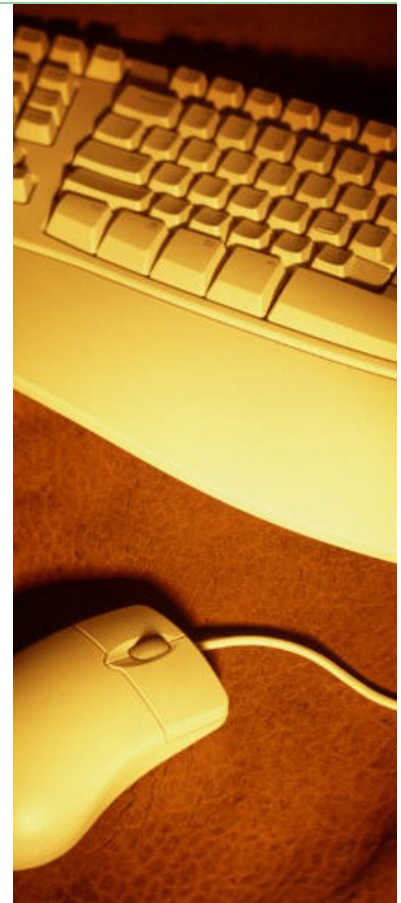
One way you can help to reduce the costs is to purchase the item used. Used?? Is that not risky? What about a virus? Yes, it can be risky if you purchase a laptop or iPad off of eBay, but there are some purchases that are safe. You just have to know where to look.

So, where can I find a safe place to purchase devices? I’m glad that you asked, but because of limited space, this article will only cover two different companies that offer refurbished technology.

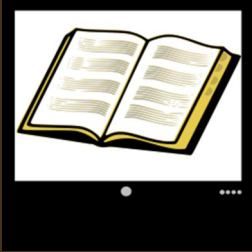
The first company is the darling of the technology world...Apple. Actually, they have the best

refurbishing program in the business. You can purchase any of their products via a special website, and the product will come with new batteries and the original 1 year warranty. You can even purchase the additional 2 year warranty called Apple Care for your refurbished Apple device. You can find these special deals at <http://tinyurl.com/6fgv6g>

The second company is also well known, Dell. Most of their items are part of their outlet store. I had a hard time trying to find refurbished items, but there were plenty of deals. Dell covers their items with the same as new warranty. If you would like to check out their deals, just go to <http://www.dell.com/outlet>



Book Trailers: Inspiring Reading



Previewing a movie can entice someone to spend valuable time viewing the film in its entirety. Likewise, a book trailer can inspire someone to read a novel. Students are able to share novels with one another by creating book trailers. Michelle Harclerode created a Prezi on "How to Make a Book Trailer" for teachers to use as long as she is credited for her work. For more information, use the following link: <http://prezi.com/9xvvnltjxn/how-to-make-a-book-trailer/>.

New!

Steps for Creating a Book Trailer:

1. View examples of book trailers.
2. Have students brainstorm what they saw in the book trailers (look for common traits).
3. Prepare a checklist (rubric) for students of what to include in the trailer. Have students compose this as a group.
4. Discuss copyright rules governing publicized works. Use Creative Commons.
5. Make an outline of what plot points to include in the book trailer.
6. Create a folder for royalty-free images on the desktop to use when creating the book trailer. Students could also take appropriate pictures of themselves to use in the book trailer. Ensure parent permission has been obtained.
7. Show students how to create the book trailer using one of the suggested programs.
8. Allow the students to delve in and try creating a book trailer with your assistance.
9. Preview the book trailer. Edit and proofread.
10. Have them self-evaluate their work, share with others, and let other teams complete an evaluation using the rubric.

Suggested Sites for Viewing Book Trailers

Inside a Dog and/or Digital Booktalk Website:

<http://www.insideadog.com.au/teachers/book-trailers#>

Bookscreening

Website:

<http://bookscreening.com/>

Book Trailers for Readers

Website:

<http://www.booktrailersforreaders.com/>

Book Trailers for All

Website:

<http://booktrailersforall.com/>

Programs to Use to Create a Book Trailer

Animoto

Windows Movie Maker

Photo Story 3

iMovie