

Dairy Dispatch

You Can Never Have Enough Cheese in Your News

Sunnyside Up

The word umbrella derives from a combination of the Latin words “umbra,” meaning shade or shadow, and “umbel,” a round flat-topped flower. English speakers in Britain and Australia commonly refer to the umbrella as a “broly,” or “bumber-shoot.” Sunny conditions call for a parasol, a non-waterproof umbrella that provides portable shade.

The need for shelter from the elements is an ancient one. The origin of the umbrella, however, lies not in its western use as protection from the rain, but rather from its biblical role as a parasol.

Ancient depictions of the umbrella are found in carvings, sculptures and scriptures from ancient Egypt to ancient China. These images show umbrellas made of palm leaves, or from feathers affixed to long, straight handles. Early umbrellas were used by those wealthy enough to employ a servant to carry it. In ancient society, it was considered an honor to be the slave chosen to carry the master’s umbrella.

Source: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Umbrella#Umbrella_innovations

How to Reach Us

Charlene Blohm
charlene@cblohm.com
 Kristen Plemon
kristen@cblohm.com
 Sandy Fash
sandy@cblohm.com
 Emily Embury
emily@cblohm.com

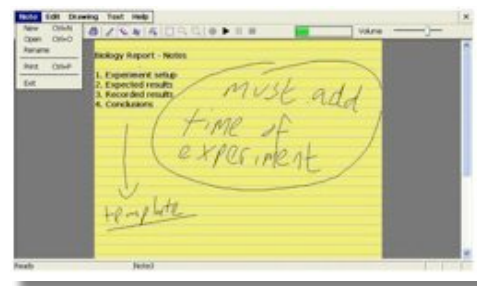
A Fair Weather Ed Tech Forecast...

Pokémon Deals With Media Literacy and Internet Safety

In the age of the digital revolution, when young students use the Internet for nearly as many hours as they watch TV, educators and parents are challenged to provide students with a framework to think critically about their online activities. Teaching students how to use the Internet and other digital technologies safely, productively and ethically is a critical component of today’s curriculum as well as a key issue for parents. To this end, Pokémon USA, Inc., has made its *Internet Safety Program*, co-developed with the Virginia Department of Education, available to all schools, districts and families through *Pokémon Learning League™* subscriptions. Over 25,000 students will use the program to help schools meet Virginia’s Internet safety education mandate. For more details, go to www.pokemonlearningleague.com/internet.

Fourier Unveils NovaNotes for the Nova5000

Fourier Systems introduces its latest software program for the *Nova5000™*, the company’s one-to-one computing solution, called *NovaNotes*. Intuitive to use, the software application offers a comprehensive note-taking tool for organizing thoughts, ideas and information. *NovaNotes* combines audio notes, text notes and drawing capabilities within the same notepad. Files are automatically saved, so students and educators do not have to remember to save while doing an experiment or taking notes during class. Fourier Systems strives to provide educators, students and administrators with the technology they need to teach and learn effectively. For more information, visit www.fourier-sys.com.



ePals to Host Pre-Conference Session at BLC 2008

Empowering educators to utilize Web 2.0 technology such as emailing and blogging tools throughout instruction, ePals will be holding a pre-conference session at Alan November’s “Building Learning Communities Conference” (BLC). The ePals Globally-Connected Classroom Conference will be hosted by Tim DiScipio, co-founder of ePals, and executives from the ePals team on July 15, 2008, at the Boston Newton Marriott in Boston, Mass. DiScipio will be joined by leading ePals teachers and instructional technology directors who will demo innovative classroom applications of ePals’ protected email and blog tools. Guest speakers also will discuss global project-sharing activities to encourage attendees to help their students improve 21st Century skills. Visit www.epalscorp.com for more conference details.

Nothing but Blue Skies...

Florida Educators Master Technology Integration

Several Florida Master Digital Educators earned the opportunity this school year to participate in online courses from PBS TeacherLine® through the organization's partnership with the Florida Department of Education and the Florida Digital Educator Program. The educators gained new skills and knowledge that they are using to enhance their students' learning experience and to train other teachers in technology integration. Master Digital Educators Janann Nicholson and Ana McMoran noted that PBS TeacherLine uses the same approach to learning and technology integration that is recommended to teachers by the Florida Digital Educator Program. "I've taken more than 30 hours of online professional development courses, and PBS TeacherLine was the only one to incorporate project-based learning," said Nicholson, technology instructor for Pahokee Middle-Senior High School. "We were using higher-order thinking skills – a great example in action of the instructional strategies we need to use in our classrooms. It was one of the most rewarding professional development experiences for me." For more information, go to www.pbs.org/teacherline.

Califone Upgrades Speakers to Enhance Acoustics

Classrooms can often be noisy, even when only the teacher is speaking. Internally generated sound within the classroom such as the humming of air conditioners and lights, tapping pencils and shuffling backpacks can affect how students hear, and therefore process, the information vital to their academic achievement. To combat ambient noise in the classroom, Califone International, Inc., has made significant upgrades to its powered *PI30* and *PI30-PS Array Speakers*. The two powered array speakers (one with UHF receptivity and one without) now include fixed and variable volume outputs so teachers can customize volume playback levels of other speakers or supplemental systems connected to the array speaker within the classroom. For more on the technical specifications of the *PI30* series, visit www.califone.compress/2008_arrayupgrade_jan.php.



National Transcript Center and Virginia DOE Collaborate

The National Transcript Center (NTC) is developing the *Virginia Transcript Center*, a statewide electronic student record and transcript exchange system, for the Virginia Department of Education. The *Virginia Transcript Center* will be incorporated into the state's pioneering SIF-based statewide data management system that provides decision-support data to educators at the state, division and school levels. The 2,133 public PreK-12 schools and higher education institutions in Virginia, which serve more than 1.2 million students, can exchange electronic records and transcripts free of charge with other school divisions and colleges in the state. The ability to quickly transfer student records among PreK-12 divisions alleviates the issues associated with student mobility and timely student placement. Additionally, schools can save a significant amount of time and money sending high school transcripts to colleges through the *Virginia Transcript Center* as the state has one of the highest populations of college-bound students in the country. For more information, visit www.transcriptcenter.com.

How to Stay Dry 21st Century Style

The umbrella has remained more or less the same since its invention, except for the engineering breakthrough of shrinking it down to drink-appropriate size. But, like many things in our modern world, the umbrella is getting a digital makeover, incorporating technology to make our lives "easier."

An innovation worth mentioning is an LCD-handled umbrella with a Wi-Fi connection. The color of the handle lets an adventurer know what weather to expect. Instead of going online or turning on the TV to get the forecast, you simply note the handle's shade of blue to assess the chances of precipitation.

The "My Day Paper" umbrella applies technology to a form of self-expression – it uses e-Paper technology to project a different image on the umbrella's surface. Like cell phone ringtones, you can change the image to reflect your mood and purchase new images that perfectly mirror your day.

Scared of dark and stormy nights? The Bright Night Illuminated Umbrella is here to light your way. For \$38, plus a four-pack of batteries, you can see and avoid those pesky puddles as you walk down the sidewalk (looking mighty conspicuous).

So go ahead, shop around, and complement your 21st Century skills with a 21st Century mobile weather oasis!

Source:

www.businessinnovationinsider.com/2006/05/07-week/

FETC News Round-up

There was plenty of news at this year's conference – read the full releases at www.cblohm.com/FETC/

Mai-D.I.Y.

Whether it's to keep your mai-tai cool, or to distinguish it among the sea of drinks at a block party, cocktail umbrellas are essential to any elegantly blended beverage. If February chills your soul, evoke those distant memories of summer by making your own cocktail umbrella!

You will need a large glass, your favorite wrapping paper, wooden skewers, tape and scissors. Place the glass (mouth down) on your wrapping paper and trace a circle. Cut a slit into the center of the paper and tape it to create a cone. Stick your skewer (which should be a few inches longer than your cocktail's glass) through the cone, dabbing some glue at the point to keep it together. Still missing summer? Stick some fresh fruit on the skewer before plopping it in your drink!

For more tips and pre-made designs for your umbrellas, visit www.handmade.com.au/extras/webex_umbrellas.php.

Mark Your Calendar

CoSN's 13th Annual K-12 School Networking Conference
Hyatt Regency, Crystal City
Arlington, VA
March 9 - 11, 2008

Register online at www.cosn.org.

**SIIA
Ed Tech Industry Summit**
The Palace Hotel
San Francisco, CA
May 18 - 20, 2008

Register online at www.sii.net/etis/2008/.

NECC Media Central
Grand Hyatt Hotel
San Antonio, TX
June 30 - July 1, 2008

No Rain on this News Parade...

Discovery Introduces Elementary Science Resource

Finding appropriate resources to engage elementary school children in scientific inquiry can be challenging for educators. A new digital service from Discovery Education, called *Discovery Education Science for Elementary*, is helping educators meet this challenge. The service empowers educators to engage students while reinforcing important science literacy and mathematics skills. *Discovery Education Science for Elementary* is an extension of the award-winning *Discovery Education Science for Middle School*, which was launched in early 2007. Together, these two products offer a complete digital solution for educators seeking to improve student achievement in science. To read the full story, visit www.discoveryeducation.com.



STI Lunch Added to Online Student Information System

To avoid the challenges that arise from trying to integrate multiple data management systems from various vendors, districts are turning to an all-in-one system. STI is meeting districts' increasingly complex data management needs by introducing more features to its Web-based student information system, *InformationNOW*. The latest enhancement to the product provides tools to streamline food service operations district-wide and at individual cafeteria sites. With its tools for data management, non-perpetual inventory tracking, and payment processing, *STI Lunch* helps school staff provide daily delivery of fresh, hot meals for students. *STI Lunch* helps school staff meet stringent legal requirements for protection of student privacy and simplifies state reimbursement of federal lunch funds. Since Title I funds are directly tied to the number of children who qualify for a free or reduced-price lunch, it is mission critical for districts to have the most accurate and secure system available. For more information, visit www.sti-k12.com.

Trevor Romain Hosts Series of Events in Austin, Texas

In January, Trevor Romain, the internationally-known children's advocate and entertainer, held a series of events to prepare kids to handle life's tough situations. The Trevor Romain Foundation brought Romain and his humorous, self-help messages to schools in Austin and surrounding areas as part of a campaign to promote social and emotional fitness among children in grades 3-5. The goal of these events was to empower kids to reach their full potential. Romain visited Winn Elementary School on Jan. 24 and Pickle Elementary School on Jan. 25, where he showed clips from his educational cartoon series and told stories to illustrate how to handle certain troublesome situations, such as dealing with bullies and cliques. To find out more about Trevor Romain and his unique approach to communicating with youngsters, visit www.trevorromain.com.



Made in the Shade...

Funds For Learning Releases E-rate Applicant Report

For the 2007 E-rate Funding Year, nearly 23,000 applicants submitted \$3.8 billion in funding requests. Funds For Learning, the nation's leading E-rate funding compliance services firm, has released a new report that creates a profile of an average E-rate applicant based on requests submitted in 2007. The report, "The Average E-rate Applicant," includes topics such as site averages, funding request averages and average discount rate per category. On average, each applicant submitted 5.4 funding requests for an average of 6.1 sites. The average discount rate overall for services through the program was 81.1 percent. To download and read the complete report, visit www.FundsForLearning.com.

Adaptive Curriculum Launched at FETC Last Month

During FETC in Orlando, a new on-line learning system made its debut. *Adaptive Curriculum* is designed to enhance the teaching and learning of math and science concepts for students in the middle grades. The on-line learning system offers an expanding library of *Activity Objects* aligned to national and state standards, enabling students to participate in virtual experiments, engaging simulations, scientific inquiry, and problem-based learning. *Adaptive Curriculum* also includes a flexible online environment, *MyAdaptiveSpace*, containing simple, intuitive tools for managing instruction. Pilot programs are underway at 15 schools and districts across Arizona. For more information, visit www.adaptivecurriculum.com.



STI Partners with Three Market Leaders to Enhance its Web-Based SIS for Schools

Schools and districts are moving to centralized, all-inclusive, Web-based data management systems because they provide convenience, better data accuracy and seamless data integration. To offer schools a comprehensive system that meets a wide range of data management and reporting needs, STI, a leading provider of education data management systems, has partnered with SchoolMessenger®, HealthMaster® and ConnectEdu. Through collaboration with these premier education companies, STI has added new modules to its Web-based student information system (SIS), *InformationNOW*, that enable schools to track and manage school-to-home communications, health services and electronic transcript exchange with higher education institutions. More information is available at www.sti-k12.com.



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What About the Shoulders?

Look up "eccentric" in the dictionary, and you'll probably find a picture of Robert Patten (1832-1913). Known in Seattle as "Umbrella Man," he's credited with inventing the Umbrella Hat – a small umbrella affixed to a hat for hands-free dryness. He also invented a mosquito-netted version, which he claimed saved him from insect bites in the jungles of the Yucatan. Patten became such a staple of the Seattle street scene that in 1909, a local cartoonist adapted his real life character for a cartoon strip in *The Seattle Times*. Seattleites thereafter were greeted every morning by an umbrella-hatted character who dispensed weather wit and forecasts from the *Times* front page.

Source: www.historylink.org/essays/output.cfm?file_id=3149v

Brolly Barbs

"The rain it raineth on the just. And also on the unjust fella. But chiefly on the just, because the unjust steals the just's umbrella." *Charles Bowen*

"I wouldn't touch a superlative again with an umbrella."

Dorothy Parker

"Life with Mary was like being in a telephone booth with an open umbrella – no matter which way you turned, you got it in the eye."

Jean Kerr

"When two men share an umbrella, both of them get wet."

Michael Isenberg

"A banker is a fellow who lends you his umbrella when the sun is shining and wants it back the minute it begins to rain."

Mark Twain

Source: www.thinkexist.com