



Dairy Dispatch

You Can Never Have Enough Cheese in Your News

Inspiration Takes Flight

This month we celebrate women in aviation, highlighting Amelia Earhart's pioneering flight in January 1935; the first time any person, male or female, had flown solo across the Pacific from Honolulu to Oakland. Earhart is arguably the most famous pilot in aviation history, and certainly the most famous female pilot. Hard to believe that the first time she saw an airplane, her words were: "It was a thing of rusty wire and wood and not at all interesting..."

Earhart's love affair with aviation began in 1920, when she attended an aerial meet and took a 10-minute ride over Los Angeles. Her comment: "As soon as we left the ground, I knew I myself had to fly!" She soon saved enough money to buy her own airplane – a bright yellow model dubbed "The Canary."

In October 1922, Earhart set the women's altitude record of 14,000 feet. In 1928, she became the first woman to cross the Atlantic by air. But it was her later exploits as a pilot that secured her place in history.

Source:

www.ellensplace.net/ae_eyrs.html

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Soaring Through the Headlines...

Educators to Benefit from Presentation Tools

More schools are gaining access to audio-visual technology, and as educators adapt to using presentation software, it is important that they not be confined to a computer during instruction. The wireless *Laser Pointer* with trackball mouse from Califone frees educators to move throughout the classroom while speaking. The product's 30-ft operating range, 4-button functionality and rubberized ABS case material give educators and administrators a tool optimal for classroom or school auditorium use. The *Laser Pointer* averages 40-45 days on a full charge and can be recharged through its 28-inch retractable USB cable. Together, the trackball mouse and laser pointer are a dual-purpose tool, allowing for a smooth transition from computer to screen during each presentation. For the full story, visit www.califone.com.

Arkansas Students Have Access to Digital Resources

Public broadcasting entity Arkansas Educational Television Network (AETN) recently renewed its agreement with Discovery Education to offer Discovery Education *streaming* to educators and students across Arkansas. AETN's statewide agreement renews 1,358 school buildings for one year. According to Allen Weatherly, AETN Executive Director, "Discovery Education *streaming*'s high-quality content makes it a powerful tool for teachers across Arkansas to use each day to inform, educate, motivate, and inspire students. We at AETN are looking forward to continuing our relationship with Discovery Education." For more information, visit www.discoveryeducation.com.

STI Offers Complete Education Data Management Suite

STI has integrated student information, special education, assessment, and financial data management systems into one offering. *STI Complete Solution* helps schools and districts improve the collection, tracking and analysis of data across school operations. By combining these products, schools and districts can easily integrate data to better inform data-driven decision-making. Administrators and educators are learning how to evaluate various data sets together to reveal important information about operational efficiency and student achievement. To learn more, visit www.sti-k12.com.



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Coasting Above the Noise...

Ed Tech Leaders Stress Innovation at SIIA Conference

Educational technology industry leaders agreed that innovation is vital to continued success in promoting the tools essential for the 21st Century success of U.S. students. The SIIA Ed Tech Business Forum hosted more than 200 industry executives in New York, November 26-27, to discuss new and best practices for achieving that goal. "This year's Ed Tech Business Forum proved that innovation weighs heavily on the minds of new K-12 and post-secondary technology developers and established industry veterans alike," said Karen Billings, vice president of SIIA's Education Division. The 2008 Ed Tech Business Forum will be held on December 1-2 in New York City and will focus on driving capital, revenue and growth in the Education Market. For more information on the SIIA Ed Tech Business Forum and to see session summaries, please visit www.siaa.net/etbf/2007/.

Texas Districts Renew *E-rate Manager* Subscriptions

Last month, two Texas districts renewed their *E-rate Manager for Applicants* subscriptions with Funds For Learning. Serving more than 25,000 students, La Joya Independent School District requests millions of dollars in E-rate funding every year. Since the E-rate program began in 1998, the district has effectively utilized close to \$20 million. Yselta Independent School District in El Paso serves more than 45,000 students and has also participated in the E-rate program since its inception. The district has secured more than \$23.7 million in the past 10 years. *E-rate Manager for Applicants* helps districts stay on top of fluctuating deadlines and paperwork, track remaining E-rate funding and monitor sites where funding is used. To learn more, visit www.fundsforlearning.com.

Virginia Students Learn Internet Safety

Last year, Virginia became the first state to mandate that public schools to teach Internet safety. To help schools and districts meet this goal, the Virginia Department of Education teamed up with *Pokémon Learning League™* to provide administrators, teachers and parents with engaging, high-quality instructional resources to teach students how to stay safe online. Starting in January 2008, more than 4,000 students will start piloting the Internet Safety Program, which comprises interactive lessons, teacher's guides, and other materials. The program is suitable for lower and upper elementary grades. For more details, go to www.pokemonll.com.

Dynamic Literacy Releases *WordBuild Foundations*

Dynamic Literacy rings in the New Year with a new addition to its *WordBuild Vocabulary Development System™*. The new series, *Foundations*, is the first of two series in the *WordBuild Vocabulary Development System* designed to improve vocabulary, language, and reading comprehension skills for students. Intended for grades 3-5, the *Foundations* series contains two years of morphics-based instruction. The curriculum focuses on the grammatical roles and meanings of prefixes and suffixes in ordinary English words. Each activity is designed to encourage conversations about words, which increases the student's awareness of morphics. The *Foundations* series is followed by the *Elements* series, intended for grades 5-9. For more information, visit www.dynamicliteracy.com.

A Flight to Fame

"I have a feeling that there is just about one more good flight left in my system, and I hope this trip is it." Fateful words spoken by Amelia Earhart before the journey that would end her life. As her 40th birthday loomed, Earhart planned a final record-breaking feat – to be the first woman to fly around the world.

On June 1, 1937, she began her 29,000-mile journey following the equator. Twenty-eight days later she and her navigator, Fred Noonan, landed in New Guinea to refuel before the most perilous leg of their journey – landing on Howland Island, a 1.5-square-mile spot of land in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

The pair set off at 12:30 p.m. on July 2, encountering overcast, rainy conditions. The flight went well until dawn, when they radioed to request the location of the nearest Coast Guard ship. After a few more faint transmissions, a Coast Guard ship received a last message at 7:42 a.m.: "We must be on you, but we cannot see you. Fuel is running low. Been unable to reach you by radio. We are flying at 1,000 feet."

A rescue crew was dispatched and the most extensive air and sea search in naval history commenced. Four million dollars was spent to scour more than 250,000 square miles of ocean in 17 days. Amelia Earhart was never found, but her spirit lives on. "Women must try to do things as men have tried," she said. "When they fail, their failure must be but a challenge to others."

Source: www.ameliaearhart.com

CoSN's 13th K-12 School Networking Conference

March 9 - 11, 2008
Online Registration Now Open

Mission: Completed

Twenty-seven years after Amelia Earhart attempted to become the first woman to fly around the world, Geraldine “Jerrie” Mock completed the mission in 29 days, 11 hours and 59 minutes. But it was only after Mock realized no woman had successfully completed the flight that it became her life ambition.

Those who knew Mock as a child might well have imagined she would break new ground regarding the careers a woman could aspire to. She hated dolls and refused to learn embroidery at school, resenting the fact that only boys got to learn mechanics and play with trains. After her first plane ride at age seven, she told anyone she saw that she would someday fly around the world.

After getting married and having a family, Mock expressed her boredom with being a homemaker. In jest, her husband answered: “Why don’t you fly around the world?” It ceased being a joke once Mock realized that no woman had accomplished such a feat. With just 700 flying hours under her belt, Mock set out to fly around the world over a series of unusually long distances.

Her beginning and ending destination was Columbus, Ohio, the same city Amelia Earhart set off from, never to return. On March 19, 1964, Mock took flight, proceeding to set five aviation records, including first woman to circumnavigate the world by plane and first woman pilot to land in Saudi Arabia.

Source:

www.historynet.com/culture/womens_history/3035201.html

FETC 2008 Media Central

8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 24
Salon 8, Rosen Centre Hotel
Orlando, Florida

Reaching New Altitudes of Information...

PBS TeacherLine and Florida DOE to Host FETC Event

PBS TeacherLine®, the Florida Digital Educator Program and the Florida Department of Education are hosting a special event during FETC, scheduled for Wednesday, January 23, from 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. at the Rosen Centre in Salon 8. Speakers include Kate Kemker, bureau chief of the Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Instruction and Innovation, Pamela H. Smith, deputy chancellor for Curriculum, Instruction & Students Services of the Florida Department of Education, Dr. Shannon White, program manager of the Florida Digital Educator Program, Melinda George, senior director of PBS TeacherLine, and Florida master digital educators. The speakers will highlight the results of the online professional development partnership to date and share master digital educators’ personal stories about online learning. For more details, contact Kristen or Charlene at C. Blohm & Associates.

Encouraging Students to Tackle Science and Math

Many countries are facing a shortage of skilled workers in science, technology, engineering, and math-based fields. “We can and must reinvigorate these professions to maintain strong positions in the competitive global marketplace,” said Brenda Raker, U.S. CEO for Fourier Systems. “The solution lies in education – inspiring students to enter these challenging fields and providing rigorous instruction.” To encourage the development of the next generation of scientists, inventors and great thinkers requires state-of-the-art hands-on learning. Research demonstrates that probeware functionality substantially improves student achievements in science and mathematics. The *Nova5000* not only improves student achievement with its probeware functionality, but supports schools in their efforts to meet the needs of 21st Century learners. For more information, visit www.fourier-sys.com.

Flexible e-Transcript System Meets Various State Needs

The National Transcript Center’s statewide preK-20 electronic record and transcript system provides maximum flexibility to meet a wide range of state initiatives and data needs. State education agencies need to access and use volumes of data to meet federal reporting requirements and to inform funding and program decisions. For example, several states use an electronic transcript system as the collection vehicle for evaluating students for state scholarships. A large amount of valuable data moves through a state-sponsored e-transcript system, such as course history, demographic information and graduation data, that states can use for research, resource allocation, program evaluation, and more. Visit www.transcriptcenter.com for the full story.

Fairfax Schools Focus on Higher Thinking Skills

One of the largest school districts in the United States, Fairfax County Public Schools in Virginia, is concentrating on developing students’ critical thinking skills. “We want our students to reflect on their own learning,” said Aron Sterling, the district’s School Based Technology Specialist. Looking for hardware that could help tie together several technologies to create a learning center for the foreign language department, administrators decided to purchase the *USB Jackbox* from Califone. The only USB-compatible jackbox available, the hardware is helping students and educators to design and develop podcasts, practice language skills and discuss lessons with other students. For more information, visit www.califone.com.