



Dairy Dispatch

You Can Never Have Enough Cheese in Your News

Cat Got Your Tongue?

When *Life* magazine published a report in 1954 suggesting boring books were contributing to illiteracy in schools, book publishers Houghton Mifflin and Random House decided to address the issue. The companies compiled a list of 400 words they considered essential for childhood learning and sent it to the greatest linguist they knew, Dr. Seuss, who rose to the challenge.

After nine months, Dr. Seuss created the classic tale of a mischievous cat who almost gets two children in big trouble, *The Cat In The Hat*. He used 223 vocabulary words in rhythmic repetition, creating an ideal reading tool for beginning readers.

According to rumor, three years after the success of *The Cat In The Hat*, Dr. Seuss's dear friend Bennett Cerf bet him \$50 he could not write an entire book using only 50 words. This supposedly inspired Seuss to write the worldwide bestseller, *Green Eggs and Ham*. Rumor also has it that he never received the \$50 from Mr. Cerf.

Source:

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dr._Seuss

How to Reach Us

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Horton Hears a Who, What, Where...

PBS TeacherLine Helps Teachers Support ELL Students

PBS TeacherLine®, the premier provider of online teacher professional development, introduces a new course collection that focuses on the unique educational needs of English language learners (ELL). Enrollment of preK-12 ELL students is growing at almost 10 times the rate of total public school student enrollment. Yet, only 30 percent of public school teachers instructing ELL students have received appropriate training, according to the Education Commission of the States. Through the *Supporting English Language Learners* series from PBS TeacherLine, teachers learn skills and techniques to accelerate students' mastery of English and enable students to keep pace with classroom instruction. The series comprises three, 10-hour courses designed to provide a quick immersion into specific instructional strategies and pedagogy and to accommodate teachers' busy schedules. For more information, go to www.pbs.org/teacherline.

Califone Encourages Safe Hearing, Makes Medical News

Working with the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), Califone International, Inc, is supporting the organization's annual Better Hearing and Speech Month (BHSM) campaign. Recently highlighted in medical industry publications, Califone and ASHA strive to encourage educators and families to observe safe hearing practices. As a leading provider of audio-visual equipment in the education industry, Califone is focused on publicizing the need for students to protect their hearing and for classrooms to support student hearing needs. For example, the recently released *Califone MP3 Player* includes technology that enables teachers to set the maximum audio allowed to 85 decibels – one of the three recommended guidelines from the ASHA-sponsored "Our America: Tuned In Today...But Tuned Out Tomorrow?" campaign. For more information, visit www.califone.com.

Discovery Introduces Online Media Management Tool

Discovery Education introduces *MediaShare*, a web-based media management service that allows administrators, media specialists and teachers to upload, correlate, manage, and distribute user-created or licensed digital content. *Discovery Education MediaShare* enables content uploads to either locally hosted servers or to Discovery Education servers, providing teachers, parents and students access to digital content from anywhere. Once content is uploaded, administrators have the flexibility to set sharing permissions to ensure users have the correct level of access to digital assets. Users also can map content to state curriculum standards, and index and search digital content based on user-assigned criteria. Any type of digital content can be managed with *MediaShare* – videos, audio files, podcasts, PowerPoint presentations, and more. For more information, visit www.discoveryeducation.com.

And To Think I Heard It From CB&A...

ePals and National Geographic Announce Partnership

ePals, Inc., and National Geographic Ventures (NGV), which creates and distributes digital content for the National Geographic Society, have formed a strategic partnership to create unique, cultural learning experiences for educators, students and families. Designed to foster safe and effective multicultural learning exchanges across media platforms, digital content from nationalgeographic.com will be threaded throughout ePals.com. The partnership will focus on building 21st Century skills, including global awareness, critical thinking and project-based collaboration. National Geographic content will be included in the ePals' *Global Learning Community* in areas such as maps and geography, habitats, global warming, natural disasters, people and culture, great leaders, water, and weather. For more information, visit www.epals.com.

Excelsior Software Acquired by GlobalScholar.com

GlobalScholar.com, a member of the Knowledge Universe family of companies, has acquired Excelsior Software. "For more than 20 years, we have been dedicated to education innovation, helping students, parents, educators, and administrators collect, analyze and act on the information they need to improve student outcomes," said William Zaggle, president and CEO of Excelsior Software. "Now, as part of the GlobalScholar team, we have access to the resources that allow us to provide educators with an expanded set of tools and the real-time data they need to have a meaningful impact on student performance. The combination of our two products truly supports our unified vision for the future of student learning and success." For more information, visit www.excelsiorsoftware.com.

Dynamic Literacy Sponsors Catholic Schools Award

This month Dynamic Literacy, a developer of vocabulary instructional materials, is sponsoring the annual Catholic Schools for Tomorrow Award presented by *Today's Catholic Teacher*. The award program honors Catholic schools that have led the way by implementing exemplary innovative programs to improve the teaching and learning of their students, faculty and staff. Awards are offered in five categories, including promoting Catholic identity, curriculum and instruction, technology, staff development and community involvement. Winning schools will be honored during an awards banquet at the National Catholic Education Association Convention in Indianapolis. For more information, visit www.dynamicliteracy.com.

Greenville District Enlists Help From Funds For Learning

E-rate applicants in virtually every state are using *E-rate Manager for Applicants*, an online suite of tools from Funds For Learning designed to simplify the E-rate application process for schools and libraries. Greenville County Schools in South Carolina is the latest district to enter into an agreement with Funds For Learning. A participant in the E-rate program since 1999, the school district has received more than \$3.2 million in E-rate discounts. *E-rate Manager for Applicants* enables school districts to stay on top of fluctuating deadlines and paperwork, track remaining E-rate funding, monitor sites where funding is used, and respond to E-rate program auditors. Read more about *E-rate Manager for Applicants* at www.fundsforlearning.com.

Happy Seuss-day!

This month, we celebrate the birth of Theodor "Ted" Seuss Geisel on March 2, 1904, to German immigrants Theodor and Henrietta in Springfield, Mass. The Geisels were a well-to-do family, as Theodor Sr. was the city's brewmaster, and lived comfortably despite World War I and the onset of prohibition.

Ted fell in love with words as a boy, when his mother would soothe him by reciting rhymes from her childhood.



He attended Dartmouth College, where he was editor-in-chief of a campus magazine, a tenure cut short after he was caught throwing a drinking party. Barred from direct involvement with the magazine, he continued to contribute, signing his work "Seuss."

Pressured by his father to become a professor, Ted attended graduate school at Oxford University. But Ted soon was bored with his studies and decided touring Europe suited him better. On his return to the United States, he worked as a cartoonist, contributing to *Life*, *Vanity Fair* and other magazines.

Experiencing success with his illustrations, Ted wrote and illustrated his first book, *And To Think I Saw It On Mulberry Street*. The book initially was snubbed by publishers and it wasn't until his 28th pitch that it was published. The rest is history.

Ted had written and illustrated 44 children's books before he died in 1991. They have been translated into more than 15 languages, selling more than 200 million copies. He was honored with two Academy Awards, two Emmy Awards, a Peabody Award, and the Pulitzer Prize.

Source:

www.catinthehat.org/history.htm

Green Eggs & Ham

Ingredients:

- 1 Tbsp. butter, 4 slices ham
- 8 eggs, 2 Tbsp. milk
- 2 drops green food coloring
- ¼ tsp. salt, ¼ tsp. pepper

Directions:

1. In a large frying pan, melt a teaspoon of butter over medium heat. Add ham slices and brown until edges are slightly crisp. Remove from the pan, wrap in aluminum foil and set it aside.
2. Combine eggs, milk, salt, and pepper in a medium mixing bowl and beat to a froth. Add food coloring until you achieve a "Seuss-y" shade of green.
3. Heat remaining butter in a large frying pan over medium heat. Once it sizzles, add egg mixture to the pan and stir until firm.
4. Scoop the eggs into individual plates and add your ham.

This meal feeds one fish, two fish, red fish, blue fish – 4 Seuss lovers.

Source: www.seussville.com/titles/greeneegs/recipes.html.

Mark Your Calendar

CoSN's 13th Annual K-12 School Networking Conference

Hyatt Regency, Crystal City
Arlington, VA
March 9 - 11, 2008

Register at www.cosn.org.

SIIA

Ed Tech Industry Summit

The Palace Hotel
San Francisco, CA
May 18 - 20, 2008

Register at www.siaa.net/etis/2008/.

NECC Media Central

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

News to Cheer Your Inner Grinch...

New Nova5000 Education Software Tutorials Available

Providing *Nova5000* users with additional support, Fourier Systems has created three new tutorials for software programs that are bundled with the handheld computer. The first is a tutorial for netTrekker d.i., which covers a variety of the educational search engine's features including keyword search, state standards search, readability ratings, text-to-speech, the dictionary hot key and more. The second is for GoManage, a software program designed to help educators and students construct media-rich documents. Lastly, Fourier Systems has added a tutorial about the *Nova5000*'s connectivity capabilities, which includes how to use WiFi, Ethernet, DHCP and Static IP connections. Tutorials can be found at www.nova5000.com/tutorials.php. For more information, visit www.fourier-sys.com.

PBS TeacherLine Offers Course Licensing Program

PBS TeacherLine® has launched *Course Licensing for Schools and Districts*, a program that allows schools, districts and education service agencies to expand their staff professional development programs or create a new initiative in a way that is cost-effective. Over the past several years many districts have invested in course management systems to meet the increased demand for e-learning opportunities. However, high costs – more than \$50,000 to create a graduate-level course – and lack of time and resources have prevented many districts from developing their own professional development courses for teachers. PBS TeacherLine's licensing program allows educational institutions to select from more than 100 standards-based courses in core curriculum, instructional strategies and instructional technology. Through the courses, teachers build content-area knowledge, learn to apply research-based strategies to classroom activities and integrate technology into the curriculum in ways that nurture student achievement. For more information, go to www.pbs.org/teacherline.

Pokémon Learning League Two-Time Codie Finalist

Pokémon Learning League™ has been named a finalist for two 2008 Codie awards by the Software & Information Industry Association. The online educational suite of interactive, animated lessons in core curriculum was recognized as an outstanding product that provides a valuable educational experience for students. Pokémon Learning League is a finalist in the categories of "Best K-12 Instructional Solution" and "Best Instructional Solution for Students at Home." Building on the Pokémon tradition of immersive storylines and high-interest animated characters, Pokémon Learning League provides educators and parents with a tool to engage and motivate students in math, science, language arts, and life skills. This marks the ninth time in the last 12 months that Pokémon Learning League has been honored by education and parenting organizations for its educational excellence. For more information, visit www.PokemonLearningLeague.com.



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