



EDGE



A Publication of the Virginia Society for Technology in Education

Vol. 1, No.1

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Spring 2004

Greetings! We would like to introduce you to the new VSTE Edge! We trust you will find this inaugural issue to be informative and helpful.

What is the VSTE Edge?

The purpose of the Edge is to provide all VSTE members with informative links, articles, and "how-to" tips concerning educational technology integration. The Edge is delivered electronically via e-mail to all members. Should you choose not to receive the Edge, you may opt out by updating your membership information.

We actively encourage submissions to the Edge that our readers, primarily K-16 teachers in Virginia, will find useful.

To submit materials, send an email to edge_submissions@vste.org. If you would like to become active with VSTE in other ways, please be sure to read the "Get Involved with VSTE" note in this issue.



VSTE Member Dr. Diane Demott Painter (r) is congratulated by Virginia Senator George Allen (l) upon her receipt of the Cyber Education Champion Award. Also pictured (c) is Doug Brooks, principal of Deer Park School, Fairfax County.



Articles & Annotated Links

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Links for Educators

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Announcements

Get Involved with VSTE!

There are many opportunities to get involved with VSTE, and now is the time to consider 2004-05 school year. Each of our endeavors are always looking for excited newcomers to bring great ideas and passion to our efforts.

Volunteers are always being sought for: the VSTE Annual Conference Planning Committee, the VSTE Technology Outreach Program, and VSTE's Electronic Professional Development (EPD) effort, plus the VSTE Board of Directors. Why not explore the possibilities and submit your name into the selection process. For more information on volunteering, including our online selection application form, point your browser to <http://www.vste.org/resources/getinvolved.html>.

If you have already submitted a form, no need to do so again. If you are interested in next year's efforts, be sure to get your form in by May 14th.

VSTE Conference 2004 - Record Input

Forty-four percent of this year's Annual Conference attendees completed the online evaluation of the conference, powered by onlinesurveydesk.com. Your input and comments will be used by the Conference Planning Committee as we put together the 2005 Annual State Technology Conference program, scheduled for March 13-15, 2005 at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott. For more information on the Conference, point your browser to <http://www.vste.org/conference/2005/>.

Speak Up Day for Teachers: A Survey

We would like to make VSTE members aware of the following note that was recently sent by ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education, of which VSTE is a state affiliate):

"ISTE urges its members and affiliates in the United States to participate in a national survey about technology in education. NetDay, a national education technology nonprofit group (and ISTE partner), is hosting the first ever Speak Up Day for Teachers. On April 29, 2004, teachers will have their say on using technology and the Internet."

"With Speak Up Day for Teachers, your ideas will be aggregated into a national report that will be given to the US Department of Education, the US Department of Commerce, the United States Congress and many other state and federal agencies and groups. This report has the potential to greatly influence state and federal policies, programs and funding for education technology."

"Please plan to register your school and then take the survey sometime before May 7. The survey is easy to use and quick to finish in less than 15 minutes. All schools and teachers in the United States are encouraged to participate. Schools register to participate at www.netday.org."

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Articles & Annotated Links

"Play it Safe" - Copyright and Fair Use Laws for Young People

A web site created by the [Business Software Alliance \(BSA\)](#) teaches children in grades 3-8 about copyright issues. Diane Demott Painter, a long time VSTE member and an active classroom researcher, received BSA's first ever Cyber Education Champion award in early March 2004. Painter and BSA vice president Bob Kruger presented at the 2004 VSTE Conference [\[press release\]](#). An article concerning Painter's work will appear in the next

Technology Coach Handbook by ATEC

Two VSTE Conference presentations highlighted the importance of technology mentorship in schools. A resource created by the [Appalachian Technology in Education Consortium \(ATEC\)](#) "has been written and reviewed by educators who not only use technology to support everyday teaching and learning, but also help others do the same. The website is a companion to the CD-ROM based book available from ATEC.

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A Future without Wires

In this article about [wireless Internet technologies](#), speaker and consultant Rick Dearborn gives an overview of where wireless is headed, raises some interesting possibilities for use, and encourages teachers to think about how this technology will offer new possibilities in the classroom. *[This does not imply VSTE endorsement]*

What's in the latest VSTE Journal [Vol. 18, No. 1]? *(all links are to PDF documents)*

- VSTE Publications Update [\[article\]](#)
- *Right-Here, Right-Now: Real-Time Technology Staff Development* by Tammy Pandina Scot and Diane Harding [\[article\]](#)
- *Teaching Enhanced by Technology: One novice teacher's experience with integrating technology into science teaching* by Jackie McDonnough and Ryan Templeton [\[article\]](#)
- *The Reflective Teacher: An Action Research Primer* by Diane DeMott Painter [\[article\]](#)
- *What do students think about computer ethics?* by Gail Chmura [\[article\]](#)
- *The Technology Game: Perspectives and Reflections on School-based Technology Training Specialist Support (Part II)* by Sally Bryan [\[article\]](#)

[Download entire issue](#)

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Links for Educators

Elementary Education

1) Teachers at the D.J. Montague School (Williamsburg-James City County), in a partnership with the College of William & Mary, produced a website titled "[A Collage of Practical Applications at the Elementary Level](#)." This site contains links to a number of examples of software use, such as Publisher, Microsoft Office, Inspiration/Kidspiration, Adobe Acrobat, and KidPix.

2) According to the [Children's Engineering](#) website, "the goal of these instructional units is to assist teachers at grades K-5 to provide relevant classroom instruction that helps children develop a degree of technological capability." Instructional units found on the site include numerous instructional elements, to include an overview of the design, a teacher guide, and assessment rubrics. Each lesson is associated with corresponding Virginia Standards of Learning and Standards for Technological Literacy. There are four instructional units for each elementary grade (history, math, science, & English). All files can be downloaded in PDF format.

Secondary Education

The [discoveryschool.com](#) site gives links for lesson plans on a wide variety of topics in both the sciences and humanities.

[NY Times Learning Connection Teacher Connections](#). The New York Times Learning Network provides resources for teachers, students, and parents. The site states, "Teachers can access a daily lesson plan for grades 6-12.... Each lesson plan and the article it references can be printed out for classroom use. Previous lessons are available in the archive and in thematic lesson plan units. Teachers can also use News Snapshot, aimed for grades 3-5, to explore current events through New York Times photos and related questions. The site additionally provides teachers with the latest education news from the newspaper."

The [WebQuest site](#) is full of useful information about WebQuests and includes many great examples for use by teachers and students.

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Administration

Web-based Data Analysis for Schools & School Systems

[Zarca Interactive](#), one of the vendors represented at the annual VSTE Conference, offers a highly secure, web-based data analysis product that allows administrators to rapidly collect and/or analyze data and then view it in multiple formats. *[This does not imply VSTE endorsement]*

Technology Standards for School Administrators (TSSA) Course

Although one needs to register in order to receive credit, all [materials for this course](#) are freely available on-line. The website states, "This online course is designed for instructional leaders desiring to utilize technology to impact school improvement. A national consensus on what K-12 administrators should know and be able to do to optimize the effective use of technology was responsible for the TSSA Collaborative."

Professional Development

AT & Aug Com - Making the Connections 2004: Ideas in Assistive Technology and Augmentative Communication

Come and make connections with professionals and parents that work with students with disabilities. On June 24 and 25, 2004, the [Training and Technical Assistance Center at Virginia Tech](#) with again sponsor AT & Aug Com - Making the Connections 2004, at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center in Roanoke, VA.

This conference is open to teachers, service providers, administrators, paraprofessionals, and parents who want to learn more about using assistive technologies and augmentative communication devices. Session information provided is relevant to all age groups, preK-12. There will be hands on opportunities to explore new technologies and a variety of vendors on site. Dr. Caroline Musselwhite, an assistive technology specialist with more than 25 years of experience working with children and adolescents with severe disabilities will be this year's keynote speaker.

For information or assistance please contact: Jane Todd, Continuing and Professional Education, Virginia Tech, 540-231-2014, e-mail: janetodd@vt.edu, or register online at: <https://www.conted.vt.edu/ssl/augcom>

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VSTE Membership Records can be updated online at:

<http://www.vste.org/community/membership.html>

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