

techtimes@edbqhs



News You Can Use

INTERNET CONNECTION

Our Internet disruption on Thursday, October 07, 2004, was caused by a failing router. The router is a piece of hardware that connects our network to the Internet. We have since replaced the router and should expect continuous connection once again.

Normally, once I am aware that service is disrupted, I let June know as well as call down to the elementary building. When connection is re-established, I then follow the same procedure.

V.O.D.

Video on Demand

A small group of teachers (Darren, Alice, Ron and Steve) have been reviewing a video service from United Video Service, a Discovery, Inc., subsidiary. The service provides full length classroom documentaries in both streaming and downloadable format.

Streaming video allows a user to view a video anywhere/anytime an Internet connection is available. You can watch the movie as it is being sent to you. This is great until you exceed about 5 or 6 simultaneous users at which point

the signal degrades rapidly. Mr. Sirianni has first hand experience with this problem.

All videos are known to be "bandwidth intensive" which means we are at the mercy of the speed of the Internet connection coming into the building. For large group viewing teachers will need to download the video prior to showing it, save it to the network and then have students access the file. Darren tried this with a class of 18 with great success.

Our license agreement is for the entire school year and this year's service is being funded through a grant from the Discovery Corporation. We can download as many of the movies as needed and can also copy the files to CD or DVD. Video content providers include the Discovery Channel, Weston Woods and Sunburst. All areas of the K-12 curriculum are included with a listing of over 22,000 video clips.

We will have a demonstration on our next extended early dismissal day and then make this service available to all teachers.

THOUGHT FOR THE MOMENT:

"Take the attitude of a student. Never be too big to ask questions. Never know too much to learn something new."

--- Og Mandino

POP-UP BLOCKER

Many of you may have noticed the Google toolbar added to the web

browser (Internet Explorer) used on the schools computers. The toolbar includes a pop-up blocker that **helps** prevent pop-up ads from appearing on the screen.

Google, America Online, Yahoo, EarthLink, Microsoft and a slew of other developers have created pop-up blockers to help reduce the pesky ads from being displayed. Like Google's, most of the pop-up blockers are free for use by consumers.

BEST BUY TE@CH GRANT

Best Buy's **te@ch** program rewards schools that make learning fun by integrating interactive technology into the curriculum. Best Buy's **te@ch** program awards a \$2,500 Best Buy Gift Card to schools in recognition of programs or projects that integrate interactive technology into the program and make learning fun for students.

Ron Armstrong and Carol Baumann have both submitted separate **te@ch** grant applications for their programs. **Te@ch** reward recipients will be posted by January 15, 2005 at

<http://communications.bestbuy.com/communityrelations/teach.asp>.

Good luck guys!

Remember, if you need any assistance- hardware, software, finding web sites, etc., let me know (jambrosia@edbqhs.org). 'Till next time...

Joe Ambrosia