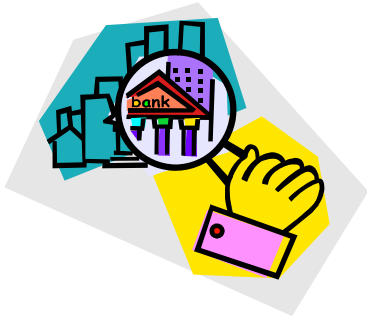




MESSAGE FROM THE OAJE PRESIDENT, JUDY KAUFMANN

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I've just brought the geraniums in from the porch. In the past, this usually happens before I sit down to our Thanksgiving dinner, but I find that the turkey dinner I'm anticipating is the one that comes with our a winter break. With Christmas fast approaching, and colleagues hibernating to write report cards, a pause to catch my breath leads me to reflect that this has been the busiest start up and Fall I can remember.

This is an exciting time to be a teacher, and a teacher in the junior grades in particular. Beginning with the release of the Reports of the Expert Panels on Literacy and Numeracy, the focus has finally come to Junior. It has been long anticipated as we have watched as the focus on other divisions impact on our colleagues, and as the year unfolds, we eagerly look forward to the opportunities that this will bring. OAJE hopes to play an important role in this new emphasis, and we will continue to find ways to become involved.

The OAJE executive continues to represent you on various Ministry initiatives. The review of the Math and Language curricula are major projects that are underway this fall. We continue to attend on your behalf, the Ministry and Curriculum forum meetings where we can express your concerns on issues related to junior education.

The Fall mini-conference in York region was a success, with over 100 teachers participating. We are busy planning the Winter and Spring mini-conferences as well. Look for information on these soon.

I invite you to join us in the challenges and opportunities this year will bring. I wish you an exciting and fulfilling year.

Happy Holidays.

OAJE - **Making Meaning Across the Curriculum** Conference
York Region - Friday, September 30, 2005
What the Conference Participants Had to Say

Creating and Managing Active Classroom Environments—

Presented by Rod Peturson and Les Asselstine

This workshop provided ideas for group work and centres. In between learning activities, Rod and Les demonstrated ideas for “5-minute” learning opportunities such as bouncing balls: which will go higher? Or Why does a Styrofoam ball slide at varying speeds down a string? You need to balance your classroom to meet the needs of all learners. You can fill all the little moments with activities that make kids curious. Don’t make it long and drawn out. Instead, make it quick and interesting, catching and leaving them with questions like, “Why did this happen?”



It is very important to get kids thinking and brainstorming in small groups. This is a great way to get more participation with less intimidation. By brainstorming we learn what they already know so we can build on this information and not repeat learning.

How does this learning make meaning across the curriculum?

Learning is a process that occurs when students are getting to the end result...this learning process is the goal...the final product is secondary to this. It is the learning along the way, the questioning, and the successes they achieve that are the most important components, and these extend to all areas of the curriculum. For example, just because it's a 'Science' lesson, doesn't mean that students can't take away a lesson in cooperation from it.

New Literacies and the Critical Mind—

Presented by Tina Ginglo, Sylvie Webb, and Ken Pettigrew

This informative and practical workshop focused on media literacy as seen through the lens of an educator. Presenters touched on the new forms of literacies that are present in the lives of the junior learner and how we, as teachers, need to embrace and use these new media tools to engage our students. We explored the importance of getting our students to critically think about a text and look at it from different perspectives.

We participants were creatively engaged in an activity in which we viewed some different video clips. We were taken through previewing, during viewing, and post-viewing, activities that we could use in our classrooms. The activities, discussion, and handouts were interesting, useful, and thought-provoking. An excellent workshop!



*How does this learning make meaning across the curriculum?
Helping students become more critically literate will provide them with another set of skills they can use and apply to all areas of the curriculum and to their learning.*

Let's get KLACing! Key Learnings Across the Curriculum—

Presented by **Kim Wallace**

This was a very informative workshop. Kim provided us with a grade five integrated unit on Canadian games. As well, she provided us with a framework for developing integrated units on any topic. First you work with a concept such as “patterning.” Then you brainstorm each subject area. Next you review the key learning/skills or overall expectations. Finally, you decide on the performance tasks as well as some sub-tasks. Kim recommended working with other teachers or specialists in order to create a comprehensive organising flow chart for the unit.

She also provided us with a great summary of the key learnings in grades 4-8 for Social Studies.

How does this new information help us to make meaning across the curriculum? The best way to make learning meaningful to children is to integrate subject areas as much as possible. Integrating the curriculum also helps teachers manage all of the curriculum expectations.



Read Any Good Novels Lately?

Here is a list of top ten "winners" recommended for junior readers by Larry Swartz, OISE / UT (Listed in alphabetical order by author)

THE BOOK WITHOUT WORDS by Avi

Newberry award-winning author Avi has done it again. This 'fable of medieval magic' is filled with adventure and sorcery and great writing. How could you not like a book that is prefaced with an old proverb: "A life unlived is like a book without words"



REPLAY by Sharon Creech

While preparing to perform in the school play, Leo finds the autobiography that his father wrote when he was a teenager preparing for the school play. This novel, by the author of *Love That Dog* gets into the heads of young boys and helps readers understand the relationships in their own lives. Told in short chapters.

BUTT WARS by Andy Griffiths

Hurray! The third book in the trilogy is out. If you've read *The Day My Butt Went Psycho* or *Zombie Butts* from Uranus, then surely you'll wanna grab this funny, funny book.

MABLE RILEY: A Reliable Record of Humdrum Peril and Romance by Marthe Jocelyn

The first winner of the Toronto Dominion Children's Book Award. Lovers of the *Anne of Green Gables* series (and other's like it) can read what is to become a future Canadian classic. The story of a young girl who helps her sister teach - and learn - in a one room schoolhouse set in the Stratford, Ontario community. Told in diary format, this novel provides readers with a feisty heroine, who becomes part of an early suffragette movement.

TOUCHING SPIRIT BEAR by Ben Mikaelson

To avoid going into prison, a young man agrees to participate in a sentencing alternative based on the Native American Circle Justice. His encounter with the huge Spirit Bear changes his life.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MY DEAD BROTHER by Walter Dean Myers and Christopher Myers

This novel is for mature readers by the author of *Monster*. Myers tells the story of a young teenager who uses his sketchbook and comic strips to make sense of his home in Harlem and the loss of a close friendship. Illustrated.

AIRBORN by Kenneth Oppel

Kenneth Oppel, author of the *Silverwing* trilogy won the Governor-General's award for this adventurous novel that is set about a 900-foot airship.

THE CRAZY MAN by Pamela Porter

A beautiful novel, written in free verse that tells the story of a young girl and her life on a Saskatchewan farm. When her father abandons the family, Emaline builds a relationship with Angus, 'the crazy man' from the local mental institution who has been chosen to help cultivate the farm.

SWIMMING IN THE MONSOON SEA by Shyam Selvaduri

Known for his adult novels, Selvaduri has written a sensitive novel about one boy's journey to adolescence. Set in Sri Lanka.

BARRY, BOYHOUND by Andy Spearman

Can't get those boys to read? This is a winner! I laughed a lot and learned a lot about the life of boys, dogs, and exploding raccoons. With drawings and photographs and lists and charts and definitions and conversations between two fleas. Loved it!

10 Social Studies Links for Junior Level Students

www.cic.gc.ca/english/citizen/howto-e.html

Becoming a Canadian Citizen

Explains who can and cannot become a Canadian citizen and how to apply for citizenship; good information to promote class discussion



www.hpedsb.on.ca/sg/quinte/government.htm

Aspects of Government in Canada

A site prepared by the Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board for the Grade 5 Social Studies unit: Canada and World Connections; contains links to many government and citizenship; also contains lesson ideas and activities

www.canadainfolink.ca/government.htm

Canadians and Government

Explains the 3 levels of government and responsibilities of each; also explains the steps involved in creating a new law; contains links to provincial and territorial highlights

www.occdsb.on.ca/~tec/webquesteng.htm

Canada and Its Trading Partners

A team webquest that combines Math and Social Studies; students are required to create a multimedia presentation and journal; includes assessment rubrics for journal presentation and learning skills

www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ks/index_e.html

Northern Affairs for Kids

Hosted by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada; includes lots of information about the people, places, customs and culture of aboriginal Canadians; contains printable information sheets on a variety of topics; also includes a Teachers' Section containing activities and teaching strategies

www.cdli.ca/CITE/explorerer.htm

European Explorers

Provides easy-to-read info about many explorers; contains a link for teachers that suggests activities and projects for students



www.smm.org/sln/ma/index.html

Maya Adventure

An interactive site that allows students to view photos of a variety of Mayan sites and learn about the Mayan culture then and now

http://www.windarooss.qld.edu.au/Main_Pages/Castle_Webquest/welcome.htm

Castle Discovery Web Quest

http://www.windarooss.qld.edu.au/Main_Pages/Egypt_Webquest/welcome.htm

Egyptian Discovery Web Quest

Hosted by Windaroo State School in Australia; these are 2 well laid out webquests that include an introduction, task, process strategies, evaluation criteria, summary of learnings related to the topic and a note to teachers; a variety of useful weblinks are included in each of the quests (additional webquests in this series are available at

http://www.windarooss.qld.edu.au/Main_Pages/webquest_nf.html)



Great Software to Motivate Students—available for free!

The Ontario Ministry of Education continues to license excellent software applications to support students in the classroom. For a listing of all the software that is available for free to publicly funded schools in Ontario, check out the OSAPAC website at: www.osapac.org. You'll also find teaching activities, lesson plans and how-to's for using various pieces of the software, in the Learning Materials link.

To get copies of the software CDs, ask the Information Technology Contact in your school or board.

Literacy Support Software

Clicker 4

A multimedia writing tool in which students can write with whole words, phrases or pictures by typing text themselves or by selecting words and/or pictures from pre-made grids; text is input into a talking word processor that will read back words in the grids and text that the student has written; in addition to teachers creating their own grids, there are many ready-made materials on the Crick Software website at www.learninggrids.com; a great tool for students who would benefit from additional support with the writing process and for ESL students as they acquire new vocabulary



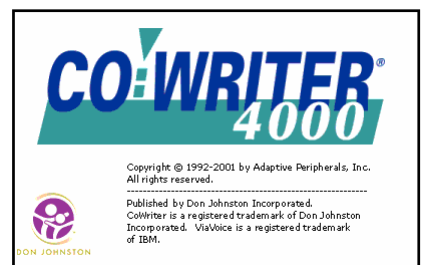
Write: Outloud

An easy-to-use text to speech word processor that gives immediate feedback to the student's writing, through auditory and visual cues; allows user to format text, background colour, import pictures, etc, easily; 100 000 word spell checker recognizes phonetic spellings and irregular words; also provides a 40 000 word dictionary with concise definitions; includes a sizeable database of pictures as well



Co:Writer

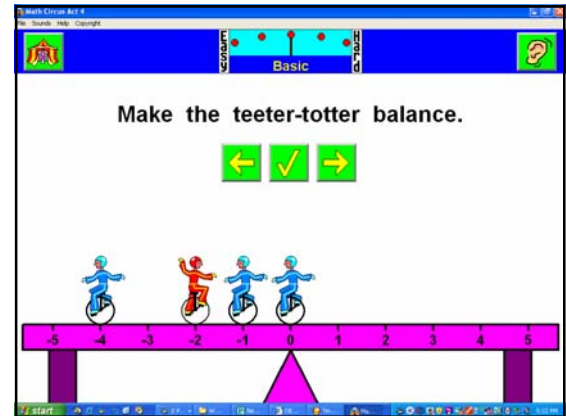
This is word prediction software that predicts words by combining knowledge of spelling, grammar rules, context clues, letter cues and student history; Co:Writer is used in conjunction with any word processor or email program; can be configured for the level of difficulty of vocabulary in the prediction list as well as the number of words that appear at a time; includes a variety of topic dictionaries from which the prediction words are taken, the teachers can also create their own topic dictionaries for specific units of work



Numeracy Software

Math Circus—Acts 4 and 5

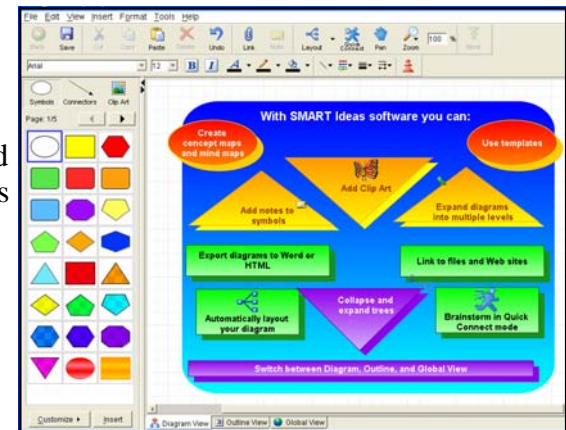
Consists of a series of puzzles each with ten levels of difficulty; designed to promote problem solving skills by challenging students to use various problem solving strategies in a variety of math topics; engaging and addictive!



Cross-Curricular Software

Smart Ideas

Finally! An electronic graphic organizer that is user-friendly, highly engaging, and can be used in any subject area at any stage of the learning process; includes symbols, connectors and clipart for creating mindmaps, webs and other organizers; an excellent tool both for special needs and mainstream students...the user can add weblinks, notes, links to other documents, digital images and more; switch from diagram to outline view in order to add details to the organizer, or export it to a word processor to continue the editing process; tired of the Bristol board report as a unit culminating task? This is a great tool to use to present information as well.



Tinkerplots

Data management software in which students view and analyze data in different ways; students can create, import or download data relevant to curriculum topics; 40 ready-made data sets are also included with TinkerPlots; the software is interactive...by altering criteria, changes are made dynamically onscreen to the data; as well, data can be graphed in multiple ways; excellent for the Mathematics Data Management and Probability strand as well as integrating into topics in Science, Social Studies, etc.

