



TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

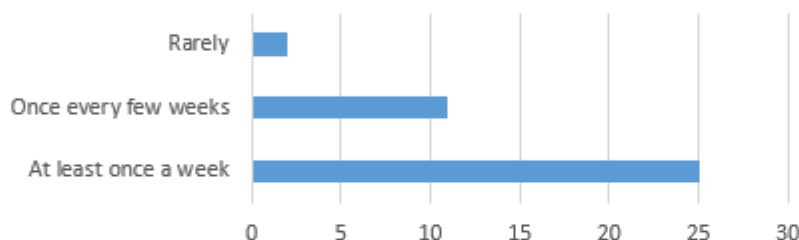
3rd Quarter, 2015 - 2016

BYOD: How's It Going?!

Thirty-eight of our staff members took part in the BYOD feedback survey. Here's a snapshot of how some of our teachers feel about its impact...



If you allow students to use their devices, how frequently do you permit it?



Technology News from WCPSS

We continue to wait to receive our 2013 Tech Bond student devices benefit. The decision has been made that secondary schools will be receiving laptops, not tablets. High schools will get theirs first - hopefully by the start of summer. Middle Schools will follow next - the hope is early fall.

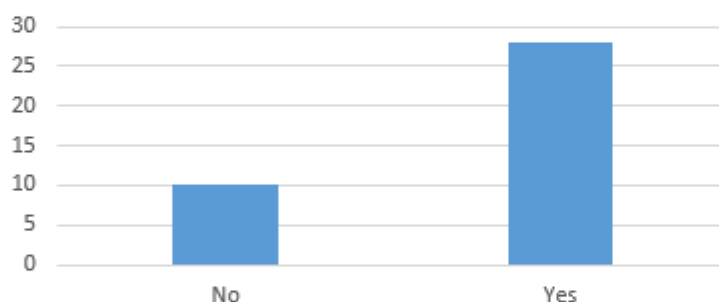
Don't forget that the district's subscription to Blackboard ends in June! NOW is the time to backup your courses and migrate them to the new Canvas learning management system.

Technology News at LRMS

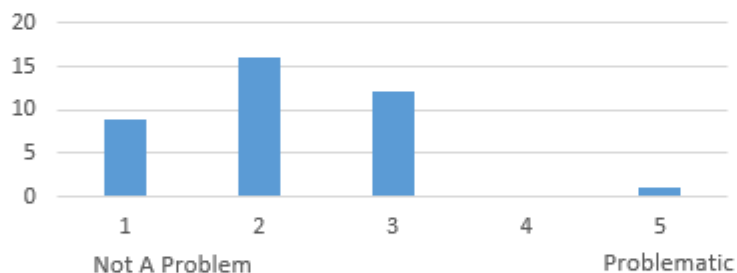
The PTSA funded several purchases this spring - from projectors to printers, with more on the way. We're also hoping to arrange for another equipment donation from our friends at SAS Institute.

The Google "Expeditions" program will be visiting LRMS on March 2nd for a day full of virtual reality "field trips!"

Has the addition of student-owned devices to your classroom helped you find more student success?



On a scale of 1 (not a problem) to 5 (problematic), has student behavior with their devices been a problem in your classroom?



New Technology Spotlight: 4-D Printing

3-D printing has just started to make its way into schools - and already there's a new technology waiting to replace it.

As MIT explains, "With a single multi-material print, a product or mechanism can transform from any 1D strand into 3D shape, 2D surface into 3D shape or morph from one 3D shape into another. Using only water, heat, light or other simple energy input, this technique offers adaptability and dynamic response for structures and systems of all sizes."

Think of those toys where you place an item in water and it grows and expands. That's the gist of 4-D printing.

Print something - then add water, heat, or light - and it transforms into something else! Consumer goods could take up a small shelf-space footprint at your local store. Items could be shipped in much smaller containers! The possibilities could have huge repercussions in our society and economy.



Why Does Jello Jiggle?



Why does Jello jiggle? When was the toothbrush invented? How did candy canes get their shape? How many rooms are in the white house?

It just takes one question to to ignite a student's mind. The website Wonderopolis is a great place to find answers to intriguing questions and ideas that might spark students' imaginations and sense of wonder.

A great place for research on selected topics, Wonderopolis also provides teachers with content and posts to make you a better educator.

A "Wonder of the Day" can be a great class starter or writing prompt. Add your own question to the "Wonder Bank." Or, just learn something new and interesting.

Woneropolis is a great resource to help you inspire "big-picture" thinking.

Access it at: <http://wonderopolis.org>

FUN FACT

According to a recent Instructure survey, "most teachers in the United States are more worried about the potential for technology in the classroom to distract students than they are about privacy and security."



Read more about the survey [here](#).

TECH THURSDAYS

Short sessions to get you moving with technology.

This year's sessions have already started! Join us for topics that interest you!

Date	Session
Feb. 18	netTrekker Educational content for all disciplines! Videos and powerful read-aloud tools!
Mar. 17	Video Production on iPad Learn the basics of shooting video, trimming scenes, and exporting to get your work seen!
Apr. 21	Chatterpix on iPad Make a photo of a person, pet - really anything - talk! Learn about this fun multimedia tool and get chatting!

Media Center News

AUTHOR

VISIT - 7TH
GRADE

J. A. White - February 23, 2016

The Media Center has been busy helping students claim their clouds, login to their email accounts, and sign into Google Classroom.

Speed dating was also enjoyed by the students with 45 book matches made. Not quite as good as Match.com,...but not too bad.

Third Quarter began with the resolution that no more overdue fines would be charged. Students still have to pay for lost books. Please encourage your students to return their books in a timely manner.

We are getting excited for our upcoming author visit for 7th Grade with J. A. White on February 23, 2016.

Please let Ms. Nelson or Ms. Roberts know if we can be of help in any way.

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CENTER NEWS

Lisa Nelson
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dedicated to the Best Staff in WCPSS

Let's Collaborate!

The Media Center will soon be receiving a collaboration table. Teachers and students can gather around, share ideas and work on digital devices together. The large-screen monitor will be able to be attached to any laptop or other device with an HDMI or VGA output. The monitor also features a built-in camera for video conferencing purposes.

Look for it soon in the Media Center!

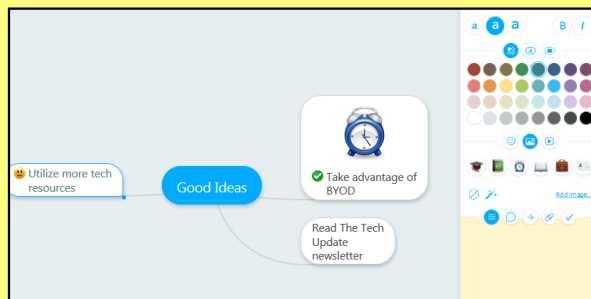


Helpful Links For Your Classroom

MindMeister

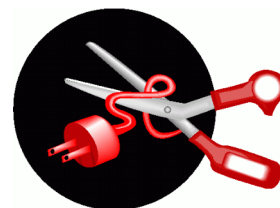
www.mindmeister.com

Need to do some brainstorming? Want to design a graphic organizer? MindMeister can help. Just login with your WCPSS Google account (students can use this, too!) and go! While you get more bells and whistles with a paid account, you still have lots of design possibilities with a free account.



Unplugged by Brian Martin

On February 4th, my almost 3 year-old nephew Walker experienced the Ringling Brothers, Barnum, & Bailey Circus for the first time! I commented to his mother to be sure to enjoy the elephants - because they won't be performing many more shows.



I still have great memories from my childhood of seeing those trunked beauties being unloaded from the box cars on the train tracks across from Dorton Arena. But, the age of circus elephants is quickly coming to an end. It was recently revealed that May, 2016 would be the last shows that Ringling Bros. would feature their giant Asian elephants in.

Pressure from animal rights groups has taken its toll - and Ringling Bros. has decided to retire their last elephants to a conservation they run in Florida. Social media helped ignite the cause, as it does with so many in today's world.

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) applauded the move. The HSUS vice-president [stated](#), "We were very pleased that the elephants with Ringling Bros. will no longer suffer a miserable life on the road..." The circus, says Paquette, "had been one of the biggest defenders of this kind of archaic animal abuse, and the imminent end of its traveling elephant acts signaled that even one of the most tough-minded and hardened animal-use companies now recognized that the world is changing and it had to adapt."



Elephants have appeared in the circus since 1882. Clearly this move is going to require major changes to the show. It's much like education. Traditions and practices that date back decades may not be the best path in today's classroom to insure our young people have a fair shot in this world. We're the "tough-minded and hardened" ringmasters of our own circus (sometimes literally) - and we have to change and adapt, too, to insure all the acts under our big top are well taken care of.

Remember, you can access lots of additional content and guides to technology online at:

<http://www.wcpss.net/lrmstech>

Contact our school Instructional Technology Facilitator, Brian Martin, or Media Specialist Lisa Nelson, if you're interested in collaborating on a lesson implementing technology.