



Technology Newsletter

Region 5 **MEGA** Mobile Mania Conference

Twenty-four teachers/staff members throughout the district attended the Region 5 **MEGA** Mobile Mania Conference at The Edison Plaza on October 20, 2015. The workshop included a full day of presentations from experts in their classrooms and districts as well as sessions from vendors showcasing technology tools to enhance learning in the classroom. Session topics included:

- Best Practices for mobile technology integration
- Ideas for a mobile classroom
- Tools for student engagement
- Apps in the classroom
- Technology Integration Do's and Don'ts
- Expanding your Personal Learning Network

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ERATE 2015 Funding Announced... Each year, school districts can apply for eRate funding through the Schools and Libraries Program of the Universal Service Fund. This program makes discounts available to eligible schools and libraries for telecommunication services, Internet access, and internal connections. The PN-GISD Technology Department was notified that the district will receive **\$114,103.06** for Funding Year 2015 in discounts for its telecommunications service providers including Southwestern Bell, Time Warner, Verizon Wireless, and Star2Star. The funds help ensure that PN-GISD has access to affordable telecommunications and information services.

Pre-K at West Groves



Pre-K students at West Groves are excited to have a computer lab to use for early learning and intervention. The students visit the lab periodically for time on educational resources such as Istation, Reading Eggs, and Education City.





Connect2Texas is a network of Texas-based educational content providers including museums, cultural, historical, and scientific organizations, and authors. These providers utilize interactive videoconferencing to connect to schools and deliver live educational programs and professional development to school children and educators around Texas and across the country.

A couple of our campuses have been taking advantage of the amazing programs provided by Connect2Texas thus far this year. Woodcrest 1st grade participated in Twas the Night Before Thanksgiving and 2nd grade enjoyed The Little Scarecrow Boy on November 12th. In September, PNE enjoyed learning about the U.S. Constitution, and in October Lori Foster's class participated with the Early Explorers lesson from the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum.

New conferences are offered frequently and forwarded to your campus technology contact. To participate, please contact Dana Godair at the Technology HelpDesk to get the lessons set up and connections tested before viewing. Don't forget to take pictures and send us a blurb on your experiences!

BASF TOTAL EDUCATIONAL GRANT

Congratulations to Jennifer Reynolds, Geometry Teacher at PNG High School for being awarded a \$2,400.00 grant from BASF to purchase 10 Chrome books. Chrome books are a great way to enhance students' abilities in integrating technology in the classroom to prepare them for future learning as well as promising careers. Chrome books are programmed using Google Chrome. Since the high school is utilizing Google Apps for education, Google apps such as Google Classroom, Google Forms, and Google Docs, enable the students to watch these videos and complete assignments. The online assignments that the students work on during and outside of class include vocabulary lessons and projects for each six weeks.

Money Island



The 6th grade students at Port Neches and Groves Middle Schools have had the opportunity the past three years to utilize Money Island thanks to Mid-County Teacher's Credit Union. When kids play Money Island, they enter a virtual world that not only makes learning fun, but also tracks and encourages their progress. As they go on quests to fantastic destinations like the Eiffel Tower and Atlantis, they learn real-life principles of financial responsibility. The website includes real live lessons on spending and giving, the differences in wants and needs, types of income and interest, and how to use credit wisely. When the students complete the lessons, they are provided with a gift certificate to be deposited in a savings account and a gift from the credit union.

If you have any questions about the Technology Task Force meetings and/or agenda items, please contact your campus representative....

Lisa Badon, Joe Cegielski, Tanya Davis, Deidre Faulk, Prem Gelivi, Diane Leckich, Daniel Martinez, Michelle Mitchell, Kandi Oliver, Megan Perello, Jennifer Reynolds, Don Sandell, Holly Sartin, Emily Sterling, Crystal Werkheiser,

Meeting Dates:

February 11, 2016, April 14, 2016