



# Technology Newsletter

## TCEA

The district's technology lead teachers will be attending TCEA's state conference from February 7—11, 2012 in Austin. TCEA's convention is one of the largest educational technology conventions in the country and the largest in Texas. TCEA provides astounding professional development opportunities, exploration of new trends through interactive learning environments, in-depth presentations from leading educational technology experts, and inspiring keynotes.



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## PDExpress Reminder...

Please remember to complete your online evaluations after any in-service activity through PDExpress.

[www.pdx.pngisd.org/pdexpress](http://www.pdx.pngisd.org/pdexpress)

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## Training Continues

In an effort to provide timely technical support to the District, the Technology Department continues to provide monthly training opportunities for the technology aides and specialists. Our meetings have included discussions on troubleshooting all supplied technology equipment in the classrooms and new inventory procedures. We have also discussed the process of upgrading the K-5 campuses to a Cisco Wireless System. These meetings have been very productive in decreasing problem response time and decreasing the repair ticket volume at WGEC. We will continue to improve troubleshooting methods through these monthly meetings in an effort to better serve our campus needs.

## ERATE FUNDING ANNOUNCED

Each year, 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.

Port Neches-Groves ISD was notified that it will receive \$113,658.00 for Funding Year 2011 in discounts for its telecommunications service providers including Southwestern Bell, Time Warner, Verizon Wireless, and Star 2 Star. These funds help ensure that PN-GISD has access to affordable telecommunications and information services.

## Mimio Masters

### Carry the torch as a Mimio Master



Would you like to join the other 55 PN-GISD teachers who have currently attained a Mimio Masters certification?

Mimio Masters will put you in touch with other avid Mimio users and develop your competency with interactive technologies. Conducted online, classes provide a forum for sharing ideas and experiences as you work towards improving your teaching methodology, reaching your students more effectively, and energizing yourself, professionally.

Classes for Mimio Masters 1, Core Skills will be offered in January and March. Classes for Mimio Masters 2, Advanced Skills will be offered in February and April.

If you are interested in registering for one of these classes, please e-mail Brenda Duhon at [bduhon@pngisd.org](mailto:bduhon@pngisd.org).

### Video-Conferencing in the Classroom



The Distance Learning Equipment purchased for the 4-12 campuses last year has been a great asset to the campuses. During the October In-service, elective teachers from GMS & PNMS demonstrated how the equipment works and the different ways it can be used in the classroom. The Middle Schools have used it to collaborate choir practices between the two campuses. Science classes have held video-conferences with the Fort Worth Zoo and BASF at the Port Arthur Plant. In December, the Theater Arts classes will visit the Fort Worth Bass Hall/Performing Arts for “Behind the Scenes with Nutcracker”.

A website has been created with all the information you need for Video Conferencing in your classroom. To access the site from the PN-G website, go to Departments / Technology and look for the Video Conferencing link at the top of the page. If you need assistance, please contact the Technology Department at 962-4268 ext. 5516.

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

### **2011-2012 Technology Task Force Members**

Kenneth Leavins, Michelle Mitchell, Lisa Noland, Holly Sartin, Kim Davis, Ann Woodall, Stacey Richards, Alysha Daniels, Rhonda Bourgeois, Pam Choate, Diane Leckich, Laura Shipman, Sarah Guarnere, Julie Gauthier, Mary Jane Moore, Tanya Davis, Stephanie Gaspard, Brock Boudoin, Lauren Harvey

Meeting Dates: February 16, 2012; May 10, 2012