



# Technology Newsletter

## TCEA State Conference 2013



The Texas Computer Education Association (TCEA) state conference will be held in Austin from February 4-8, 2013. PN-GISD will once again be sending a representative from each campus to the conference. The theme this year is “Fusion: Learning in a new Light”. With more than 400 sessions and hands-on workshops, a 900+ booth exhibit hall, exhilarating keynotes, and content experts presenting on the latest tools and techniques, this event will capture the hearts of tech-loving and tech-learning educators. This five-day convention brings together campus and district level educators for a networking and learning experience that encourages growth and innovation.



**PLEASE NOTE:** We have been notified that EducationAppreciation.com and EdHelpForParents.com will not be offered for the 2012-2013 school year. These education related Internet programs were created to provide teachers, students and parents easy and quick access to a wealth of education resources. However, with dramatic cutbacks to school district budgets and a continuing recession that affected local business sponsorships, the funding base dwindled to a level where continuing to offer the programs cannot be achieved.



Do you wish you had a professional environment where you could post your Mimio Lesson and ask other Mimio users to share their brilliance and expertise? The “Mimio Professor’s Make My Lesson Better Group—New and Improved!” community was created for that purpose; a collaborative environment where community members share their ideas and advice with each other. Go to: [www.mimioconnect.com](http://www.mimioconnect.com) and join this group and see what it offers!

## PN-GISD Technology Upgrades

- New teacher computers were purchased this summer for all K-3 campuses. The teachers’ old computers were set up at a student station in their classroom.
- In October, new computers were purchased for the five BIM Labs at the High School.

## 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 \$113,708.12 for Funding Year 2012 in discounts for its telecommunications service providers including Southwestern Bell, Time Warner, Verizon Wireless, and Centrifuge Solutions. These funds help ensure that PNGISD has access to affordable telecommunications and information services.

## Video Conferencing in the Classroom



Fourth grade students at Groves Elementary recently participated in an interactive video conference with John Erickson, author of the **Hank the Cowdog** books. In the conference, Mr. Erickson shared parts of his new book “The Case of the Halloween Ghost”. Each fourth grade reading class received a copy of the book. The students were able to personally ask Mr. Erickson some questions. One student asked if the character “*Slim*” in his books was himself, Mr. Erickson said in some ways it was him. Another student asked him where the character “*Hank*” came from? He said that at one time he worked on a ranch and there was a mischievous dog there, and that this was where the idea of “*Hank*” came from.

### Technology Task Force 2012-2013

**Meeting Dates:** February 21, 2013; May 2, 2013

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

Bailey Baxter, Rhonda Bourgeois, Pam Choate, Alysha Daniels, Kim Davis, Tanya Davis, Andrew Dismukes, Scarlet Hammersmith, Shawn Landry, Kenneth Leavins, Diane Leckich, Michelle Mitchell, Mary Jane Moore, Lisa Noland, Stacey Richards, Holly Sartin, Laura Shipman, Tyler Sumrall, Crystal Werkheiser, Ann Woodall