



# Technology Newsletter

## Region 5 **MEGA** Mobile Mania Conference

Twenty-eight teachers/staff members throughout the district attended the Region 5 **MEGA** Mobile Mania Conference at The Edison Plaza. A two-day conference was offered this year on October 21 & 22, 2014. Day 1 of the conference focused on mobile technologies. Day 2 provided participants an opportunity to explore Google Apps and Tools.

Session topics included:

- Mobile Classroom
- Integration ideas with mobile technologies
- Google Apps in the classroom
- Best Practices and ideas for mobile technology integration
- Understanding what a technology integrate environment is
- Expanding your Personal Learning Network with other educators

The Keynote Speaker was Jamie Neuwirth, a Regional Program Manager for Google Education and concentrates specifically on Google Apps for EDU, Chromebooks, and Android tablets.



Region 5 **MEGA** Mobile Mania Conference



## Integrating Technology in the Classroom

Training sessions were held this fall at each K-5 campus with Kay Herrington from Region 5 to continue to work with teachers on integrating iPads into their classrooms. Kay spent a day at each campus working with teachers on digital storytelling apps, iOS 8 Do's and Don'ts, Using Airdrop for sharing, and introducing Google Drive. All of the resources shared are located on the PN-G Tech Toolbox website at <http://goo.gl/shuqbA>



**Ridgewood**



**Van Buren**



**Groves Elementary**



**Taft**



**Woodcrest**



**Port Neches Elementary**



## Google Apps for Education (GAFE)



All employees have been set up with a Google Apps for Education (GAFE) account this year. Here are a few benefits of using this account:

Using Google Drive, you can create documents, spreadsheets, presentations, drawings, and more, that you can view and edit at the same time. You can still use your Microsoft Office products as needed, but now you'll have more options for storing and collaborating on your documents. You can even change the setting to allow your work to be saved off line so you can work on it later; even if you don't have an Internet connection.

You get a full 30 GB of online storage.

We can access email, documents, contacts, and calendar from any computer or mobile device with an Internet connection, from anywhere in the world. There are apps for iOS and Android mobile devices.

If you need some help getting started, [Google](#) it!



## 3rd Grade Videoconference

On Thursday, October 31, 3rd graders from Ridgewood Elementary participated in an ESC 5 Hank the Cowdog special feature "The Case of the Halloween Ghost" in the Board Room at West Groves Education Center. Hank's author, John R. Erickson, sang songs from the Hank audio books and did readings from the stories while accompanying himself on the banjo.



## ERATE 2014 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. The PN-GISD Technology Department was notified that the district will receive **\$125,269.92** for Funding Year 2014 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.

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

Lisa Badon, Braden Bailey, Paul Bryan, Joe Cegielski, Kim Davis, Tanya Davis, Jon Deckert, Liz Desmond, Deidre Faulk, Azra Habib, Kenneth Leavins, Diane Leckich, Judy Martin, Michelle Mitchell, Kandi Oliver, Jennifer Reynolds, Holly Sartin, Crystal Werkheiser, Ann Woodall

**Meeting Dates:**

February 19, 2015; April 30, 2015