

Thoughts from Jen

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

I hope that you all had a joyous holiday season and that you are looking forward to a wonderful new year. 2008 is going to be great!!

This year offers us a lot of new adventures! We will have the Olympics in August, for the US – an election in November, plus all the unexpected events throughout the year.

As most everyone does, I have made a few resolutions this year. My #1 resolution is to be more adventurous and take a few more risks!! Both on and off the internet! ☺

It is easy to get into a comfort zone of familiarity – isn't it?? And I am hoping to break that cycle in my life doing the "same old thing" over and over again.....so – grins --- watch out "the Technospud" is on the move!

I encourage you to make some tech resolutions too. I would like one of your resolutions to be joining an online community to help expand your classroom beyond its 4 walls.

I have created just the place at ProjectsByJen -- <http://projectsbyjen.ning.com> – and it would be great for you to join up. The community is primarily for the PreK – 6th grade teacher, but anyone using tech with students is welcome to join!

It is a safe environment and filled with teachers, just like you, who want to share ideas and learn from each other. I hope you will join in the conversation!

Jennifer

Sites to See

Topic for January Benjamin Franklin

[Commemorate Ben's Birthday!](http://www.fi.edu/franklin/birthday/index.html)

<http://www.fi.edu/franklin/birthday/index.html>

[PBS – Benjamin Franklin](http://www.pbs.org/benfranklin/)

<http://www.pbs.org/benfranklin/>

[Ben's Guide to the U.S. Government](http://bensguide.gpo.gov/benfranklin/index.html)

<http://bensguide.gpo.gov/benfranklin/index.html>

[An Enlightened American](http://library.thinkquest.org/22254/home.htm)

<http://library.thinkquest.org/22254/home.htm>

[Ben Franklin's Inventions](http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/articles/ushistory/benjaminfranklininventions.htm)

<http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/articles/ushistory/benjaminfranklininventions.htm>

[Benjamin Franklin Quotes](http://www.quotationspage.com/quotes/Benjamin_Franklin/)

http://www.quotationspage.com/quotes/Benjamin_Franklin/

Renaissance Learning 21st Century Writing Grant

<http://www.alphasmart.com/k12/solutions/writinggrant.asp>

Each 21st Century Writing Grant Award includes:

- One AlphaSmart NEO 2 SmartOption Mobile Lab with 30 AlphaSmart NEO 2 units, a Renaissance Receiver, and more valued at \$7,750
- One day of onsite professional development valued at \$2,400
 - Three remote, one-hour instructor-led sessions valued at \$447
- **Total Value: \$10,597**

Technology Tip

Digital Story Telling Photo Story 3 Adding Text

Once you have brought your pictures into Photo Story 3 – and edited them as necessary – it is now time to add text to your project.

You can add a title page at the beginning of your story, and you can add titles to each picture in your story or to selected pictures only.

You can also insert special effects to pictures that change the look of the picture. You might want to apply the Black and White effect to every picture that introduces a new part of your story.

To add text:

1. Click on the picture you wish to add text to.
2. Type in your text in the provided text window. You can also change font, size, coloring, and alignment.
3. As you make changes, you can see them in the preview window.
4. If you wish to add special effects, options are provided UNDER the preview window.
5. When you are done with ONE picture, click on the next picture you wish to add text to. You will not lose text as you move from picture to picture. PS3 automatically remembers your text.
6. Once you have added text to all the pictures you wish to – click on NEXT.
7. If you need to make changes, click on BACK.
8. At any time during your PS3 creation, if you wish to save the project – the button is at the bottom of your screen.

Next month: adding audio



I think that you will truly enjoy the variety of information and tools you will find on this month's SITE OF THE MONTH!

Melanie Lewis has put together a unique way of sharing her knowledge of internet tools and resources on her website.

Her filing cabinet is awesome!!

Her greeting is created by Gizmoz
<http://www.gizmoz.com/>
which is something you just might wish to check out yourself!

Have fun wandering her site. You will be glad you did!

Thank you, Melanie!

Melanie Lewis
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<http://www.melanielewis.org/>

Want to nominate a teacher site for next month's Teacher Site Review?

Please send an email to jlw@technospud.com with the teacher's name, school, and website address.

Please remember that:

1. The site needs to load quickly!
2. The site may not have any inappropriate ads.
3. The site cannot ask you for personal information nor have the need to download anything to view the site.
4. The site needs to have been updated within the last few months.
5. If graphics are used, an appropriate link of acknowledgement needs to be listed on the site somewhere.