

February Technology Newsletter

Cheers to an early spring! We look forward to seeing you in the coming weeks to celebrate all the amazing digital learning that is taking place in Colchester! It's not too late to reserve your tickets!

Get your tickets <http://bit.ly/CPSDLD20> today!

February 27th is **Digital Learning Day!**

Activities 5-7pm here at JJIS



Third Grade:

Students have begun their first inquiry research project in Google Classroom. After learning about open and closed questions, students selected three questions to further investigate based on importance, interest, and/or helpfulness. These questions will serve as a guide to help students investigate the topic of poverty using a “scholarly” source. Students identified a scholarly source with the help of the acronym JUNK (Just experts, Uses accurate information, Newly updated, and Keeps to the facts--unbiased). Students will use pebblegonext.com in the coming weeks to “construct knowledge” or gather information about the topic of poverty, as well as find answers to their questions.

Fourth Grade:

This month students focused on practicing how to answer a question using a scholarly source. This practice served as a stepping stone to aid in their Inquiry Research project based on “The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind.” In Google Classroom students were presented with a video to aid in taking notes, selected a topic they were interested in, generated a question that they wanted to investigate, and were given time to find an answer to their question. In an effort to evaluate their notes, students were given a rubric to conduct a self-evaluation and wrote a RACE response using their notes. Feedback and individualized support was

given to students, along with opportunities to revise their assignments. Students will then transfer these skills to complete their Inquiry Model assignment focusing on energy sources or recycling.

Fifth Grade:

This month, students are using their research findings to create a commercial to present their new learning. Students will review the process of finding images, looking at permissions to use, and citing images. We will be utilizing a fun tool called Animoto www.animoto.com to organize and create our commercials. Next month we will be connecting with real world problems in preparation for the 2020 JJIS Day of Service, more to come!

Digital Learning Day Links and Resources

In an effort to help you prepare for Digital Learning Day, please find links to the events hosted by JJIS below:

- Breakout boxes - Found in [Google Classroom](#) and <https://www.breakoutedu.com/learnmore>.
- Freckle Education - freckle.com
- Google Expeditions App
- Quivervision - <http://www.quivervision.com/>
- Rubik's Cube Mosaics and Speed League: <https://www.youcandothecube.com/>
- Tynker: Coding for kids - tynker.com

Problem-Solving Playdates

This month students worked within small groups to complete a "One Hundredth Day of School" challenge using a digital Breakout EDU box. In this digital challenge, students solved math related clues to figure out the combinations of four different locks. At the end of the challenge students reflected on the process, noting difficulties they encountered, and celebrated their successes. Feel free to learn more by visiting <https://www.breakoutedu.com/learnmore>.

Please find more information and artifacts on our website, jackjackterlibrary.com in the "Problem-Solving Playdates" tab.

Try Tynker For Coding

Over the last few weeks students have been participating in a trial version of tynker to practice coding activities based on their interest and grade level. To practice from home students can visit tynker.com, click “sign in,” select “student,” “sign in with Google,” and select their name. To track their progress students should click on Mrs. Johnson’s face and then click “start.” We have obtained a privacy policy from tynker ensuring that students are safely using this site.

Typing

In an effort to improve and strengthen their keyboarding skills, we encourage students to use typing.com. With your permission, students can click “Student Login” at the top right and then “Sign in with Google.”

We’re Going Digital!

As we progress into 2020 we would like to conserve paper and bring you these Technology newsletters in an exclusively digital format. We will continue to post these newsletters in the monthly JJIS Digital Backpack the third week of each month. You can also find archived copies of past newsletters on our website. Please note that this change will take effect January 20, 2020. If you prefer the hard copy, please feel free to email us, and we will be happy to honor your request. Thanks for your continued support!

How can I connect to JJIS to find additional information?

- Our **website**, jackjackterlibrary.com, has been **UPDATED!** See resources, access our library catalog, check out artifacts from our “Problem-Solving Playdates,” and read our “Technology Newsletters.”
- **Email us:** bajohnson@colchesterct.org or khebb@colchesterct.org
- Follow us on **twitter:** @technojohnson and @k_hebb to see what we’re doing in our classes!
- Subscribe to our **youtube channel** by visiting youtube.com/jjislmc to view learning events, Town Meetings, and other special activities taking place at JJIS.