

January Technology Newsletter

Happy 2020! We are thrilled to begin a new year filled with exciting opportunities, new challenges, and upcoming events that celebrate and inspire student learning!

SAVE THE DATE!

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

Activities 5-7pm here at JJIS



Third Grade:

Students began the new year by participating in a cooperative Scavenger Hunt to find and locate books throughout the library. Our focus for the remainder of this month will be on the global problem of *poverty*. Using [Stripling's Model of Inquiry](#), students made “connections” to consider what they already knew, as well as developed questions. As many students had little to no background knowledge on the topic of *poverty*, we engaged in some “presearch” or gathering of knowledge using a book called [Poverty and Hunger](#) by Louise Spilsbury. Students were then able to apply what they learned to brainstorm questions they were “wondering” about the topic. Students will learn about open vs. closed questions, categorize their own brainstormed questions, and then select a question from their list to investigate.

In the coming weeks students will use and identify [pebblegonext.com](#) as a “scholarly” source to “investigate” *poverty*, provide details to answer their question, and “construct” new knowledge about this global topic. [Pebblegonext.com](#) provides students with nonfiction text features to locate information, listen to content read aloud, and provides a dictionary to better understand the text.

Fourth Grade:

Students began the new year by listening to the story and [TED talk](#) entitled, "The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind" by William Kamkwamba. This story led to a discussion of themes, and students selected the one they were most passionate or interested in investigating. Students then learned about the "Question Formulation Technique," a strategy to support the generation of questions about a topic. Students categorized their questions as open vs. closed, analyzed their questions, and will select their top priority question(s).

In the coming weeks students will investigate their chosen question to find an answer using one or more scholarly source(s). Students will practice note-taking strategies and skills within a graphic organizer. This investigation will lead to the construction of new information that students will be able to express using a digital tool. Students will self-evaluate their research using a rubric to reflect on the information collected.

Fifth Grade:

Moving forward, students will be working with Primary Sources to utilize during research and becoming familiar with the Library of Congress FREE resources. <https://www.loc.gov/>

This month, students will investigate significant people, places, and events associated with their birthdays! They will then choose a single direction for their research and transition from Primary Sources at the Library of Congress to Secondary Sources on the internet. During research, we are focusing on effective note-taking, paraphrasing, and citing a variety of sources.

Problem-Solving Playdates

This month students will be working within small groups to solve clues to find a pirate treasure using a Breakout EDU box. In this pirate themed treasure hunt, students will solve math related clues to figure out the combinations of up to four different locks. At the end of the challenge students will reflect on the process, noting difficulties they encountered, and celebrating 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.