



Celeste F. Craig, B.S., Computer Technology Educator and Comprehensive Business Education
Kimball School, Concord, NH ccrai@csd.k12.nh.us <http://www.csd.k12.nh.us/~ccrai>

Kimball's New Computer Lab

By Celeste F. Craig, October, 2006

Thank you, merci, gracias, and спасибо to all those wonderfully talented individuals who helped put together Kimball's Computer Lab. Because of you, the lab was up and running in time for the start of school. I couldn't have done it without your assistance and support. For those who haven't had a chance to visit, the lab is centrally-located, just outside of the media center. The computers are easily accessible and convenient for all Kimball staff and students.

The lab was converted to IBM laptops which helped with the problems associated with space and overheating. We attached a mouse and keyboard to each laptop to support and assist students with learning technology while developing their keyboarding and motor skills. As an added benefit, laptops will last for much longer.

I have set-up and posted times that students are able to use the computers. Times are posted next to the door in the lab as well as with this article. If there is a computer available during a class, students are welcome to come in. I do, however, suggest checking with me beforehand. I encourage all students and staff to take advantage and sign up to do research or to work with the great software available in the district. Just remember...students are not allowed to use the computers without adult supervision.

Again, thank you all...come on in and enjoy the technology Kimball has to offer.

2006/2007 Computer Lab Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:50-8:30	Prep	Prep	Prep	Prep	Prep
8:35-9:20			Barry - 5	Becker - 5	
9:25-10:10			Jones - 3		Zipke - 4
10:15-11:00			Gfroerer - 3	Johnston - 1/2	Donovan - 2
11:05-11:50				Sullivan - 4	Reynolds - 3/4
11:55-12:55	Recess (11:55-12:25) & Lunch (12:25-12:55)	Recess (11:55-12:25) & Lunch (12:25-12:55)	Recess (11:55-12:25) & Lunch (12:25-12:55)	Recess (11:55-12:25) & Lunch (12:25-12:55)	Recess (11:55-12:25) & Lunch (12:25-12:55)
12:55-1:40			Richert - 2	McGahan - 1	Larochelle - 1
1:45-2:30					Smith - 1/2

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Going Ga-Ga for Google

By Carol S. Holzberg, August 15, 2006

<http://www.techlearning.com/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=191901608>

The word *google* is increasingly used by the general public as slang for *electronic search*, but [Google tools](#) do so much more. Popular Google products provide educators with instant access to the news (Google News); image search capabilities (Google Image); and handy maps (Google Maps). Here's a look at some of these resources.

Google Scholar: Scholar lets you hunt for articles, books, theses, abstracts, and more from a variety of sources. Search by author, title, publication, or category. Narrow your search by language and set up Library Links so it locates your item in the electronic catalog of a chosen online library. Best of all, you can find out who else has cited a particular source.

Google Calendar: Perfect for teachers, students, parents, and school administrators, Google Calendar can be accessed from any computer with an Internet connection—all you need is a Google account (registration is free). Share all or some of your calendar with others and decide if those who can view your calendar can also modify it.

Picasa 2: This free image enhancement toolkit and photo organizer locates images on your computer and organizes them into albums. Create captions, send images via e-mail, and ferry images to your Google blog by clicking the Picasa Blog This button.

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Going Ga-Ga for Google (cont...)

Google Video: Google Video lets you upload and share classroom videos. Here you'll find some educational gems such as Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech or an innovative reading of Maya Angelou's poem, "Still I Rise."

Google Spreadsheets: This free Web-based application sports a slimmed down Excel look. The spreadsheets you create can be saved for online access, renamed, or deleted. Once you've created and saved your Web-based spreadsheet, enter the e-mail addresses of those who have permission to see or edit.

See full article:

[TechLearning Article by Carol S. Holzberg, 8/15/2006](#)

How to Use Picasa for Student Creativity

Question: Is there anything better than free software?
Answer: Yes! That would be software that is not only free but is (a) incredibly powerful; (b) incredibly versatile; and (c) incredibly easy to use.

Does such a mind-blowing combination exist? Definitely! It's a marvelous piece of digital photo editing software called **Picasa**, available (it is now one of Google's offerings) as a no-cost, fully-featured download. You owe it to yourself to learn about this program. Start by visiting **Picasa** for an overview of what it can do. Then click on the link to download the program (currently for Windows 2000/XP and Linux systems only).

Anyone who shoots digital photographs has to love this program. It will find all of the digital folders you've stored on your hard drive and allow them to be displayed as a full-screen slide show. Even better, it allows you to organize and re-organize your photos, to edit them, to create photo-CDs, and more. If you enjoy photography you will certainly enjoy the many features of this program.

See full article:

[TechLearning Article by Amber Price, 9/1/2006](#)

Teacher Blogs Help Parents Keep in Touch

Teachers have begun to blog as a way of keeping in touch with parents. It takes just a few minutes to post a quick note about the day's science experiment or to share one of those "too good to miss" stories. Parents turn to these teacher blogs to get a glimpse into what the school day was like for their children. In some cases the blog becomes an active classroom community, with parents posting questions and comments on what the teacher has written. Teachers typically avoid identifying children, instead describing lessons that the class excelled at or struggled with, events like the arrival of a class pet and student reactions, and personal reflections. Teachers who are blogging in this informal way believe that letting parents know what's going on — the big and little events of each day or week — can help prevent misunderstandings and garner active parental support. Being aware of what went on at school helps parents engage their children in conversation. Knowing that a child is learning a new skill — like telling time — let's parents find natural ways to allow the child to practice the new skill or show off his or her accomplishments. If students participate in the class blog, teachers exercise caution and some control, both to protect privacy and to be sure that no online bullying takes place or inappropriate entries are posted. Some schools block comments or make blogs available only to member of the school community, via password.

See full article:

[Boston Globe Article by Maria Sacchetti, 9/7/2006](#)

Assistive Technology

Accoona

The Talking Search Bar combines search technology with a text-to-speech feature to enable users to highlight Internet text and have it read to them out loud. Useful for ELL students and children learning to read, the Talking Search Bar can convert any Web page into text. Users can choose to listen to a male or female voice.

www.accoona.com



Technology Dates to Remember

Wednesday, Oct. 4	Tech Workshop at Kimball (2:45-3:30)
Tuesday, Nov. 28- Thursday, Nov. 30	Christa McAuliffe Conf., Nashua Sheraton