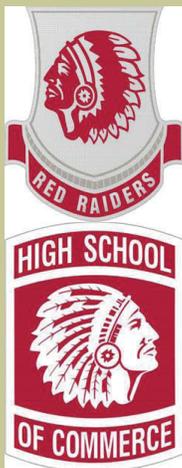


THE
HIGH
SCHOOL
OF
COMMERCE

Special points of interest:

- 10 full weeks of vacation!!!
- 10 full weeks of rejuvenation!!!
- 10 full weeks of trying to decide whether or not to sleep in or just take a nap in the heat of the afternoon in your nice, air conditioned bedroom!
- 10 full weeks of not hearing the latest catch-phrases in educational theory stated as if they were a mantra chanted by some Mahareshi who's holy intent (get it? Wholly intent? I kill myself sometimes :) on having you brainwashed and throwing rose petals on the streets in front of him and smoking those terrible smelling herbal cigarettes while some nutbar plays "Ravi Shankar's Greatest Sitar Hits" amid a veritable mushroom cloud of incense smoke.



Technology Tips

Volume 1, Issue 20

Tuesday, June 12, 2007

It's here!!!!

It's summer! The year has flown by and we're all about to go off on our respective ways toward whatever means of relaxation will help us be ready for the onslaught of the August PD offerings that signal the end to our holiday. It's the time of year when the people who are somewhat envious of folks in the teaching profession actually have the nerve to say things like, "It must be nice to get a full year's salary for only a half year's work." And it's the time of the year when we look the other way and say something like, "Yeah, right. I'll see you in September when you volunteer for the hall monitoring duty right outside the cafeteria for all 3 lunches."

That's the rub of it. People always seem to forget that job that teachers do. I'm not going to get into all the things that get mentioned by

the folks who are still disgruntled by the contract that we ratified this year. That would just be rehashing old arguments and opening old wounds that are unlikely ever to be entirely satisfied. So instead, I'm going to let you all know that throughout this final issue of the "Technology Tips" for the school year '06-'07, I'll be giving you the same quasi-witty banter and tips I've given you all year.

The first thing that must be mentioned is; the aforementioned blockheads who would say things like mentioned above were far less visible this year than in years past. I don't know but it seemed as if, after they stopped bashing Tim Collins

and how long his beard is (now there's really an issue for supposedly intelligent people to even contemplate considering how so many students come to school these days), they were surprisingly silent. Of course it might just be the fact that their tongues were stuck to the roofs of their mouths since they had too many peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for

lunch because they missed Clara Lee's "Family and Consumers Sciences" classes one too many times. Then again, it might be that the Deity above struck them dumb and will punish them further by having them mediate endless Rosie O'Donnell feuds with Donald Trump for all eternity while they watch the latest Jerry Springer episode of "I stole my brother's girlfriend and then married her sister".



The real reason for summer vacation...

They say that the reason we have summer vacation is simply the fact that the break gave people time to work in the fields and eventually harvest the crops. In our agrarian past, this may have been the fundamental reason for the break, however it's far more than that now. The real reason today is a good deal more complex than Mom and Pop getting Junior and his sister to gather the crops and work separating wheat from chaff as it were.

Many teens make a good deal of whatever money they have for college spending that's apart from anything resembling books or expenses during this period. High

School kids get their first taste of what it means to be a part of the working world. There are jobs working at restaurants and bars near places like the Cape, Hampton Beach, Salisbury, Ogunquit, and others that depend on the summer vacation tourist trade as it were. They are certainly a way for the uninitiated to have an experience they'll never forget. They get away from the home for eight weeks during the summer then they realize that working anywhere 10 hours a day is very difficult work. Ah, youth..

The fact is that summer is the ultimate payback for all the years of sacrifice and determination to see

our children succeed. If they happen to want to go to the beach and work at a restaurant or whatever, all the better. If we've done our jobs right, and most of us really do, we don't really have to worry too much about the fact that they'll be out of our sphere of influence for perhaps the first time their young lives. They're responsible enough. If not, they'll come home. However, for many of us it remains the first time in 18+ years that we've been able to have a nice romantic dinner with our significant others without having to wonder whether we have to make something along the lines of chicken nuggets and grilled cheese.

That's the real reason.



Yosemite Sam loves good barbecue.

“Always acknowledge a fault. This will throw those in authority off their guard and give you an opportunity to commit more.”

Mark Twain

10 really cool places to get summer food-(click the links for more info)

- 1) **Bubs Barbecue**– Nothing fancy here, but I'll say that you'll want to make sure you bring your appetite with you for the whole experience. Plenty of napkins and a casual attitude are in abundance here
- 2) **Danny's Little Taste of Texas**-this place has everything you'd want from a decent barbecue joint. The ribs (both pork and beef) are excellent. The sides are outstanding
- 3) **Holy Smokes**-This place is just too cool. The food is great, but watch out for the sweetened iced tea. It's southern style and will definitely give you a major sugar rush.
- 4) **The Big Mamou**-If you like Cajun cooking (and even if you don't) this place is for you. I'd advise the crab cakes to start.
- 5) **The White Hut**-Two burgers w/cheese and fried onions. One hot dog mustard and fried onions., Stewarts root beer
- 6) **Villa Napoletana**– wonderful Italian food. Great atmosphere if a bit small. Try the carbonara or the veal.
- 7) **Wiggins Tavern**– Perhaps the best brunch in the area. I like it over the Yankee Pedlar because of the beef and the eggs benedict.
- 8) **The Munich Haus**-This place has some of the best schnitzel and bratwurst I've ever had. You absolutely cannot go wrong with choosing to eat here.
- 9) **Peppa's Pizza**-great pizza place in East Longmeadow. Some of the specials are outstanding too
- 10) **Romito's**-East Longmeadow deli where the meats and cheeses are sliced right in front of you when your sandwich is made. Great salads as well.

So try these and when we get back, let me know what you think. Of course, if you have your own suggestions, please let me know.

Why are some of the things I need blocked???

Well...it's like this see...there are people who do very good things and some who do bad things...you get the picture. Anyway, the need to block out even the possibility of someone doing something that isn't appropriate for school is what we're looking at right now. The fact is, there are a few who spoil things for the larger part of the population here in the Springfield School district.

A good example of what I'm talking about has to do with YouTube and Google images. Both of these sites,

and or, searches are blocked by the district because of some of the objectionable content on them. Granted, it's considerably more difficult to get to this "objectionable" material on YouTube these days, considering they're policing themselves far more diligently than they were when they started business a few years back.

Searchable images on Google is another matter entirely. With a simple turn of phrase, students can find themselves in places they can't even begin to imagine and these kids have some fairly graphic imaginations when it comes to

image hunting (pardon the pun). It would seem that here, at the very least, the blocking is understandable. Though I don't agree, I can certainly understand the reasoning. There are even purely innocent ways where folks could be sent to sites where they do not want to be.

I would say that an increased awareness of certain restrictions should be a training and teachers/students should be made aware of the use of the sites on limited and controlled basis.

Where do we go from here????

This year has been a fairly impressive one for technology here at the HSC. We've done some wonderful work to make people aware of some of the resources that are available through the district and Commerce as well. Where we head from here is certainly all down to the vision we have for what we want to accomplish.

One of the things that I'd like to see a good deal more of when we get back is the use of the

school's area on the SPS web servers. I'd like to have the most user friendly and comprehensive web presence in the city. I already think our website is one of the better used sites within the public schools, I firmly believe that we can increase our web presence to be the leader and innovator in Springfield.

What that will require of people is for them to have their material for Classwork and expectations ready for upload to the web.

A couple of documents that we're supposed to have any way are; your expectation letter for parents (it's a contractual obligation anyway so having it isn't a hardship, a course syllabus, and maybe a picture of yourself. Pretty standard stuff to start with.



Boldly go...

I know it's a repeat, but it has some really good stuff to look at.

IStuff to check out this summer
(Click on the links.)

<u>The Louvre</u>	<u>Mount Rushmore</u>	<u>Buckingham Palace</u>	<u>The Smithsonian</u>
<u>The Library of Congress</u>	<u>The Victoria & Albert Museum</u>	<u>New York City</u>	<u>The San Diego Zoo</u>
<u>Cape Cod</u>	<u>Philadelphia, PA</u>	<u>Nashville, TN</u>	<u>The Metropolitan Museum</u>
<u>The Boston Science Museum</u>	<u>Mystic Seaport</u>	<u>Newport, RI</u>	<u>Maine Barbecue Championship</u>
<u>The Great Wall of China</u>	<u>The Parthenon</u>	<u>Rome, Italy</u>	<u>The Great Pyramid at Giza</u>
<u>Stonehenge</u>	<u>Easter Island</u>	<u>Machu Pichu</u>	<u>Great Barrier Reef</u>



And so gentle readers...

I'd just like to take the time to say to the folks here at the good ol' HSofC, it's been a wonderful year working with you. There's not too many places that are so very welcoming and very open to the possibility of new things. You've helped me restore some of the faith I needed to bring me back to the point I'm at right now. You say, "where's that Ed?"

Every time I've been asked how I'm doing in my new position here at Commerce, I actually have a

stock reply now. "I've fallen into a pot of gold here. I don't think I could have gotten a better deal than I have here with this group of folks".

This year has been great and I'm looking forward to coming



back in the fall with renewed enthusiasm and direction.



Have a healthy and safe summer.

Ed Musiak



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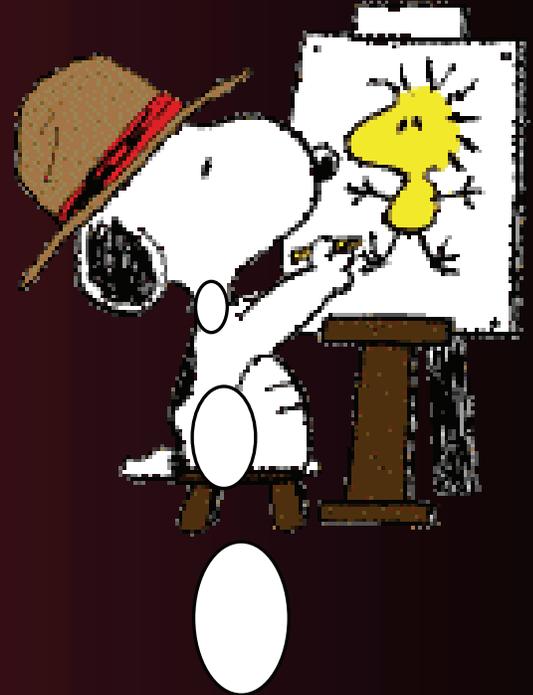
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Life Lessons in Comics