



Technology Tips

Volume 1, Issue 7

November 27, 2006

The High School of Commerce

Did You Know:

- * The HSC Calendar Page at our web site is up and running. Check it out for all the latest activities.
- * There is a new round of Friday morning trainings beginning in January. Topics covered will be: WORD, POWERPOINT, EXCEL, ACCESS, INTRO TO PC's, and WEB DEVELOPMENT. Sign up ASAP as the workshops are filling up very quickly.
- * I need your help!!! While the Links Page of our website is very cool (See the article), there are areas where we can all help out putting together resources. One example is the Foreign Languages resource page. It doesn't have any links on it yet. I'd love to have it filled up with links to websites FL teachers use. This will be a big help in making it easier to navigate around the web for teachers and students simply by going to the HSC website.

The HSC Website!!!

Were you aware that the High School of Commerce's website has features that can be informative and pretty darned useful for teachers, students and families? It's true! We have available a number of links that will be very helpful in the next couple of months. Let's look at a few of them.

Administration

These pages are sort of an introduction to each of our administrators with their contact information and messages for their respective classes and the High School of Commerce community in general. These will be complete by Christmas Break.

Calendar

It's taken a while to get

things moving, but because of the work of Captain Koziara, Mrs. Mason, and Mrs. Begley-Musiak, the information we need about all the goings on at the school is posted for everyone to see 24/7/365.

Faculty

There are only two persons who have pages up right now, but with a bunch of folks that I've spoken to designing their sites even as we speak, more should be available soon.

Having a page up can do many things for your ability to communicate with your students. I generally say that you should keep it sim-



The long and winding road

ple at first by linking documents with your class's assignments due, your expectations, and all the other stuff you want to communicate by hyperlink. It's easier on you that way. Using this method, all you have to do is update the document and repost it to the web if you need to. Think of it!!! You can avoid all the "But Mister, I didn't know what the assignment was" or "Mister, my backpack got robbed".

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The Holiday Season is upon us!!!!

It's amazing that we've come this far in the year already isn't it? Who woulda thunk it??? Anyway...

This is just to let you know about some of the really cool and inexpensive gifts (technology wise) that teachers can really utilize in the classroom or everyday life to make things go a little bit smoother with technology use.

- **Flash Drives**-you can get them for as little as \$15. They're what's replacing the floppy disk because they're so handy.
- **Memory**-how many of us need more? Wait. I'm talking about computer memory here. This is just a small sample of the things that are available for the teacher or student on your list. Have fun and remember what the season is all about.
- **Wireless Routers and cards**-less than \$100 and you could have a wireless network in your home. If you already have the wireless card, the routers can be as little as \$29.

Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus

By

Francis P. Church, first published in The New York Sun in 1897. [See The People's Almanac, pp. 1358–9.]

We take pleasure in answering thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun:

Dear Editor—

I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in The Sun, it's

so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect as com-

pared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be

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The HSC Website!!!

Links

This is probably the most important area on the site. From here we have links to a range of absolutely necessary tools for teachers and students, not to mention some that are just very cool to actually have access to. Some of these links include: TV station web pages for information in inclement weather,

PVTA bus schedules, content area links for students and teachers, an area specifically for teachers and the sorts of concerns we might have in using some of the technology we have available to us.

**"I will honor Christmas in my heart
and try to keep it all the year"**

*Ebenezer Scrooge
Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol*

Of course there are many more areas of the site that are valuable, the Library's Pages being one such area, that are also out there for us to use. I understand that it's difficult to use technology that's not as reliable as we'd like it to be, but the fact is, we're growing and moving despite what some would see

And so gentle reader... (just a little fun now)

You know people who editorialize in articles like this generally give you some serious kind of fluff and talk about how the holidays are generally a time when we should be waxing rhapsodic about "peace on earth" and "good will toward men". I'm not going to do that. I'll just tell it like it is from a technological vantage point thank you very much (BTW-the station and it's sponsors don't necessarily endorse the rant you are about to read. Although, I'm sure they would if they could get away with it ;)).



Let me say that (and you can quote me here), "I love Christmas". I really do. What I don't like is the little old lady with the blue hair that stepped in front of me as I was getting

ready to walk into the check out where I had been standing in line for the last 3 hours because I didn't use E-Bay to buy my little niece a "Tickle Me Elmo in THX Surround Sound".

Or how about that bundle of holiday cheer that absolutely has to go through the red light they simply thought was a suggestion to stop, making you slam on your ABS brakes and wonder (ever so briefly) whether your head really is as hard as a rock before your nifty new side airbags deploy just in the nick of time.

While I really do love the music of the holidays, I don't know how many more times I can stand hearing those stupid dogs bark out "Jingle Bells" on a cell phone ring tone or even remotely tolerate that warm and fuzzy little ditty titled

"Grandma Got Run Over By A Reindeer" (although as Angie Scarfe remarked about Shakespeare's "Hamlet", it does have a fairly impressive body count, even if it is only one) as an MP3 on some unseeable device that can be heard at least 40 feet and two floors away. .

Finally, when our commercialized gluttony has finally choked us up to the point where we realize that another rainforest has been cut down to produce all those credit card bills and give our poor misunderstood letter carrying postal workers incurable back pain from the strain of it all, maybe then we'll realize we should have been using e-mail all along.

Happy Holidays

Ed Musiak

Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus

no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The external light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might



as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives

and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

About the Exchange

Francis P. Church's editorial, "Yes Virginia, There is a Santa Claus" was an immediate sensation, and went on to become one of the most famous editorials ever written. It first appeared in the New York Sun in 1897, almost a hundred years ago, and was reprinted annually until 1949 when the paper went out of business.

Thirty-six years after her letter was printed, Virginia O'Hanlon recalled the events that prompted her letter:

"Quite naturally I believed in Santa Claus, for he had never disappointed me.

"Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas"

Calvin Coolidge

But when less fortunate little boys and girls said there wasn't any Santa Claus, I was filled with doubts. I asked my father, and he was a little evasive on the subject.

"It was a habit in our family that whenever any doubts came up as to how to pronounce a word or some question of historical fact was in doubt, we wrote to the Question and Answer column in The Sun. Father would always say, 'If you see it in the The Sun, it's so,' and that settled the matter.

"Well, I'm just going to write The Sun and find out the real truth,' I said to father.

"He said, 'Go ahead, Virginia. I'm sure The Sun will give you the right answer, as it always does.'"

And so Virginia sat down and wrote her parents' favorite newspaper.

Her letter found its way into the hands of

a veteran editor, Francis P. Church. Son of a Baptist minister, Church had covered the Civil War for The New York Times and had worked on the The New York Sun for 20 years, more recently as an anonymous editorial writer. Church, a sardonic man, had for his personal motto, "Endeavour to clear your mind of cant." When controversial subjects had to be tackled on the editorial page, especially those dealing with theology, the assignments were usually given to Church.

Now, he had in his hands a little girl's letter on a most controversial matter, and he was burdened with the responsibility of answering it.

"Is there a Santa Claus?" the childish scrawl in the letter asked. At once, Church knew that there was no avoiding the question. He must answer, and he must answer truthfully. And so he turned to his desk, and he began his reply which was to become one of the most memorable editorials in newspaper history.

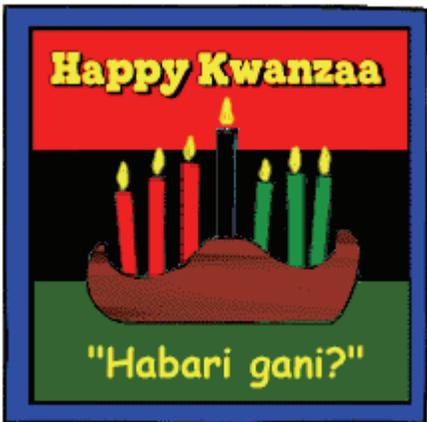
Church married shortly after the editorial appeared. He died in April, 1906, leaving no children.

Virginia O'Hanlon went on to graduate from Hunter College with a Bachelor of Arts degree at age 21. The following year she received her Master's from Columbia, and in 1912 she began teaching in the New York City school system, later becoming a principal. After 47 years, she retired as an educator. Throughout her life she received a steady stream of mail about her Santa Claus letter, and to each reply she attached an attractive printed copy of the Church editorial. Virginia O'Hanlon Douglas died on May 13, 1971, at the age of 81, in a nursing home in Valatie, N.Y.

The High School of Commerce



Comic Relief



The very best to you and yours.

Have a safe and healthy holiday!