

90 Days of Summer

A daily dose of special education technology professional development. This summer, spend 10-20 minutes a day exploring new ideas, skills, and resources. This daily guide can also be accessed online: <http://www.setp.net/summer/90days.html>.



By Dave Edyburn

June 1 Data Management

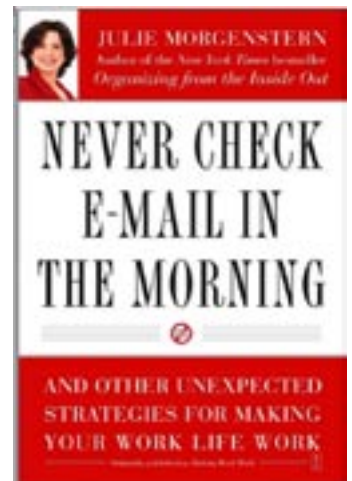
Admit it: Every computer you use has a different set of favorite web sites bookmarked and you can never find what you are looking for! Take the first step in getting organized this summer: Explore the use of a bookmark manager for storing and sharing your bookmarks. To review the many tools and services, start here: http://dmoz.org/Computers/Internet/On_the_Web/Web_Applications/Bookmark_Managers/

June 2 Just for Kids

SparkTop (<http://www.sparktop.org>) is a web site sponsored by the Schwab Learning Foundation as a gathering place for students with learning differences to create, talk with others, play games, and discover new ways to be successful. A valuable resource to share with every student as they look forward to summer vacation.

June 3 Summer Reading

As the school year draws to a close, does your work/life balance seem a bit unbalanced? Locate the following book for inspiration and reorganizing ideas: *Never Check E-mail in the Morning: And Other Unexpected Strategies for Making Your Work Life Work* by Julie Morgenstern [2005, NY: Fireside, ISBN 0-7432-5088-5].



90 Days of Summer

June 4 Instructional Strategies: Graphic Organizers

Graphic organizers are valuable tools for students as they plan their writing or process what they have read. Explore the options for expanding the use of graphic organizers in your classroom. Consider ready-to-use graphic organizers (<http://www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer/>) when trying to teach students a particular organizational pattern. Consider commercial tools like DraftBuilder (<http://www.donjohnston.com>), Inspiration/Kidspiration (<http://www.inspiration.com>), or shareware products like Cmap (<http://cmap.ihmc.us/>) when you want students to create their own organizer. To get the most out of your tools, learn more about the research on the effectiveness of graphic organizers (http://www.cast.org/publications/ncac/ncac_go.html).

June 5 Data: School Matters

As a result of national accountability efforts, data are readily available for making comparisons about states, districts, and individual schools. Visit School Matters (<http://www.schoolmatters.com/>) to explore a rich data archive of achievement and demographic data. What can you learn about the performance profile of your school?

June 6 Product Exploration: BookBox

Do you work with students that struggle in reading? Explore BookBox (<http://www.bookbox.com/>) a web-based jukebox of digital books. Select stories in one of 18 languages and experience the book with synchronized text, audio, and visuals.

June 7 Data Management

Many teachers and professionals find themselves working both at home and at school. As a result, portable USB drives (also known as “thumb drives”) are essential tools for saving files to carry to and from school. If you don’t already own a flash drive, read a review about some of the leading products. (<http://arstechnica.com/reviews/hardware/flash2005.ars>). Then, visit your local office supply or technology store or shop online (<http://www.supermediastore.com/usb-flash-drive-usb-pen-drive.html>) to buy a portable flash drive and begin organizing your computer files. If you already own a flash drive, take a look at the top ten weirdest USB drives (<http://gadgets.fosfor.se/the-top-10-weirdest-usb-drives-ever/>).

June 8 Productivity: Word Processing

Besides email and web browsing, the word processor is the most common computer application for most children and adults. Take some time to review a tutorial on your favorite word processor and see if you can pick up a tip or two for enhancing your productivity (<http://www.2learn.ca/teachertools/Wordprocessing/wphow2.html>).

June 9 Digital Cameras (Part 1)

Interested in purchasing a digital camera this summer? Start by learning the basics (<http://www.digitalcamerabasics.com/>) and exploring the many options and features that are available. If you already have a camera, learn more about taking quality pictures (<http://www.kodak.com/eknec/PageQuerier.jhtml?pq-path=38>).

June 10 Digital Cameras (Part 2)

Once you have mastered the art of taking digital pictures, you will want to learn more about printing selected shots and creating online albums to share pictures with family and friends. Learn more about how to upload your pictures and share them with others (<http://www.digitalphotos101.com/>). Be sure to explore several leading photo exchange services like ShutterFly (<http://www.shutterfly.com/>), SmugMug (<http://www.smugmug.com/>) and Snapfish (<http://www.snapfish.com/>).

90 Days of Summer

June 11 Just for Kids

Cool Spots for Kids (<http://www.4kids.org/coolspots/>) is an awesome collection of web sites that appeal to kids of all ages. Perfect for that rainy summer day!

June 12 Make and Take

Casa Notes (<http://casanotes.4teachers.org/>) features a variety of templates that teachers use to create 12 types of notes to send to parents (thank you, field trip permission form, etc.). Create and print notes within minutes. Notes may be printed in English or Spanish.

June 13 Web Accessibility (Part 1)

To understand the need for web accessibility, experience a simulation designed by WebAIM to test your ability to navigate an inaccessible web environment (<http://www.webaim.org/simulations/>).



June 14 Web Accessibility (Part 2)

Take a free, online, noncredit course, Web Accessibility 101, created by the University of Wisconsin (<http://www.doit.wisc.edu/accessibility/online-course/index.htm>) for its employees. Don't have time for a course? Review the following fast facts for an introduction to key principles of web accessibility (http://ada.osu.edu/resources/fastfacts/Web_Content_Accessible_to_All.htm).

June 15 Web Accessibility (Part 3)

Once you are committed to advocating for the creation of accessible web sites, you will want to gather some tools that check and validate accessibility. Some tools to explore include: Ten quick tests for web site accessibility (<http://www.webcredible.co.uk/user-friendly-resources/web-accessibility/testing-web-accessibility.shtml>), WebAIM Products and Tools (<http://www.webaim.org/products/>).

June 16 Product Exploration: netTrekker d.i.

Visit NetTrekker (<http://nettrekker.com/di/index.html>) and sign up for a free trial subscription to this amazing resource that provides searchable tools for locating web sites by academic content, reading level, and curriculum standard. An essential tool for anyone involved in differentiated instruction or curriculum modifications.

June 17 Productivity: Screen Capture

Screen capture software tools should be part of every professional's toolkit. Download shareware tools (for Macintosh) Snapz Pro X (<http://www.versiontracker.com/dyn/moreinfo/macosx/11530>), (for Windows) SnagIt (<http://www.versiontracker.com/dyn/moreinfo/win/23703>) and learn how you can capture portions of your screen and insert the images into handouts, PowerPoint, and more.

90 Days of Summer

June 18 Digital Cameras and Movie Making

Most digital cameras allow users to capture short motion videos. Resolve this summer to learn how to make short movies. Explore the following movie making web sites to gain the necessary how-to skills: <http://www.educ.ttu.edu/howto/dv/digitalmoviemaking.html>, http://www.town4kids.com/town4kids/kids/digitalmedia/movie-making/movie_main.htm, <http://www.adobe.com/education/digkids/lessons/index.html>.



June 19 Summer Reading

Spice up your summer with a digital book. Visit Audible.com (<http://www.audible.com>) and purchase a audio book to listen to in the car, while you are out walking, or lounging at the beach. Consider how your students will react to an assignment involving audio books.

June 20 Product Exploration: Key to Access

Explore the new product, Key to Access (<http://www.premier-programming.com/>). This portable USB MP3 player features eight different accessibility products. This means students can carry their assistive technology with them everywhere and use their tools on any Windows computer. How might this type of product impact assistive technology service delivery systems?

June 21 Capacity Building

Visit Closing the Gap (<http://www.closingthegap.com/>) and sign up for a free trial subscription to Solutions. Explore the online database of assistive technology products and access past issues of articles that appeared in the Closing the Gap newspaper.

June 22 Productivity: PowerPoint

Take some time to today to brush up your skills in PowerPoint or a similar presentation software program. Visit the following tutorial and see if you can pick up a tip or two (<http://www.2learn.ca/teacher-tools/multimedia/multimediatools.html>).

June 23 Data: Education Counts

Education Counts is a national database (<http://www.edweek.org/rc/edcounts/>) that provides information on more than 250 state-level indicators of K-12 education. View data by using the custom table builder and see comparisons of key indicators. An amazing tool for accessing current data about the state of education.

June 24 Make and Take

TrackStar (<http://trackstar.4teachers.org>) is a free service that allows teachers and students to make Tracks (specialized web pages). Enter a topic of interest and explore the Tracks that other teachers and students have developed. After you get a feel for how TrackStar can be used, consider making a Track to use next Fall. Once you have gathered the links for your Track, the TrackStar wizard will allow you to make your own Track, with no programming experience required, in less than 30 minutes.

90 Days of Summer

June 25 Resources for Parents

Spend a few minutes today gathering resources for parents to answer questions they may have about assistive technology. Some useful places to begin exploring include: The Family Center on Technology and Disability (<http://www.fctd.info/>), Family Village (<http://www.familyvillage.wisc.edu/>), and the Alliance for Technology Access (<http://www.ataccess.org/>).

June 26 Productivity: Search Engines

Search engines have revolutionized the process of searching for information. Visit the Google Help Center (<http://www.google.com/support/>) and explore their suggestions for industrial strength online searching. Already a search wizard? Then, explore the next generation of Google search tools and products (<http://www.google.com/intl/en/options/>).

June 27 Remediation vs. Compensation

How do we know when a child is unable to complete a task and is in need of assistive technology? Explore a question so deeply embedded in the assistive technology consideration process it is seldom asked (<http://www.connsensebulletin.com/edyburnv4n3.html>).

June 28 Special Education Technology Journals

A series of studies about the special education technology literature discovered that the field has a core group of journals. Take a look at the core journals of our profession and consider a subscription to these essential resources: Journal of Special Education Technology (<http://jset.unlv.edu>), Assistive Technology Outcomes and Benefits (<http://www.atia.org/atob/ATOBWeb/index.htm>), Closing the Gap (<http://www.closingthegap.com>), and Special Education Technology Practice (<http://www.setp.net>).

June 29 Free Wi-Fi

As wireless Internet access continues to develop, we often become spoiled when traveling to a location that does not provide access. Spend some time today searching Wi-Fi-FreeSpot (<http://www.wifi-freespot.com/>) to identify where you can obtain free wireless Internet access in your community or vacation spot. Also, use Google or Wikipedia to answer the question: What is wardriving?

June 30 Free Assistive Technology

While cost is not supposed to be a consideration in the provision of assistive technology devices, sometimes it is a barrier. Today, visit: The DRM WebWatcher's list of Assistive Technology Shareware, Freeware, and Demos (<http://www.disabilityresources.org/AT-SHAREWARE.html>) to explore the options for free and inexpensive assistive technology.



July 1 Privacy

Technology advances continue to erode the boundaries of privacy. Visit the Center for Democracy and Technology (<http://www.cdt.org/>) and read about some of the current hot button issues such as spyware, encryption, data mining, digital copyright, and more.

90 Days of Summer

July 2 Book Shopping Engines

Most technology-savvy professionals know how to access Amazon.com when they are searching for a book. However, did you know that once you know the title and author of a book you want, you can use specialized search engines to find the best price? Explore the use of Best Book Buys (<http://www.bestwebbuys.com/books/>) to find the best online price of a book you want to read this summer. Consider the use of this tool to help a returning college student save some money on their fall textbook bill.

July 3 Product Exploration: Bookshare.org

Bookshare.org (<http://www.bookshare.org>) is a national clearinghouse for the distribution of copyrighted material to individuals with print disabilities. Review the membership requirements and services and consider whether or not this service would benefit any student you will work with during the upcoming school year.

July 4 Dangerous Ideas

In celebration of our freedom of the press, spend some time today reading the responses of 100 leading thinkers to the question, "What is your dangerous idea?" (http://www.edge.org/q2006/q06_index.html). Provocative reading.

July 5 NIMAS

The National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS) became federal law in July 2005 and will go into effect in July 2007. NIMAS is designed to facilitate digital access to instructional materials for students with disabilities. Learn more by visiting the NIMAS web site (<http://nimas.cast.org>).



July 6 Product Exploration: Wiki Textbooks

Wikipedia is a revolutionary online reference tool that has been created through the contributions of individuals throughout the world. Consider how this large scale experiment in open source publishing has potential to impact schools in the form of WikiBooks, open-content textbooks (http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Main_Page).

July 7 Product Exploration: Read, Write, Think

Developed in conjunction with the National Council of Teachers of English and the International Reading Association, Read, Write, Think (<http://www.readwritethink.org>) is an awesome collection of tools and resources. Explore the variety of student activities and identify resources you will use next school year.

July 8 Assistive Technology Planner

Few resources are available to assist the collaborative work of assistive technology teams. The National Assistive Technology Research Institute has sought to fill this void in a series of new products known as the Assistive Technology Planner. Explore the free online components for teachers, families, and administrators (<http://natri.uky.edu/atPlannermenu.html>) and the link to purchase print materials.

90 Days of Summer

July 9 Productivity: Excel

Some professionals use a spreadsheet daily and others seldom use them. Which are you? Review the possibilities and pick up a tip or two on how spreadsheets can bolster your information management skills (<http://www.2learn.ca/teachertools/spreadsheet/spreadsheettools.html>).

July 10 Consumer of Research

With the increased emphasis on research-based practices, how well prepared are you for your role as a consumer of special education technology research? Sharpen your skills by downloading and reading the article: How to read a special education technology research article (<http://www.uwm.edu/~edyburn/JSETv20n2RP.pdf>).

July 11 Product Exploration: Visual Thesaurus

Strong vocabulary skills are a critical for the development of effective readers. Explore Visual Thesaurus (<http://www.visualthesaurus.com>) available online as a subscription or as stand-alone software. How might this tool motivate and engage your students as they build background knowledge and skills in reading and writing?



July 12 How to Set up a Home Network

If you have more than one computer at home, a home network can be a valuable addition to family productivity. Setting up a home computer is increasingly easy for interested do-it-yourselfers. Explore the possibilities in a series of articles, How home networking works (<http://computer.howstuff-works.com/home-network.htm>).

July 13 Locating Research (Part 1)

CARET (<http://caret.iste.org>) is a special project of the International Society of Technology in Education to make research accessible and useful for technology specialists and educational leaders. Browse the database by topic and simply select key questions that interest you to obtain well-written summaries of the research that addresses the key question you posed.

July 14 Locating Research (Part 2)

A new book provides a timely analysis of the special education technology knowledge base. The *Handbook of Special Education Technology Research and Practice* features contributions by over 80 well-known authors on 43 topics. Access the table of contents and published reviews (<http://www.knowledge-by-design.com>). An essential desk reference for educational leaders, graduate students, grant writers, and anyone interest in the evidence base supporting special education technology.

July 15 Product Exploration: News Map, 10 by 10

While the newspaper has been the traditional teaching tool for current events, new tools are emerging that have particular application for struggling students. Visit News Map (<http://www.tenbyten.org/10x10.html>) to see the top 100 images associated with current news stories each hour. Click on an image to connect to the breaking news story.

90 Days of Summer

July 16 What's a Podcast?

Podcasting is one of the hottest trends in educational technology. To learn about what you are missing, to get started listening to podcasts, or how to create your own podcasts, visit: Podcasting: All You Need to Know (<http://students.washington.edu/lchiac/podcasting/introduction.htm>).

July 17 Product Exploration: Access Control Panels

Spend some time today brushing up on your knowledge of the Accessibility Control Panels in your Macintosh (<http://www.apple.com/education/accessibility/technology/>) or Windows XP computer (http://www.microsoft.com/resources/documentation/windows/xp/all/proddocs/en-us/access_cpanel_overview.mspx?mfr=true).



July 18 Book to Read: Teaching Every Student in the Digital Age

Universal Design for Learning is a paradigm that has captured the imagination of educational leaders. Read this online book for the first time or reread it to fully appreciate the value of this innovative instructional design strategy (<http://www.cast.org/teachingeverystudent/ideas/tes/>).

July 19 Curriculum Modification Starting Points

Do you have a core set of bookmarks or favorite web sites that you use when searching for instructional materials to expand access to the curriculum beyond the textbooks? Today, explore the following starting points: Kathy Schrock's Guide for Educators (<http://school.discovery.com/schrockguide/>), 4 Teachers (<http://4teachers.org/>), eduScapes (<http://eduscapes.com/>), and MarcoPolo (<http://www.marcopolo-education.org/>).

July 20 Make and Take: Text to MP3

Converting print into speech is an important application for students with disabilities who do not have grade level reading skills. Explore free utility software that will allow you to enter text and then save the information in an MP3 format so that students can listen to the text on most portable CD players. For Windows computers download, Text Aloud (<http://www.nextup.com>), for Macintosh computers download Audiobook Studio (<http://mac.softpedia.com/get/Audio/Audio-book-Studio.shtml>).

July 21 Learn About Progress Monitoring

Progress Monitoring is an important educational innovation that seeks to use student performance data for informing decisions about instruction. Learn more by visiting the National Center on Student Progress Monitoring (<http://www.studentprogress.org/>) and the Research Institute on Progress Monitoring (<http://www.progressmonitoring.net/>).

July 22 Getting Organized

It's midsummer. Have you finished the organizational makeover we started in early June? We didn't think so... Today, take a look at some software products that facilitate storage and organization of a variety of information artifacts: Download the 30-day evaluation copies and give them a test drive. If you have a Windows computer, check out EverNote (<http://www.evernote.com/en/products/evernote/>), and if you have a Macintosh computer, check out NoteTaker (<http://www.aquaminds.com/product.jsp>).

90 Days of Summer

July 23 Movie Trailers and Clips

Explore both ends of the movie making spectrum today. Begin by checking out movie trailers of forthcoming commercial movies at Apple – Movie Trailers (<http://www.apple.com/trailers/>). Then, check out YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/>), the latest craze for showcasing your own homemade videos.

July 24 How to Create a Blog

Everyone has a blog. What's that, you don't? The following two web sites will help you understand why you want a blog and how to get your blog started in only a few minutes: Blogger (<http://www.blogger.com/>) Movable Type (<http://www.sixapart.com/movabletype/>).

July 25 Measuring the Outcomes of Assistive Technology (Part 1)

Read one of the following online articles from a series on measuring the outcomes of assistive technology in reading (<http://jset.unlv.edu/19.1/asseds/edyburn.html>), writing (<http://jset.unlv.edu/18.2/asseds/edyburn.html>), and math (<http://jset.unlv.edu/18.4/asseds/edyburn.html>).

July 26 Measuring the Outcomes of Assistive Technology (Part 2)

While many assistive technology teams seek to gather outcome data, it can be difficult to determine where to begin. Download and read the article, "Evaluate Performance With and Without Technology," (<http://www.macul.org/site/files/js06evaluatea.pdf>) to discover one method for collecting and evaluating evidence of technology-enhanced performance.

July 27 Summer Reading

Visit a local bookstore and order the book, *How to Teach Students Who Don't Look Like You* (Davis, B.M., Corwin Press, ISBN: 1412924472). This book will build your repertoire of culturally relevant instructional strategies and help you address critical issues that contribute to the achievement gap.

July 28 Generating Text

Who said everyone needs to use the same word processor? Anticipate the academic diversity in your classroom next fall as you explore the following tools for generating text: Clicker 5 (<http://www.cricksoft.com/>), Picture It (<http://www.slatersoftware.com/>), Scholastic Keys (<http://www.tomsnyder.com/>), CoWriter Solo (<http://www.donjohnston.com/>), and iDictate (<http://www.idictate.com/>).



July 29 Product Exploration: Google Earth

Google Earth (<http://earth.google.com/>) is an amazing application that connects satellite images with street maps. Enter a street address then zoom in from a view in space down to a street level view. Requires Windows XP or Macintosh X to download the large application files.

90 Days of Summer

July 30 What Have We Learned Lately?

Since the ERIC System was restructured, it is very difficult to access indexes of recently published professional literature. Explore Edyburn's annual review of the literature and see how he answers the question, What have we learned lately? (<http://www.uwm.edu/~edyburn/what.html>).

July 31 High Stakes Testing and Students with Disabilities

As schools struggle to meet annual AYP goals, increased emphasis is focused on students with disabilities and their participation in high-stakes testing. Today, explore the Toolkit on Teaching and Assessing Students with Disabilities (<http://www.osepideasthatwork.org/toolkit/>) created by the U.S. Department of Education.



August 1 Text Modifications

Efforts to help students gain access to the curriculum must focus on gaining access to text. To begin exploring the options for your students, download and read the article, "Text Modifications" (<http://www.setp.net/pdf/TextModifications.pdf>).

August 2 Creative Commons

Creative Commons (<http://creativecommons.org/>) is a nonprofit organization devoted to the development of a range of legal and flexible copyright licenses. Today, explore the issues and the options.

August 3 Instructional Strategies: Math

Brush up on your instructional strategies for teaching math this fall. Visit the Access Center and explore their math resource collection (http://www.k8accesscenter.org/training_resources/math.asp).

August 4 Summer Reading

Looking for a book to read during the dog days of summer? Visit your local bookstore or use your online book shopping skills to locate Christopher Moersch's latest book, *Beyond Hardware: Using Existing Technology to Promote Higher-level Thinking* (ISTE, ISBN: 1-56484-193-6).

August 5 CoTeaching Strategies and Resources

CoTeaching involves two teachers working together to enhance learning for all students. Learn more about the research on this instructional strategy and access resources to facilitate the process (<http://research.nichcy.org/MetaAnalysis.asp?ID=103>). Consider how co-teaching models could be used by technology specialists teaming with classroom teachers.

90 Days of Summer

August 6 Tomlinson's Equalizers

In her book, *The Differentiated Classroom: Responding to the Needs of All Learners*, Carol Ann Tomlinson outlines the concept of equalizers as a means of thinking about how to differentiate instruction. Learn more about about the concept of equalizers by downloading and reading the short document at (<http://sddial.org/esa/doc/teachers/DiffInstruc/equalizer.pdf>). How might this design strategy be used to help your students?

August 7 Product Exploration: Thinking Reader

Thinking Reader is a remarkable product that provides supports for all students and offers a glimpse of the potential of universal design for learning. Read more about this product and request a free sample CD (<http://www.tomsnyder.com/products/product.asp?SKU=THITHI>) so that you can try it out with an individual student.

August 8 Instructional Strategies: Science

To locate outstanding web sites, visit Blue Web'n (<http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/bluewebn/>). Today, use the search tools to focus on science and locate materials for your classroom by content area, subject area, or grade level. This is an online library you will want to bookmark!

August 9 What is Fair?

Many adults mistakenly believe that fair means everyone receives the same thing. Unfortunately, this means we are functioning at the same level as a kindergarten student! Read the following online article: Responding to Student Concerns about Fairness, (<http://www.powerof2.org/cgi-wrap/powerof2/feature/index.php?id=101>). Could your entire staff benefit from reading and discussing this article?

August 10 EPIC 2014

Today's learning activity features time travel. View the online streaming video EPIC 2014 (<http://epic.makingithappen.co.uk/>). Is this scenario a believable view of the future? What might this scenario mean for the students you teach?

August 11 Self-Advocacy for Technology

Students with disabilities are increasingly taught to advocate for their needs. Today, explore the concept of self-advocacy and assistive technology. The Arizona Center for Disability Law (<http://www.acdl.com/selfguides.html>) provides a series of free downloadable booklets to assist in self-advocacy training.

August 12 Summer Reading

As the end of summer comes into view, a sense of urgency may cause us to reevaluate the pile of book we intend to finish reading. Make sure your next book is exactly what you want. Visit: Overbooked: A Resource for Readers (<http://www.overbooked.org/>) to find the perfect book.



90 Days of Summer

August 13 Troubleshooting

Every professional should have some basic troubleshooting knowledge to minimize problems with their technology tools. Today, explore some brief step-by-step technology tutorials (http://www.education-world.com/a_tech/archives/techtutorials.shtml) and sharpen your troubleshooting skills.

August 14 Professional Organizations

Do you belong to a professional organization that focuses on technology and disability? If not, spend some time today exploring the membership benefits and eligibility requirements of the following organizations: Technology and Media (TAM) Division of the Council for Exceptional Children (<http://www.tamcec.org/>), Special Education Technology Special Interest Group (SETSIG) of the International Society of Technology in Education (<http://www.iste.org/setsig/>), Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA) (<http://www.atia.org>), RESNA (<http://www.resna.org>), National Assistive Technology In Education Network (NATE) (<http://natenetwork.buffalo.edu/>), and the Alliance for Technology Access (ATA) (<http://www.ataccess.org/>).



August 15 Thinking About Homework

The Schwab Learning Foundation has created a free booklet that can be downloaded from their web site, *25 Top tips for Handling Homework* (<http://www.schwablearning.org/articles.asp?r=858>). Download the booklet and read it over. Is this something you will share with parents this fall? Any ideas on how you might modify your homework practices to take the hassle out of homework?

August 16 Summer Reading

Visit your local bookstore or use your online book shopping skills to order the book, *Critical Technology Issues for School Leaders* (S. Brooks-Young, Corwin Press, 1-4129-2730-7). Provides an accessible introduction to important issues and trends in a format designed for busy professionals.

August 17 Instructional Strategies: History

Spend some time today locating useful web sites and resources to enhance the engagement of your students in social studies. A useful starting point for this search is Kathy Schrock's Guide for Educators (<http://school.discovery.com/schrockguide/history/histg.html>).

August 18 Assistive Technology Resources

The Texas Assistive Technology Network (<http://www.texasat.net/>) has created an outstanding series of training modules and resource materials. Explore the wealth of resources available at this web site and consider which materials are useful for sharing with your assistive technology team.

August 19 Product Exploration: Voycabulary

Voycabulary (<http://www.voycabulary.com/>) is a free web site that scans any web page and makes every word clickable. This means that students can click on any word on the web page and have instant access to a dictionary definition. Try it out! Why might a teacher choose to use this tool with web-based curriculum materials instead of the traditional textbook?

90 Days of Summer

August 20 Joy of Tech

Joy of Tech is the title of a cartoon series about technology. Published by Geek Culture (<http://www.geekculture.com/joyoftech/>), view the current cartoon and browse the collection of recent cartoons. These cartoons are sure to bring a smile to your face!



August 21 Summer Reading

Visit your local bookstore or use your online book shopping skills to order the book, *The Paradox of Choice: Why More is Less* (B. Schwartz, HarperCollins, ISBN: 0060005696). Explores the baggage that comes with choice, abundance, and the residual empty feelings when one is surrounded by so much. Part research guide and part self-help guide, this book will cause you to reflect on your constitutional right to make choices.

August 22 Product Exploration: WriteBrain

WriteBrain (<http://www.sunburst.com/writebrain/>) is a new comprehensive environment for teaching and supporting students in grades 2-8 in developing their writing skills. Visit the web site and review product information, screenprints, and access research reports.

August 23 Product Exploration: Pics4Learning

Pics4Learning (<http://pics.tech4learning.com/>) is a free online image collection especially developed for classroom use. Spend some time today browsing and gathering images for use this fall in your handouts, PowerPoint, and web pages.

August 24 Back to School Planning

As you think about the start of the new school year, visit Scholastic's Teacher Tools (<http://teacher.scholastic.com/tools/index.htm>) to access tools, ideas, and resources. These materials will help you get organized and start the school year off on the right foot.

August 25 Cascading Style Sheets (CSS)

Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) are an important web design technique that improves accessibility. Visit CSS Zen Garden (<http://www.csszengarden.com>) and experience what happens when content is separated from design. To begin building your CSS skills, visit Cascading Style Sheets (<http://www.htmlhelp.com/reference/css/>).

August 26 Communities of Practice

Communities of practice are social learning networks that help professionals understand how things work. Consider joining one of the three leading special education technology communities of practice: The QIAT Listserv (<http://www.qiat.org>), Closing the Gap Forums (<http://www.closingthegap.com>), and The Family Center on Technology and Disability Online Discussions (<http://www.fctd.info/web-board/index.php>).

90 Days of Summer

August 27 Teaching Inspiration

Visit the following quote collection that has been organized around the theme of rethinking the purpose and function of education in the 21st century (<http://www.leading-learning.co.nz/famous-quotes.html>). Revisit this page whenever you are in need of a new dose of teaching inspiration!

August 28 Assistive Technology Training Online

As you prepare to head back to school, explore the resources and links available at the award-winning site: Assistive Technology Training Online (<http://atto.buffalo.edu>). While some resources could use some updating, this site is a valuable resource for learning about assistive technology. Think about sharing this one!

August 29 Summer Reading

Ok, admit it. You didn't finish a fraction of the reading you wanted to complete this summer, right? Well, now might be a good time to learn about Reading Guides (<http://readinggroupguides.com/findaguide/index.asp>). Reading guides are tools for facilitating book discussion groups. Pick a book, gather up a group of friends, and commit to reading your first fall book together.

August 30 Online Comics

As summer draws to a close, perhaps it is a good time to take a look at the lighter side of life. Visit Ucomics (<http://www.ucomics.com/>), one of the largest free online archive of comic strips. Locate your favorite comic strips and enjoy!

The End

Summer is over! If you have faithfully spent time with our 90 Days of Summer feature, your daily investment of 10-20 minutes has resulted in 15-30 hours of enhanced knowledge and productivity! Best wishes for the new school year!

