



BALDWIN TEACHER CENTER NEWSLETTER



960 Hastings Street, Baldwin, NY 11510

Fax: (516)377-9394 /Phone: (516)377-9224 & Ext. 2061/TeacherCenter@baldwinschools.org

Volume 18

Fall

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Edition #1

BTC Fall '09 Courses:

Graduate Courses – NYSUT ELT

- GR11F.09 Teaching today's Students to be Peacemakers
- GR11F.10 Creative Controversy
- GR11F.11 Reading Comprehension

Inservice Courses – ON HOLD. SEE PAGE 3.

- IS10F.12 Strategies to Help Gr. 3-5 Students be Successful...NYS ELA Test (3-5)
- IS10F.13 Smart Board: Hands On, Hands On
- IS10F.14 The Dramatic Connection
- IS10F.15 Math Problem Solving Strategies that Work
- IS10F.16 NASA Workshops
- IS10F.17 Creating Educational Resources via Multimedia Applications
- IS10F.18 SMART Response (Senteo Clickers)
- IS10F.19 Thinkfinity (Pending DO Approval)
Check our web page on 9/8/10.)

****For details go to the BTC's web page at:**

<http://www.baldwinschools.org/tcindex.htm>

LOOKING BACK: BTC MINI-GRANT PROJECTS 2009 - 2010...

Technology in the Classroom --- Baldwin Teacher Center Mini-Grants

Technology in the classroom has come a long way from the slide, movie, and overhead projectors of the 20th Century. Today, there is a plethora of sophisticated technologies designed to change teaching and enhance learning.

Among the many professional development opportunities offered by the BTC, the decade-old Tech Mini-Grants Program has been an incentive for teachers to seek ways to use technology to enrich their lessons.

This past year was no exception. The recipients of the BTC 2009-2010 grants made wise choices, selecting programs that not only excited and motivated their students, but also can be used in other curriculum areas and on other grade levels.

Margaret Kiernan & Valerie Mignone (BMS):

Although their *Voices Thread Digital Storytelling Project* targeted 7th graders, it is a program that can be implemented on all middle school grade levels across all content areas. Digital Storytelling uses computer-based tools (USB headsets and a subscription to *Ed Voice Thread*) to tell stories, containing a mixture of computer-based images, text, recorded audio narration, video clips and/or music. The program enabled a rich group dialogue, both in and out of the classroom, fostering authentic critiquing, analyzing, demonstrating, reporting, and practicing.



After reading Lois Lowry's *The Giver*, a novel about a Utopian society, students were asked to create their own "perfect" societies. Student groups then outlined their roles, recorded their parts, and created a digital presentation to entice people to live in their society. "Throughout the project, the class was fully engaged and excited to participate. Integrating technology into the lesson greatly enhanced student learning!" Students agreed: - "This was my favorite project yet!" "It was a new experience that involved creativity and the ability to work with others. Also, it was fun!" "Everyone was allowed to open his/her creative side." "The project helped me to understand how hard it would be to make a perfect society."

Maria Arcodia (Lenox): *A View for All* integrates technology in every academic area in a 1st grade classroom, using an LCD projector (BTC grant) and a document camera (BFE grant). This technology enhances the curriculum in many ways, as the LCD projector can be connected to a classroom computer to show educational video clips from many web sites. This versatile tool was used every day ... to showcase student writing, zoom in on plant life during science experiments, model reading strategies and model math games for all to see. In addition, students were able to play brainpopjur.com videos and quizzes about seasons, habitats, dental health, plant life cycles, poetry, reading comprehension, odd and even math numbers, etc., as well as view video clips on the life and times of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., George Washington, and others.

"Parents used the projector when serving as 'Secret Readers' so that every child could clearly see the illustrations and text of the books they've shared with our class."



The students love technology, and the projector has enhanced every aspect of the curriculum. One student summed it up while watching a video clip of Dr. King's life: "I love this school!"

Elicie Douce (BMS): *Let's Play Games – Jouons Ensemble!* is a program that uses game and flash card CDs for middle school 7th and 8th grade French classes. It is a great tool to engage students, foster learning, and enhance vocabulary retention - a great asset in language learning. In addition, the program enables students to interact, as well as teach and learn from each other. Through the games and the use of technology, students are able to connect, participate, and engage in games they are

familiar with while using the French language. The games, **French Concentration** and **Cultural Trivia**, immerses the students in French culture, using common facts about famous people, food and drink, geography, history, life and sports.



The **Digital Flash Cards** - professions, household nouns, seasons & weather, transportation, clothing, animals - can be used by a single player for test preparation, in a two-team mode as a competitive game, or for whole class play. As a result, the students are motivated to improve their speaking, reading, writing and listening skills. Through the games and the use of technology, students are able to connect, participate, and engage in games they are familiar with while using the French language. Elcie reported, "Students who are usually reluctant to participate in class, take the chance to volunteer and to get out of their seats to play. And those who rarely studied at home, began to do so, resulting in improved grades." Students said: "It was fun learning!" "Really cool!" "Can we play every week?"

Sean Michel & Tom Girolamo (BMS): *Technology Club - Alternative Fuels* gave club members the chance to continue projects started last year.

The **Alternative Fuels Club** was able to operate for the entire school year. Thus, the goals were achieved: -- To enrich the young minds with information on alternative energy resources, showing them that the world does not have to be dependent on fossil fuels and non-renewable resources and to make students earth friendly and aware of how their everyday actions may become a future concern.



The goal to challenge and enlighten the students to the world of design and woodworking was achieved. The students gained knowledge in reading and following directions, team work, design and construction, the use of basic and advanced hand and power tools, in solar energy, and most of all, they gained a sense of accomplishment." Students had their say: "What are we going to do next year? This is fun!" "I wish we could do more things like this in school." "Technology Club is fun and exciting." "What else can we do?" The answer to that last question ... branch out into the community and complete improvements and tasks around the town where help is needed.

Club members finished the assembly of a fully drivable electric-powered vehicle and created a working hydrogen fuel cell, with the goal to get a normal gasoline engine to run on hydrogen fuel for 100% clean emissions. And, they succeeded! Student thoughts: "Can we stay till 5 everyday?", "Hydrogen fuel is awesome! Why didn't we think of this sooner?" and "The school needs more clubs like this."

Sean Michel & Tom Girolamo (BMS):
Technology Club – Advanced Workshop Club

The **Advanced Wood Shop Club** was an extension of a curriculum project that dealt with drafting and computer-aided design, taking it to a new level. Club members built a 6' x 8' metal and wood storage shed that now stands in the middle school courtyard. The ultimate goal is to install solar-powered panels on the roof to charge and power tools, run the existing Science pond, and provide courtyard lighting.



BTC Tech Mini-Grants for 2010-2011:

We regret to inform you that a decade-old tradition of awarding annual mini-grants for creative uses of technology to teach current curricula will be discontinued until full funding is restored to the Baldwin Teacher Center.

NYS Teacher Centers Lose Funding

NYSUT and NYS Teacher Centers fought fiercely and relentlessly, pressing state legislators to restore Teacher Center funding for 2010-2011, but we lost the fight. At a time when school districts are mandated to improve teacher effectiveness and bring into being a new evaluation model, a lack of funding for Teacher Centers, the primary tool for professional development, certainly lacks logic.

The BTC Policy Board and the BUFSD want the TC to continue during this interim period. The BTC Policy Board will be involved in some strategic thinking (as it pertains to keeping the BTC an effective venue for professional development) when they reconvene on 9/7. One of the more obvious ways to support the BTC is registration fees. These and other initiatives will be announced and posted on the Teacher Center web page sometime in early September.

The BTC Fall 2010 Catalog has been reposted (9/2/10) for viewing, but at the present time, only the graduate courses will convene as scheduled. The feasibility of running all or some of the fall inservice courses will be reviewed by the Policy Board on 9/7. Final determinations for inservice courses will be posted after 9/9 and can be viewed by staff on the TC web page: <http://www.baldwinschools.org/tcindex.htm>

THE BEAT GOES ON...

Ellison Dies and CPS Clickers Available from the BTC

Shaping Education: Ellison LetterMaker Dies



Did you know that the Baldwin Teacher Center houses over 100 decorative and instructional dies so that teachers can use these tools to create inspiring bulletin boards and classroom manipulatives that will complement lesson plans and reinforce academic standards? A specific list of dies housed at the Teacher Center is available for viewing on the BTC web page at: <http://www.baldwinschools.org/tcindex.htm>

The Ellison machine will cut anything that scissors will cut. The machine, a simple hand press, operates with the help of the Ellison cutting dies (cleverly designed as numbers, letters and other decorative shapes.) Paper or fabric inserted into the machine can be die-cut in seconds, thus saving hours of scissor time. The Ellison machine makes it possible to quickly create professional bulletin board supplies, nametags, games, displays, designs and crafts.

Once you've reviewed our list of dies and find the ones that will work for your classroom assignment, just complete the *Ellison Dies' Loan Form* and e-mail it back to the Baldwin Teacher Center. [We will contact you for a pick-up date.](#)

CPS (Classroom Performance System) clicker sets are available for loan from the Baldwin Teacher Center. At the present time, we are considering a two-week loan period for those teachers who would be interested in learning more about how to use CPS clickers.

Approval of Courses for Salary Credit

When seeking information about salary credit for inservice courses, online courses and graduate courses, consult your current BTA Contract or contact the Office of Human Resources.

Only a Mouse Click Away

Check the Library of Congress web site *Teaching with Primary Sources (TPSDirect)* at <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/professionaldevelopment/tpsdirect/>

"This program offers numerous ideas as to how to bring primary sources into the classroom, and thus, help students think critically, construct knowledge, and develop the information fluency necessary for success in the 21st century. It is applicable across grade levels and content areas."

Lesson Plans offers a multitude of suggestions for using a variety of primary sources – artifacts, documents, photographs, manuscripts, art, etc.

BTC Policy Board & Staff 2010-2011

Policy Board Members:

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| Victoria Barone | Plaza |
| Liz Carozzo | Milburn |
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| Kelley Snow | Meadow/BTA |
| Sheri Snow | Meadow |
| Mitch Tobol | Business |
| Tracey Vernon | Lenox |
| Dr. Ralph Zalma | Higher Ed/Hofstra |

Staff:

Karla Lomangino- Director
Barbara Sher- Policy Board Chairperson/Staff Development

BTC Office Hours...

The BTC is presently open on Mondays and Tuesdays from 9:30 A.M.-4:00 P.M. and other days by appointments. It's always advisable to call the BTC (516 377-9224 or ext. 2061) or e-mail (teachercenter@baldwinschools.org) prior to arriving so equipment can be ready for you and/or to make sure the office is open during this time of limited funding or the Director isn't out attending other district and TC meetings.

