Shana Goodall, ACHIEVE Award Winner
By Jessie Walker, Orono High School 2018

Throughout the course of her career as an educator, Shana Goodall’s love and use of technology has been ever present. Walking into her classroom at Orono High School on any given day, one could see a student film festival, a digital slideshow presentation, or an engaging online lab occurring amongst the students. Many of these assignments have been selected by the students themselves, and the products prove the interest that follows behind Ms. Goodall’s open-ended assignments is incredibly heightened. This technology has opened many creative and intellectual pathways for all of Goodall’s students, many of whom state that the availability of technology in her classroom has been a huge tool in the promotion of their academic success. Besides being a technology pioneer in the school environment, Goodall promotes a positive and riveting learning environment for all of her students, making her various courses at Orono High School both entertaining and enjoyable.

Ms. Goodall, http://www.shanagoodall.com, has been involved in technology for many years, having worked for five years in various IT positions (including a system administrator, help-desk specialist, trainer, and programmer,) in various academic settings across Maine. In Ms. Goodall’s classroom, technology is used in a variety of ways that engage and encourage students to set their own path towards academic success. Videos are a common occurrence in many of Ms. Goodall’s classes, and are an informing and appealing way for students to grasp crucial study materials and information. Student collaborations are also highly encouraged in many of Ms. Goodall’s classes, and digital tools like Google Drive and Google Docs provide ease for students to work together when they are not all physically present. Google Docs allows Ms. Goodall’s students to have constant access to study materials and class documents, making it easier for students to perform class assignments and activities even when they are unable to attend class. Ms. Goodall also utilizes social media to keep her students informed on real-
Winning Again

ACTEM honors Maine County Teachers of the Year with a complimentary conference registration each year at the annual awards celebration. Four of the 2014 Maine County Teachers of the year attended the ACTEM 2015 conference at the Cross Insurance Center in Bangor this past October.

Vicky Grotton of Glenburn Elementary School was one of those County Teachers of the Year who attended. Vicky is a Pre-K Teacher and the 2014 Penobscot County Teacher of the Year. Not only did Vicky attend the conference as ACTEM’s guest, she left with a major door prize - an OfficeJet Pro 8620 printer donated by HP. Congratulations Vicky!

First State Micro-Credential Initiative Launched

The iLearnMaine Educator Micro-credential Program was announced recently, by ACTEM and the Maine’s Learning Through Technology Team of the DOE.

What if schools and teachers had support for professional learning that met their needs and was on their own terms? This is the kind of support iLearnMaine Educator Micro-credential Program is designed to provide.

iLearnMaine was announced at the recent ACTEM 2015 Conference (Maine’s education technology conference) in Bangor, ME. ACTEM and the Maine Department of Education’s Learning Through Technology Team are collaborating on the creation of micro-credentials. They are working in partnership with Digital Promise, a national non-profit organization working to empower educators to use technology to engage, motivate, and personalize learning for all learners.

iLearnMaine Micro-credentials will become a collection within the Digital Promise Educator Micro-credential Program. The iLearnMaine collection will focus on the educator skills that have been shown to lead to a high-impact, learning-focused technology program.

According to Digital Promise’s Jennifer Kabaker, “Micro-credentials, a system that provides educators with competency-based recognition for their skills and competencies, could help shift professional learning structures to focus on competency rather than seat time, and give educators a chance to get recognized for that professional learning journey, regardless of where or how they learn.”

iLearnMaine represents the first state initiative to use micro-credentials as a systemic approach to supporting educators. This is also the first formal partnership between a state and Digital Promise. The iLearnMaine program’s website is http://ilearnmaine.org/our-projects/ilearnmaine-educator-microcredential.

The great news is that we now have more than 10 educators and organizations that would like to design micro-credentials with us! Also, last week, Digital Promise rolled out their platforms (powered by Bloomboard). Go here to explore more than 100 micro-credentials already available: http://microcredentials.bloomboard.com/

Is your ACTEM Membership Current?

ACTEM’s membership year runs from July 1st through June 30th annually. Have you renewed your membership yet? Many people join at conference time as that is included with their registration. If you missed this year’s conference join or renew today online at: http://actem.wildapricot.org/join

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP $20 annually

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• Educational discounts on software & other items (as permitted by vendor)

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP $50 annually ($25 for small, single school districts)

• Gives school and districts the opportunity to purchase software and other items at our low educational, volume pricing.
• Some of ACTEM’s vendor partners also provide special benefits to our institutional members.

FOX interviews Mike Muir from the Department of Education after he announced the first state micro-credential initiative at the ACTEM 2015 Conference

MakeTechHuman Podcast

The MakeTechHuman Podcast is presented by WIRED magazine and explores where technology is heading and how it is impacting humanity. Topics include Cyberbullying, AI, the future of work, etc. Check it out at wired.com/maketechhuman

December Trivia Question

The ISTE 2015 Conference was in Philadelphia in June; ACTEM sponsored a bus to help get members to this national conference. One of our longtime supporting vendors sponsored a Duckboat tour of Philadelphia for our members attending this conference.

What was the name of the vendor that sponsored the Duckboat tour of Philadelphia for ACTEM members attending ISTE 2015 last June?

Go to www.actem.org to submit your answer. All correct answers will be entered into a drawing for a $25 Amazon Gift Card. The deadline to submit answers is February 15, 2016.

September Trivia Winner

The last issue we wrote: This month’s trivia question asks you to decipher the numbers or letters below written in binary ASCII code.

01000101 01001101

The answer to the above binary ASCII code spelled out the letters - ACTEM. The winner chosen from those submitting correct answers is Sandra Rockett from Gorham High Schools.

ACTEM Business Meetings

All Members Welcome!

March 4th 2016
March 9th, 2016
September 16th, 2016

We meet from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon on Monday mornings in Room 301A/B, First Floor, Cross Office Building, Augusta. Remote sites are generally available for these meetings. Check the ACTEM website for meeting details.

OCTOBER 13-14, 2016 | AUGUSTA CIVIC CENTER | AUGUSTA, MAINE

SAVE THE DATE

ACTEM 2016

Laurie Underwood of HP, Vicky Grotton and Amy Dupuis of HP...
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### Saving the latest issue of "Electronic Educator" from the Maine Department of Education’s Learning Through Technology Team is an annual activity. This year’s conference was held in Bangor, ME. ACTEM and the Maine Department of Education’s Learning Through Technology Team are collaborating on the creation of micro-credentials. They are working in partnership with Digital Promise, a national non-profit organization working to empower educators to use technology to engage, motivate, and personalize learning for all learners.

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Answer: Mike Arias

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### ACTEM 2016

October 13-14, 2016 | Augusta Civic Center | Augusta, Maine

### Board of Directors

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Gwenyth ACTEM Conference Co-Chair & Maguire Digital Media Services    gpmdmarg@gmail.com

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### Actem.org Electronic Educator January 2016

2 actem.org Electronic Educator January 2016

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Are Your Online Accounts Secure?

By Gary Laneo

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this Saturday morning began with a planned trip to visit our son and his family in NH. Early December each year, my wife and I plan a trip to get a Christmas tree with the grandkids. The annual visit usually ends with bringing that perfect tree into the house, stringing the lights and then hanging the Christmas ornaments. Little did I know that while this was going on, someone had taken over one of my online accounts and would cause me much grief.

On the ride home from NH I noticed a strange message on my iPhone. Something about the phone being put in “Lost” mode along with a strange email address. I was driving so I put the phone aside and decided I would deal with it when I arrived home that evening.

Many people know me as a Tech guy with some skills and knowledge about technology as a former Director of a school district. I thought that I had taken precautions to protect my accounts. I certainly know about passwords and using complex ones and was sure that I was in control of my accounts and nothing could happen to me. I was wrong!

Faster than a speeding nanosecond, the scholars of Room 208 sent breaking news over the airwaves and into homes of their work. They had already found the volume to hear her better, suddenly realizing she was actually speaking in the back seat!

I couldn’t make it to the award ceremony, but he joined in spirit, his image held here by ACHIEVE award winner Shana Goodall.

The John Lunt Friend of Technology award was established by ACTEM in 2006 as a way to recognize individuals that have made a significant contribution to education and technology in Maine.

The award is named after John Lunt - one of the founding members of ACTEM. John served as president of ACTEM for six years and also chaired our annual MAINEducation conference for over ten years. John Lunt and former Governor Angus King were the first recipients of the Friend of Technology award in 2006.

I was with great honor that Alice Barr and Cheryl Oakes could celebrate their colleague and friend, Bob Sprankle, with the John Lunt Award at the 2015 ACTEM conference. The theme of the conference was super powers, and so the topic of the speech was Mr. St! His superpower is Student Scholars!

For those of you who have yet to meet Bob Sprankle and want the details, all that information can be found at bob-sprankle.com or you can google him and in 43 seconds - faster than a speeding bullet 100,000 hits will be displayed.

Bob Sprankle is a pioneer in the world of education technology. Early on, he understood that student voice and technology were a powerful mix for learning. He is passionate about how technology positively impacts students and learning.

Bob always thought the lines between online and face to face conversations are blurred because meaning; full conversation can take place miles apart or face to face. Kern Kelly said “My favorite quote from Bob was when Vicki Davis was speaking at the ACTEM conference and he said how driving with her to the conference that morning, at one point he reached over to turn up the volume to hear her better, suddenly realizing she was actually speaking in the back seat!”

The year Bob co-won the ACTEM Teacher of the year, he used his award to purchase audio equipment for podcasting. His students were writing newsletters at the time. Bob wondered if he could make an audio version of those newsletters. Bob saw the opportunity that technology could bring to his students to leverage their learning. He says, “The students just saw that this was part of their work. They had already found purpose to everything they were doing. They had listeners and this was part of learning - people engage with you and carry on the conversation.”

Faster than a speeding nanosecond, the scholars of Room 208 sent breaking news over the airwaves and into homes and classrooms around the world. These third and fourth graders went from being consumers to producers in light-speed fashion. Technology helped Bob amplify their voices from Wells, Maine to a global audience - something that had never been done before. These students went from being consumers of content to producers of multimedia.

Bob’s teaching style supported putting his students in charge of their learning. He believes that students are grade podcasters who came back and met with him prior to their graduation. Bob's has been a leader in using tech-
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Many people know me as a tech guy with some skills and knowledge with technology as a former Director of a school district. I thought that if I had taken precautions to protect my accounts, I certainly know about passwords and using complex ones and was sure that I was in control of my accounts and nothing could happen to me. I was wrong!

Someone hacked into my Apple ID and changed my password. Then this person then changed my ID (email address) and then put all my devices, my iPhone, iPad and MacBook Pro in lost mode. Not only did this person put my MacBook Pro into lost mode, they also put a firmware pass-code on that MacBook. How could this happen to me? Have you ever received an email like this, “Dear Gary Lanoie, The following changes to your Apple ID, glanoie@maine.rr.com were made on December 5, 2015 at 1:43 PM: Password

If you did not make these changes, Apple Support”

I’ll never think of these emails as annoying again! I received several of these emails notifying me of the many changes to my account and that all my devices were in “Lost” mode and basically locked. In tried logging into my Apple account—no success. Eventually I decided it was time to call support to get some help. I was greeted by a friendly, knowledgeable English speaking tech support representative. This person soon realized that I needed some higher level help and escalated my case up the channels to a person that could help me through my security issue problem. This person verified that I was who I said I was, and then helped me take back my Apple ID and account. We worked to unlock my iPhone and iPad and he also helped me set up an appointment at the local Apple Genius Bar to get my MacBook Pro unlocked. I’ve dealt with many companies for tech support over the years and this support experience was excellent and extremely helpful. Thank you Apple Support!

So what do I take away from this experience? Passwords are important and a necessary evil that we need to deal with on all our technology devices these days. Don’t be cavalier about your passwords.

● Heed the many suggestions, like the ones below, that we know will help to keep your accounts secure.

● There are people out there looking to cause problems and gain access to your accounts.

Here are some password tips that you have probably heard before, but believe me it can happen to you.

From StaySafeOnline.org by the National Cyber Security Alliance: Passwords: When creating a password, make it long and strong, with a minimum of eight characters and a mix of upper and lowercase letters, numbers and symbols.

You should also remember:

● Not to share your password with others.

● Make your password unique to your life and not something that is easily guessable.

● Have a different password for each online account.

Use the following suggestions to keep your online accounts secure:

● Make your password at least 8 characters long.

● Change your password several times a year.

● Write down your password and store it in a safe place away from your computer.

● Do not use the same password across multiple accounts.

● Change your password if you suspect that your account has been compromised.

● Keep your password up to date with the latest recommendations.

● Use two-factor authentication whenever possible.

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Leslie’s tour of technology’s evolution over the years made some of us feel ancient. (I recognized those punch cards from a programming class I took in 1971.) The resident tweeters went crazy, showing their love for the old and the new. @andrewtwallace tweeted: Who wants to go浩ifies on a #PlayOsmo? I am certain my kids will behave just like in that commercial! @jhall78 added: When tech meets openness and human empathy, you get awesome things like this openhandproject.org. 3D printed prosthetics exchange. @mspahr summed it up with: #ACTEM15 Keynote w/ @lesliefisher takes a tour of tech from punch cards to 3D printers & wearable tech.

Bonus points for Atari 2600 shoutout and @jennyrg4 tweeted: If the Keynote speaker is any indication of how awesome this day is going to be, I think we’re all in for a real treat.

The Thursday sessions proved to be instructive for most, including @GeoffCyr who tweeted: Learning about 3D printers at #actem15. I’ve had a printer since May, so it’s about time I learn how to use it. Others learned about new tools like @deborahwhite. Another great Chrome Extension: Dualless splits your browser windows into 2. Thanks to @kernkelley at #ACTEM15. @FreamK995 gave a shout out to her presenter: Thanks Mauri for sharing tiggly and Cosmo that helps to teach foundational skills with iPads. And in keynoter Leslie Fisher’s session the Twittersphere got meta with tweets about tweeting like @rashman78. There is certainly a lot of positive ‘zing’ going on w/@lesliefisher and talking about Twitter.

ACTEM 2015
Reconnecting in the Queen City and the Twittersphere

By Barbara Greenstone

The Cross Insurance Center in Bangor was the setting for the 28th annual ACTEM Conference, October 15 and 16. This was a new setting for the conference and judging from the Twitter feed (#actem15) everyone enjoyed the new venue (other than a few wifi glitches).

Day 1 began with a keynote speech by Leslie Fisher, The Technology Time Machine. Leslie’s tour of technology’s evolution over the years made some of us feel ancient. (I recognized those punch cards from a programming class I took in 1971.) The resident tweeters went crazy, showing their love for the old and the new. @andrewtwallace tweeted: Who wants to go浩ifies on a #PlayOsmo? I am certain my kids will behave just like in that commercial! @jhall78 added: When tech meets openness and human empathy, you get awesome things like this openhandproject.org. 3D printed prosthetics exchange. @mspahr summed it up with: #ACTEM15 Keynote w/ @lesliefisher takes a tour of tech from punch cards to 3D printers & wearable tech.

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Mike Muiz, summed up by tweeter @ph217: Anytime anywhere #teachelearners earn micro credentials w/ #actem15. #MLTI & new partner Digital Promise & their network. This was followed by awards (with superhero capes!) described by @timsmith8: Third generation teacher. Shanah Goodall: ACHIEVE Award recipient. Congratulations! @eyoronono and @DavidBridger9: Kudos to Bob Sprankle recipient of the Lunt Award (great tribute from friends & family). Friday began with several tweeted pictures of Paul Bunyan looking out upon a gorgeous sun.

Finally! I now know how to make forms that are ADA compliant!

...who knew you could use a smart phone as a secondary light source to enhance your photos?!!

...I just learned how to use my iPhone for classroom activities!

...I NEED to get a 3D printer!!

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Bonus points for Atari 2600 shoutout and @jennygr4 tweeted: If the Keynote speaker is any indication of how awesome this day is going to be, I think we’re all in for a real treat.

The Thursday sessions proved to be instructive for most, including @GeoffCyr who tweeted: Learning about 3D printers at #ACTEM15. I’ve had a printer since May, so it’s about time I learn how to use it. Others learned about new tools like @debwhite: Another great Chrome Extension: Dualless splits your browser windows into 2. Thanks to @kernkelley at #ACTEM15. @FreamK985 gave a shout out to her presenter: Thanks Mauri for sharing tiggly and Cosmo that helps to teach foundational skills with iPads. And in keynoter Leslie Fisher’s session the Twittersphere got meta with tweets about tweeting like @nuhanman78. There is certainly a lot of positive ‘zinging’ going on w/@lesliefisher and talking about Twitter.

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Of course we saw several tweets with pics of the food (we all love whoopie pies!) and lots of interesting photos posted by presenters trying out their new selfie sticks. It ended with goodbyes and expressions of thanks. If you missed the conference, do a twitter search for #ACTEM15. As @MsGoodall_Riots says: Wow keeping up with all the tweets from #ACTEM15 - nearly like being there!

SAVE THE DATE
ACTEM 2016
October 13-14, 2016
Augusta Civic Center

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Maine Teacher of the Year Gala

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does not attempt to single out any individual as the best teacher in Maine; rather the County and State Teachers of the Year represent the thousands of excellent educators in Maine.

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Maine Teacher of the Year

• Androscoggin - Debra Miller, Raymond A. Geiger School, Lewiston
• Aroostook - Susan Betulier, Ashland District School, MSAD 32
• Cumberland - Talya Edlund, Pond Cove Elementary, Cape Elizabeth
• Franklin - Brenda LaVerdere, Academy Hill School, RSU 9
• Hampden - Mickie Flores, Deering Stonington Elementary School, CSD 13
• Kennebec - Gretchen Nickerson, Helen Thompson Elementary School, MSAD 11
• Knox - Fallon Adams, Union Elementary School, MSAD 40
• Lincoln - Jennifer Wright Gegg, Great Salt Bay School, AOS 93
• Oxford - Laurie Catanese, Oxford Hills Middle School, RSU 17
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• Piscataquis - Mia Morrison, Foxcroft Academy, RSU 68

The Teacher of the Year program allows students to participate in Congress
ional App Challenge Competition puts STEM education into action

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The Teacher of the Year program allows students to participate in the competition. They can participate as individuals or in a team of up to four. In addition to the app, students must also submit a 3-4 minute video explaining their app and how it works.

The deadline for submissions is midnight on Friday, January 15, 2016. A winner for Pingree’s District will be announced in February.

The apps can cover any topic. They will be judged on (1) the creativity and originality of the app idea; (2) user experience and design of the idea’s implementation; and (3) quality of coding and programming.

Information about the competition—including links to coding resources and submission instructions—can be found on Pingree’s website, www.pingree.house.gov/appchallenge. This is the second year Congressional offices around the country are participating in the challenge, which is coordinated by the Internet Education Foundation.

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Download Free* access to Autodesk software

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Free access to Autodesk software

U.S. secondary schools can now inspire students to develop a lifelong love for STEAM subjects with Autodesk’s Design the Future program. Help students prepare for a successful career using free Autodesk® design software aligned to Common Core curriculum, training and certification.

Your school is eligible to access up to 3000 software licenses with three years of support for students of any grade level. Sign up for an account or register to start using the software.

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Maine Teacher of the Year (Continued previous page)

• Sagadahoc - Johanna Stanton, Morse High School, Eastport
• Somerset - Deb Tenmar, Skowhegan Area Middle School, RSU 54
• Waldo - Kate Foran, Lero H Smith School, RSU 22
• Washington - Beth Brigham, Sears High School, Eastport School Department
• York - Nick Willen, Bridgton High School, Bridgton School Department

ACTEM was represented at the awards gala and provided Talya Edlund, the 2016 Teacher of the Year, with a $5000 scholarship. In addition, Maine Teachers of the Year are provided a gift certificate to attend the ACTEM 2016 conference.

Maine Teacher of the Year (Continued from 4)

superheroes perfectly capable of creating, editing and producing. He views them as authentic authors and artists whose work is to be valued and shared with a wide audience. For example, the Superhero Scholars blogged poetry and artwork in a safe space created by Bob. He instituted protocols that are still in use in many classrooms around the world today and oh yes, this was all BEFORE GOOGLE.

Message from the President

(Continued from cover)

complexity as each of them have their advantages and drawbacks. In the end, hopefully, you get what you need.

The same can be said about programs to use in the classroom. Deciding what program may be a good one to use. In some cases it can be a free version vs. paid version of software. In other cases it could be deciding which application might be the best one. All of these can be tough decisions. Then add differentiation and your software challenge becomes even greater.

Speaking of programs, how many times are people getting a phone call or an email letting you know that their program can solve the world’s problems. Okay, that may be a bit of an exaggeration, but people are told that their technology can increase student’s ability. Doesn’t it seem like people want to replace good teaching with a piece of technology. If we have learned anything since 2002, we know that good teaching is a tough piece of technology. Good teaching with technology can create global citizens ready to take on the world.

In the end, if we spend more time listening and not worrying about making the right decision, you just might find you get what you need, oh yeah.

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Students at every level have a shot— Iowa can’t wait to put those skills to the test while learning technology. Institute.

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apps, which will be judged by a panel of

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Case With a / By David Bridges

sOoMoCha teaching staff, administrators and 7th and 8th grade students are all using MLTI MacBook Airs. During the first two years of MLTI Phase IV, we have observed that while the devices endure impact and continue to operate, they are showing wear with an increasing number of dents and “dog-eared” corners. While we did not have the funding to equip all of our devices with protective cases, we thought we might be able to leverage the significant discounts offered by MaxCases and ACTEM. By offering to students a discount on protection plan enrollment when they purchase a MaxCase Extreme Shell, we know their devices will be better protected and less likely to require repair from impact damage.

Rather than $25 for protection plan enrollment, students were offered a package including a MaxCase in their choice of color and protection plan enrollment for $39.00. Out of approximately 140 7th and 8th graders, 81-11 inch cases were purchased. 7th graders took advantage of the two-year benefit of having a case as we will honor a discount on next year’s enrollment as long as the case remains on the device. We also offered cases to staff members, and several took advantage of the deal.

As we examined all digital devices, personalization is becoming increasingly important to many users (just look at the variety of smartphone cases on the market). I know of one teacher who even found a keyboard cover that coordinates with her new red MaxCase. We have also given students the freedom to decorate their cases with stickers, and the decoration cannot cover the name or asset tag or impede device operation. I also see users taking advantage of the fold-out legs to both elevate the display and angle the keyboard.

We managed orders through a Google Form that tallied requests based on case size and color, and collected orders via direct form submissions from staff members. Our middle-school office processed protection plan forms and payments and submitted student orders via the same Google form.

Thanks to Gary Lanoe’s assistance at the ACTEM office, we were able to process the orders and get the cases out to students within just two weeks of the order. Our protection plan form including the case option can be found here: https://goo.gl/507byq

Nominate an inspiring educator that you work with for the ACHIEVE award. Email Del: fitchutt@gmail.com or Jaime, jsteward@carrabec.org for more information

Maine Teacher of the Year Gala

Maine Teacher of the Year Gala

Pinneer invites Maine high school students to participate in Congressional App Challenge

Congresswoman Chellie Pingree today invited high school students in Maine’s 1st District to participate in the Congressional App Challenge. Students have until January 15, 2016, to develop and submit their apps, which will be judged by a panel of experts convened by the Maine Technology Institute.

“I applaud how Maine schools are using STEM education to prepare our students for the jobs of tomorrow. This competition is an exciting opportunity to put those skills to the test while learning how to develop the smartphone apps we use every day,” said Pingree. “I hope students give it a shot—I can’t wait to see what they come up with. My thanks to the Maine Technology Institute for their help in connecting Maine’s tech community with the competition.”

Penelope

Maine Teacher of the Year Gala

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Teaching and Reaching Every Child

Thanks to Vicki Davis, from the Cool Cat Teacher blog, at http://coolcatteacher.blogspot.com

1. Rebelieve in a child. Kevin Honeycutt shared, “I believe you can flip a kid on any given day if you treat them with respect.” Being kind and positive to your students is key. I had an upset child just yesterday. Well, when something horrific happens: death in the family or other trauma — you? Why? When the student seems angry. I communicated but I did not fix the chair. I know when you sit in a child’s chair, you’re sitting in a child’s shoes. Sometimes a conversation or a little extra attention lets them know how important they are. Some students who are tremendously absentminded. I have a special chair that Kip won in a contest. So, as kids work on their projects, I’ll roll them chair and spend time with everyone. I know it. Several weeks ago, my own son and another boy broke the rule. My husband had to come in and fix the chair. I reminded my classes last week.

2. Stand there and care as they enter the classroom. Stand at the door, look them in the eye and call them by name as the day begins. If you look at their eyes, you can tell if they’re slept. You can see stress. You can figure out all kinds of things. Call them by name. Ask them how their weekend was or if they’re doing ok.

3. Notice kids who need extra attention and give it. When you notice kids who are having a bad day (as they enter your room), ask them how they are. Connect with them on a personal level. Talk to them.

4. Be genuinely interested in your students. Know what the student likes, ask about their hobby or interest. If you can know about these ahead of time (see the 2 activities below), then you’re ready. Here are two classroom activities to uncover their interests:

   Classroom activity 1. (Adapted from Dave Burgess.)

   Step 1: Set the Stage. I call my Computer Lab the “Wonder Lab.” I talk to students about how this
   they play dough that is one of their
   play dough that is one of their
   wonderful things. I play “What a
   Wonderful World” and they make their
   wonderful item. They take pictures
   and upload them to their private site. (They are also learning how to take pictures and upload
   private site.)

   Step 2: Share their Wonder-
   fulness with Parents. I take pictures
   with their face in the picture. They
   explain why this is something
   wonderful about them. I share
   these pics with parents on Bloomz,
   giving them a quick reason to get
   ahead and join our parent-teacher
   communication system. Plus, the
   first pic parents see is of their child
   smiling in my classroom.

   Classroom activity 2. Great
   teachers unleash learning that feeds
   off student curiosity. Students write
down “three things I wonder about
   technology” on an index card. Now, as the teacher, I customize the classroom based upon their
   curiosities. It makes for a more
   engaging classroom.

5. Be positive. If someone wrote down everything you say in a class period, would it be positive, negative, or neutral. Positive people promote growth and change. Learn how to give compliments. “High five.” “Fast pump.” “Mussle punch.” “Oh yeah!” Try one of the growth mindset
   statements I’ve shared on my blog. Awesome teachers celebrate wins. When I’m 100, I pray to have
   lots of laugh lines and no frowny ones. How about you? Are you positive?

6. Talk privately with kids who are acting out. Sometimes it is hard to have a conversation going! If we pay attention and notice.
   changed her day. When I saw that interaction FLIPPED HER and
   we’ve made peace, and we have come out stronger. Every single
   time it has flipped their day (and often mine.) Teaching isn’t easy, it is work. Acting like the adult in hard
   situations always makes you feel like a pro when you’re a teacher.

7. Pull up a chair. To interact with a child on an even level, pull up a chair. They are sitting, you’re sitting.
   Sometimes a conversation or a little extra attention lets them know how important they are.
   spoken words I’ve shared on my blog

8. Compliment them to their parents or someone important to them. Genuine compliments are on my favorite type of thing to
   communicate to parents. As Joe Sanfellippo and Amy Fadeji said in
   10 Awesome Ways to Build Parent Partnerships, the first contact
   with a parent should be positive. Then, after that we need positives to keep
   the class isn’t just you and them
   but a powerful third party called peers
   who will make them act differently
   than if we were just a one on one.
   When you finish having the discussion, always make sure you address the inappropriate behavior. I
   typically say something like: “Now, if you look me in the eye and I know
   that we have an understanding that
   isn’t going to happen again, we can
   both move on.”

We talk about the behavior. Every single time, the child has apologized, we’ve made peace, and we have come out stronger. Every single
   time it has flipped their day (and often mine.) Teaching isn’t easy, it is work. Acting like the adult in hard
   situations always makes you feel like a pro when you’re a teacher.

9. Use Grace in your Discipline. Monday morning I was furious. I have a special chair that Kip bought for me that I sit in at my desk. It is expensive because I was having knee problems and I needed one with the right height for me. (See > 5 Great Ways to Make Your Classroom a Healthier, Happier Place.)
   So, I have one big rule — no one sits in my chair. Ever. The kids all know it. Several weeks ago, my own
   son and another boy broke the rule. My husband had to come in and fix the chair. I reminded my classes just last week.

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   fix the chair. I know when you sit in the chair, you don’t feel like you’re messing it up. I am happy to have a rule that no one sits in my chair. My husband bought me that chair

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Teaching and Reaching Every Child

Thanks to Vicki Davis, from the Cool Cat Teacher blog, at http://coolcatteacher.blogspot.com

I n A Story of a Young Life Turned Around by Great Teachers, Kevin Honeycutt shared, “I believe you can flip a kid on any given day but it may take one hour.” I’ve been thinking. Can you? Well, when something horrific happens: death in the family or other trauma — maybe not. But on most days with most kids, I think this is true. I had an upset child just yesterday. We had a private talk as she was entering the classroom (struggling behind everyone else). And yes, she was flipped. My words and our interaction FLIPPED HER and changed her day. When I saw that happen, I realized this is true. We can flip kids (and perhaps each other) if we pay attention and notice. Here are some ways you can flip a kid. Please share yours in the comments. Let’s get this kid flipping conversation going!

1. Rebelieve in a child. Kevin Honeycutt talks about rebelieving on the show. Give the child another chance. Decide you’re going to rebelieve in them and show it with your actions. It can be hard, but it is necessary. (Sometimes we need to rebelieve in colleagues too.)

2. Stand there and care as they enter the classroom. Stand at the door, look them in the eye and call them by name as the day begins. If you look at their eyes, you can tell if they are full of wonder. Talents they haven’t discovered yet. Strengths they don’t even know are there. So, I have play dough under these pirate bandanas (hat tip Teach Like a Pirate – oh yeah) and ask the students to uncover them.

3. Notice kids who need extra attention and give it to them. When you notice kids who are having a bad day (as they enter your room), ask them how they are. Connect with them on a personal level. Talk to them.

4. Be genuinely interested in your students. Know what the student likes, ask about their hobby or interest. If you can know about these ahead of time (see the 2 activities below), then you’re ready. Here are two classroom activities to uncover their interests.

Classroom activity 1. (Adapted from Dave Burgon.)

Step 1: Set the Stage. I call my Computer Lab the “Wonder Lab.” I talk to students about how this play dough that is one of their wonderful things. I play “What a Wonderful World” and they make their wonderful item. They take pictures and upload them to their private site. (They are also learning how to take pictures and upload them.)

Step 2: Share their Wonderfulness with Parents. I take pictures with their face in the picture. They explain why this is something wonderful about them. I share these pics with parents on Bloomz, giving them a quick reason to go ahead and join our parent-teacher communication system. Plus, the first pic parents see is of their child smiling in my classroom.

Classroom activity 2. Great teachers unleash learning that feeds off student curiosity. Students write down “three things I wonder about in technology” on an index card. Now, as the teacher, I customize the classroom based upon their curiosities. It makes for a more engaging classroom.

5. Be positive. If someone wrote down everything you say in a class period, would it be positive, negative, or neutral. Positive people promote growth and change. Learn how to give compliments. “High five.” “Fast pump.” “Mushroom punch.” “Oh yeah!” Try one of the growth mindset statements I’ve shared on my blog.

Awesome teachers celebrate wins. When I’m 100, I pray to have lots of laugh lines and no frowny ones. How about you? Are you positive?

6. Talk privately with kids who act out. Sometimes you need to be having a difficult time often, they’ll act out. Talk privately and ask how they are doing and if something is wrong. Don’t give kids who are acting out an audible punch.” “Oh yeah!” Try one of the growth mindset statements I’ve shared on my blog.

We talk about the behavior. Every single time, the child has apologized, we’ve made peace, and we have come out stronger. Every single time it has flipped their day (and often mine.) Teaching isn’t easy, it is wonderful. Acting like the adult in hard situations always makes you feel like a pro when you’re a teacher.

7. Pull up a chair. To interact with a child on an even level, pull up a chair. They are sitting, you’re sitting. Sometimes a conversation or a little extra attention lets them know how important they are.

I teach quite a few introverts who don’t like extra attention, so while I never stop first at the introverted child’s desk, I know how important they are. Every single time, the child who needs extra attention lets them know how important they are.

8. Compliment them to their parents or someone important to them. Genuine compliments are my favorite type of thing to communicate to parents. As Joe Sanfilippo and Amy Fadeji said in 10 Awesome Ways to Build Parent Partnerships, the first contact that a parent should be positive. Then, after that we need positives to keep flowing. You can do that several ways. Pictures of kids succeeding in the classroom (I post them just to the class in Bloomz as I don’t like these pics to be on the public web.)

Genuine compliments of a child is mastering quickly or excelling at doing, (I test them to parents via Bloomz.)

A funny story of their child’s personality that also shows my appreciation of their individuality. Notes on report cards or progress reports about each child’s strengths. Thanking them about it. When a child goes home, and someone says, “Mrs. Vicki says you are good at doing ____.” or “Mr. Smith says you did a great job at ____.” “Your name has just been said in a positive way. That, my dear teacher friends, is a good thing.

9. Use Grace in your Discipline. Monday morning I was furious. I have a special chair that Kip bought for me that I sit in at my desk. It is expensive because I was having knee problems and I needed one with the right height for me. (See 5 Great Ways to Make Your Classroom a Healthier, Happier Place.)

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Someone let three boys into the Wonder Lab last Friday. They sat in my chair. When I came in Monday, it was messed up. I was furious. I found out that I had gotten angry. I was angry. I communicated but I did not discipline them. I, literally, sat on it for a day. Instead, I went back to each of them on Tuesday and said this, “I am sorry I was so angry yesterday. Mr. Kip had to come in last night and fix the chair. I know when you sit in the chair, you don’t feel like you’re messing it up. But I do.” I have a rule that no one sits in my chair. My husband bought me that chair.

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two years ago for my birthday so I wouldn’t come home with my back and knees hurting. Now, whether you agree with it or not, do you understand the rule that no one sits in my chair?” Each boy said yes.

“Now, I was pondering what to do on this because you broke a rule in my class. My question is: Do you understand the rule or do I have to put you in break detention so you remember it?” “Mrs. Vicki, I promise that I will not break the rule, and I understand it,” each boy said to a T.

“Well, here’s what I’m doing, then. I believe your word and that you’ll do as you say. If you don’t keep your word, you won’t just have one day, you’ll have three, but I don’t think it will come to that. Let’s move on with this understanding.”

We end with reinforcing the rule. Reinforcing that they are going to be men of their word and that I believe in them. I believe none of the three will break that rule again. You can call me naive but in 14 years of teaching, this discipline with grace always works. I’ve never had to go back and put them in detention for the three days.

Kids who are spoken to with respect like adults often act like functional adults. Also, note that I handled it properly and discreetly. I might send a child to detention but I can count them on one hand for the past two years.

**10. Do Something Extra.** Kids notice when you go over and above. Here are just a few ways to be a little extra noticing.

*Follow up.* If you see a child early in the day, and they are having a hard time — try to find them in the hall or in the day, and they are having a hard time — try to find them in the hall or in the day, and they are having a hard time.

*Extra noticing:* Here are just a few ways to be a little that no one cracks a smile in your classroom except when you trip on a pencil and almost fall.

Plan Memorable Things. We want to anticipate fun. Events. Activities. Trips. I want to be the one who has these things, but you can even have them with no notice. If the kids come in dragging, I’ll pull out my costume kid (see Drama in the Classroom: 2 Examples with Bellringers, and we’ll act out scenes. Memories and laughter can always turn the day around.

Stop Everything when a Crisis Happens. I had a child in a wreck a little over a month ago. The kids had just found out and came into my room with blank faces. I didn’t know what happened, but I knew my students enough to know something was up. I always ask where every student is and when I came to her chair — they told me. I stopped class and as I walked by the students I was about to pitch. Some of my kids said — oh, could I have one. I told them we were going to do a cookie-off. The understood their friends having a gunfight over my cookies I was about to pitch. Some of the students looked like Einstein and preach like Martin Be a Human Being Not Just a Human Doing. I could teach like Einstein and preach like Martin Luther King Jr. but it would mean nothing without love. Love stops what it is doing when there is crisis.

Love looks people in the eye. Love believes in people. Love knows that relationships trump everything. Love — LOVES PEOPLE. And in the end, flipping a kid is the same as flipping any person — showing love.

AVIEE Winner Goodall (can’t from page 1) world events in relation to lesson plans. Her Twitter account has amassed nearly 300 followers, most of which are students, and is frequently updated with articles and videos relating to in-class subject matter. Ms. Goodall does not shy away from incorporating technology outside of her classroom, but I don’t think it will come to that. Let’s move on with this understanding.”

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In the end, handling disciplinary issues with tact and wisdom improves things. It also flips their day when you understand the rule or do I have to put them in detention for the three days. Kids who are spoken to with respect like adults often act like functional adults. Also, note that I handled it promptly and discursively when it wasn’t furious. You will be respected when you behave respectfully.


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Follow up. If you see a child early in the day, and they are having a hard time – try to find them in the hall or after school and check on them.

Do Things Related to What They Love. If a child says they love something, and you have it in your power to give them that thing or something related, do it. (For example, I had a student who loved a certain old SNL character. I used the clip and mentioned their name in a lesson plan. I’m celebrating that child!)

Talk About What They Love. I have a student who loves sketichn shotting. No one else does this sport, but she loves it. Every time I see her, I ask her about the sport and what she’s doing next. Another student loves her horse. I ask about the horse!

New things. Favorites. Big accomplishments. Let them tell the story they love to tell just one more time. Laugh with them. Make time for laughter.

A funny story from yesterday

Yesterday in class I had some old dry cookies I was about to pitch. Some of my kids said – oh, could I have one. I said, “sure, they’re dry — you can eat it over the trash can.”

Well, they put it in their mouth, and they were so dry that they’d have little crumbs fly into the air like steam out of your mouth on a cold day.

So, two of them looked at each other, and one said to the other “lets have a cookie-off.” The understood (somehow) and said, “let’s do this.”

So, they squared off like the old-time cowboys having a gunfight over my trashcan. Each looked at the other and put the whole cookie in their mouth. I laughed when I realized what they were doing. It was kind of like the cinnamon challenge – dry dry dry – but it was hilarious.

Now, some of you will fuss at me for having sugar (gasp) in my classroom. But we laughed our fool heads off for the 2 minutes at the beginning of class, and they sat down to work for the next 50.

You can’t make this stuff up, and you can’t make laughter happen except not to be so stiff and rigid

that no one cracks a smile in your classroom except when you trip on a pencil and almost fall. Plan Memorable Things. We all want to anticipate fun. Events. Activities. Trips. I want to be the one who has these things, but you can even have them with no notice. If the kids come in dragging, I’ll pull out my costume kid (see Drama in the Classroom: 2 Examples with Bellringers, and we’ll act out scenes. Memories and laughter can always turn the day around.

Stop Everything When a Crisis Happens. I had a child in a wreck a little over a month ago. The kids had just found out and came into my room with blank faces. I didn’t know what happened, but I knew my students enough to know something was up. I always ask where every student is and when I came to her chair — they told me. I stopped class and changed the lesson plan on the spot — We made get well cards on their computer for her. They needed to channel their skills into something constructive that would help them deal with their emotions. Believe it or not, this flipped the attitude of the whole class. While they were still upset, they smiled as they laughed about things that they could write to make her laugh. It changed the whole relationship for me with that class because they knew I hurt when they hurt. I love them.

Be a Human Being Not Just a Human Doing. I could teach like Einstein and preach like Martin Luther King Jr. but it would mean nothing without love. Love stops nothing without love. Love stops
Upcoming Events

Jan. 30 ConnectED Coast – South Portland High School https://goo.gl/HxR01S
Feb. 6 EdCampWestern ME, (Snow Date Feb. 7th) Mt. Blue High School, Farmington
March 11 MooseTech 2016 Foxcroft Academy, Dover-Foxcroft
March 11 Leading Future Learning 2016, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA

http://leadingfuturelearning.org

April 1 NEISTE Vendor Summit – Gillette Stadium, Foxboro, MA
April 4-7 CoSN 2016 Annual Conference - 2016 - Washington DC
April 29 7:00 am – 3:30 pm Tech & Learning Live @ Boston: Insight and Innovation for Technology Leaders, Boston Marriott Newton, MA
May 26 2016 MLTI Student Conference, at the University of Maine
June 26-29 ISTE 2016 Conference. Denver, CO

Ongoing MLTI & Other PD Opportunities
MLTI Professional Development (HP Solution): http://maine.gov/mlti/events/hp.shtml
Tech Sherpas - http://www.techsherpas.org/ Tuesday 3pm
#EdChatME - http://www.greatschoolspartnership.org/edchatme/ Thursdays 8-9pm
Southern Maine Integrators - Now TechConnectME - Join our Google+ Community

About Time and Beyond - Join Susie Simmons and Mike Arsenault as they chat about all things technology integration in Maine (& beyond). https://plus.google.com/events/c7c3atf0stcijk7qkankp7164s