



From Fortmando

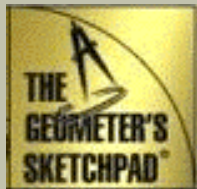
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What's Happening

It is amazing to witness the numerous classroom activities that have brought Middle School students to the computer lab already this school year. And it is still September. Fantastic!

Ryan has been bringing in his math students while studying geometry tessellations. They have done an incredible job in a very short time of mastering some of the basics to GEOMETERS SKETCH PAD. It is refreshing to see the eighth graders working in GSP during Open Lab Club Time. I have also been challenged to recall some geometry concepts that have been dormant for several years. -----



Tips and Tricks

SYNONYM search in WORD. This will work for both the new version of WORD 2001 and the older version, still on most of the teacher's laptops.

Too much trouble to go to the toolbar menu or do you prefer keyboard commands to the mouse? — This is for you.

While typing a document, select a word by double clicking on it. Hold down the CONTROL key and click on the word with your mouse. Scroll down to synonyms and you will see a list of words with which you can replace your original.

Eighth graders have also been coming to the lab for Erik's English classes. Using William Strong's book titled Sentence Combining, students are learning about sentence structure. As Erik instructs, the students are using WORD to create a variety of sentence structures. Learning the power of language is an evident outcome of these exercises.

Lousie has brought the 8th grade drama class in to research Shakespeare.

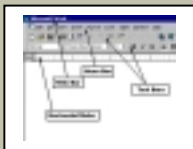
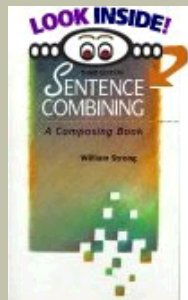
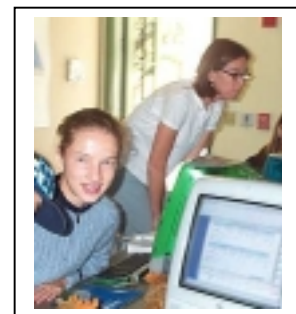
Latin students have used POWERPOINT for class presentations.

Christina's Spanish classes are working on a travel project which has brought eighth grade students to the lab for research and instruction in Excel.

All sixth graders have been to the lab for an introduction/orientation to the use of technology at Menlo. All students have their own personal folder on the student server, Jupiter, and they have selected their own passwords. If students forget their passwords, they will have to contact me for assistance.

Erin's 6th grade Human Skills classes have been in to view her website.

Bottom line, technology is happening in the Middle School at Menlo!

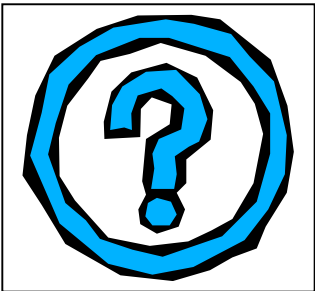




* *

*"I really miss this place. It s
so nice over here. I m going
to visit more often.*

Tim Fall 05



Plagiarists Beware

Upon my return from the sixth grade retreat, there was a message from a Rod Standen. I had no idea who Rod was, but, heh, I am still single and looking, so returned the call. Apparently one of his students had copied information from one of my websites and turned it in as her own work. He found it because she did give credit to me as a source, but nothing was quoted. Mr. Standen teaches at Fort Peck Community College which is located on an Indian reservation in the northeast corner of Montana. Moral of the story, if you copy information from another website, give credit to the author. Teachers can trace questionable information. Some helpful plagiarism sites worth checking out are <http://www.eirc.org/redesign.html>

<http://www.plagiarism.org>

Out of Paper?

It happens! If you are in the lab and the printer runs out of paper, give a good tug on the paper tray at the bottom of the printer and insert more paper. I use the same paper that we use in the copy machine. If you want a private help session, I would be delighted to provide one.

AUP

The school s AUP (Acceptable Use Policy) has been sent home to all MS parents with the request to review it with the students, sign and return to the office. During an upcoming Advocacy class, you will be asked to discuss this document as well as the Acceptable Uses of Technology at Menlo. This topic is certainly in tune with our ethics theme for the year. I will place copies of both documents in your mailboxes soon. Your Advocacy Gurus will inform you of the date to have this discussion. If you or your avocados need any clarification, don t hesitate to ask. You can find both of these documents linked at our library website:

<http://library.menloschool.org/computeruse.html>
<http://library.menloschool.org/network.html>

Remembered Fondly

Former MS student, Tim Fall stopped by for a visit, actually he had a technology issue he needed solved, but I thought those that know Tim would appreciate his comments to me, "I really miss this place. It s so nice over here. I m going to visit more often. What a sweetheart!

Computer Lab Use

When you wish to bring your classes to the lab, please e-mail me several days in advance. I have two weeks of calendaring posted in the lab.

Please, never send students to the lab unsupervised or in the middle of class to find *me* to supervise them. It is difficult saying no to the students when I am not available. They are always welcome to find me before or after school and during club time.

After using the lab, remember to have students turn off all of the machines. You will need to walk around the room to assure this is done. They also need to push in the chairs and put the help animals on top of the computers. This would save me lots of precious time and the room would always be ready for the next class coming to the lab. Many thanks!

Turning off the LCD projector when it is not needed will extend its use before the bulb burns out. What lucky person will have that happen to them?

Noodlebib

Elvira Bayless is available to work with you and your classes on Noodlebib which is an online bibliographic composer. The current 7th and 8th graders were instructed on its use last year, but might need a refresher class. Check it out on the Library s website.