



*I have used more technology this semester at Menlo, than I have ever used before in my teaching.*

*Liz Cirone*

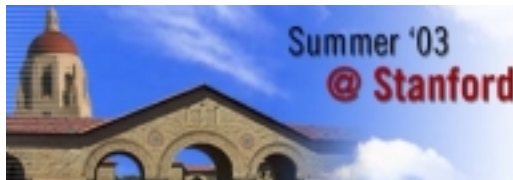
# From Fortmando

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## Classroom Connect

**C**lassroom Connect offers several conferences throughout the year at different locations. The technology department staff attended the meeting last November in Long Beach. I attended the meeting in Las Vegas last week. I strongly encourage faculty to consider these workshops especially if you have chosen Technology or Professional Development as your professional development component. The workshops have something for everyone. They offer hands-on workshops, which provide small group instruction on specific software packages. After attending eleven sessions plus the opening speaker and the closing session, I was overwhelmed with plenty of ideas and information overload. Hearing David Thornberg speak at the opening session was one of the highlights of the conference. After processing my notes, I will share relevant information with you in the next Fortmando. Like any conference, what you get out of it is in direct correlation to what you put into it. However, there is no correlation between the amount of spare change put into a slot machine to the amount that comes out!

**DMA**, (Digital Media Academy) is a technology immersion program that offers hands-on, project-based training for educators. It is held every summer at Stanford University. Two classes I would recommend for most MS faculty are: Digital Media for the Classroom and Applications for the Classroom.



They are both general classes that touch on several important software packages that can be used in the integration of technology into any curriculum. There are other more software specific courses offered. I would direct you to courses on Dreamweaver, which will become Menlo's web design software, replacing Adobe PageMill.

Though more complicated to use, it is a more powerful program. For details go to their webpage [www.DigitalMediaAcademy.org](http://www.DigitalMediaAcademy.org) or check out the brochures in the MS office. Grace and I both attended last summer and we would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

## MS¥MSA

**A**t the January 9<sup>th</sup> MS¥MSA meeting Erik, Mima, and MaryEllen did an excellent job of presenting their tech professional development experiences. The parents shared supportive comments after the meeting and I also received a phone call from a parent who was very impressed with how the teachers were using technology in such meaningful ways with their classes. Clearly, these teachers enthusiasm was evident.

**A**t the meeting, I also reminded the parents that the student competencies established last spring were reviewed regularly at team meetings, assuring the parents that technology skills were being taught by other teachers in core and LAE classes. They were pleased to know that the acquisition of technology skills was not dropped when we stopped offering scheduled computer classes in the Middle School.

## Fortmando on the Web

One of my roles as the MS Instructional Technology Coordinator is to keep abreast of software used at Menlo. We are moving towards a new web design software package — DREAMWEAVER. Eric Spross suggested that I post Fortmandos, so as I begin to learn how to use this new program, I have given myself an assignment to post the Fortmandos on my web page. As soon as I accomplish this task, I will let you know.

If you have suggestions, topics, or would like to be featured in an upcoming FORTMANDO, let me know.



## POWERPOINT Workshop

If you have not yet experienced the power of PowerPoint, consider attending a workshop on its many functions. I will be offering a PowerPoint workshop on February 13<sup>th</sup> from 3:15 — 4:30. If you are interested please let me know in advance. If this is not a suitable time for you, but you want to learn about PowerPoint, let me know, as I will be happy to arrange a convenient time in my schedule for some private instruction.

## New Data Management System

The committee involved in selecting the adoption of a new school wide data management system continues to meet. Sandi has been a key person, representing the MS in this selection process. Currently, Chris Yates, Sandi and I are holding phone conferences with other schools that have recently adopted one of the two systems the committee is considering for implementation at Menlo. Hopefully, the transition will be well planned offering multiple stages of execution. I will keep you informed!

## CAIS Workshops

Have you signed up for your CAIS workshops? This year there are numerous workshops being offered in technology. Refer to pages 41-42 in the CAIS binder in the faculty room.

## Classroom Visits

If you are still planning to visit other teachers, consider coming to the computer lab to observe your colleagues using technology. The schedule is always posted in the lab or you can contact me to ask about any upcoming projects that might be of interest to you for observation.



## Technology Is Happening

Liz's first semester 8<sup>th</sup> grade percussion class is making their own CD. Working with Eric Spross, Liz has been able to record, edit and produce CDs for each student in the eighth grade Elective Percussion class. Liz says, I have used more technology this semester at Menlo, than I have ever used before in my teaching. Congratulations, Liz and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, on making it to the charts!

