

Newsletter

February 2003

Volume 1, Issue 6



Today's learners are skateboarders looking for the bumps .

David Thornberg  
\*\*\*



Dr. David Thornberg

### 2003 Workshops

Seattle  
October 10-11

San Antonio  
October 29-30

Philadelphia  
November 11-12

Chicago  
November 18-19

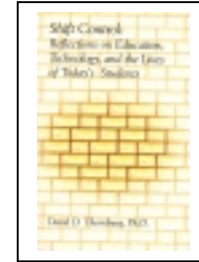
Palm Springs, CA  
Dec. 3-4

# From Fortmando

Nancy Fortman  
Menlo Middle School  
Technology Coordinator  
x2491

## Classroom Connect

In the January Fortmando I mentioned that seeing David Thornberg was one of the highlights of my Classroom Connect experiences. David is one of the premiere futurists and presenters in the field of technology. His Keynote Address titled Understanding Generation.com challenged us to know who today's learners are – skateboarders looking for the bumps . He encouraged us to get the students' input for curriculum, asking them what they think school should be like. He reminded us that our students are natives of the digital age and we are the digital immigrants. What is our accent? Technology is here to stay and we need to get on board. As teachers, if we agree that it is important for students to be able to 1. gain access to information; 2. decide if the information is relevant to their quest; 3. determine if the information they find is accurate, then we must agree that we need to teach these technology related skills to our students.



David's most recent book, titled Shift Control - Reflections on Education, Technology, and the Lives of Today's Students provided interesting reading on the plane trip home. The book is a collection of essays written from selective scripts he wrote for PBS over the past few years. Topics include: censorship, cheating, the increased use of handheld devices, effective pedagogical models and much more. The central theme is that through the use of technology, control is shifting (and there is no option) into the hands of the learners and that this transformation can be celebrated as a pathway to deeper learning and understanding. His goal is to get teachers to think more deeply about education, technology, and the lives of their students. David's writing is like his presentations. He is animated and entertaining. His views and ideas are provoking and relevant. I encourage you to visit his website — [www.tcpd.org](http://www.tcpd.org)

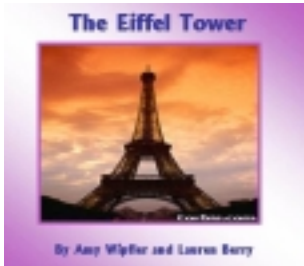
## Check Out These Sites

Site URL	Author	Topic
<a href="http://www.tonybrewer.com">www.tonybrewer.com</a>	Tony Brewer	Teacher resource
<a href="http://www.rollins.techtrekers.com">Rollins www.techtrekers.com</a>	Debbie Rollins	Teacher resource
<a href="http://www.improvelearning.com">www.improvelearning.com</a>	NJ Dept of Ed	Teacher resource
<a href="http://www.school.aol.com">www.school.aol.com</a>	AOL	Teacher resource
<a href="http://4teachers.org">http://4teachers.org</a>	Univ of Kansas	Teacher resource
<a href="http://www.cut-the-knot.org/collections.html">www.cut-the-knot.org/collections.html</a>	Alexander Bogomolny	Math teachers list of useful websites
<a href="http://www.brainpop.com/">www.brainpop.com/</a>	BrainPOP LLC	Movies, quizzes Science teachers focus
<a href="http://www.leslifisher.com">www.leslifisher.com</a>	Leslie Fisher	Check out the handouts — software instruction
<a href="http://www.askanexpert.com">www.askanexpert.com</a>	Pitsco, Inc.	Aviation to whale experts available to ask questions
<a href="http://www.actden.com/pp">www.actden.com/pp</a>	Act 360 Media Ltd.	Instructions on how to use PowerPoint — miss my workshop last month- ^ it out
<a href="http://www.gsn.org/pr/index.html">www.gsn.org/pr/index.html</a>	Global SchoolNet	Online expeditions — requires registration

## 6<sup>th</sup> Builds With PowerPoint



Sixth graders wowed their parents with PowerPoint presentations on their Architecture Finale Day. Jessica and Franklin planned a very successful PowerPoint project involving students learning how to access information, determining the relevance of the information, the validity of sources and how to cite sources. They invited Bette to come to their humanities classes to discuss searching on the Internet, providing alternatives to Google. Students worked in a partnership on creating a six card presentation on a famous architecture structure They were guided with an outline of what information needed to be presented on each slide. Instructions were given in the lab on the how-tos of PowerPoint and the sixth graders went to town. If you are interested in viewing their projects, check out the Architecture folder on the student server. Log in as msfaculty and enter msrules as the password. You will find an Architecture folder with the completed projects.



## Lights, Camera, Action

Mima's Japanese classes have been busy filming classes throughout the MS campus as they created a film to send to Japan. In January Mima received a video from the sixth grade class at the Nakayama Elementary School in Nakayama-cho, Japan. Mima had all grades involved in this project — writing the script and filming were collaborative efforts. The seventh graders edited the movie. The final product is thirty minutes in length and an excellent first shot at film production. Mima has a copy she would enjoy sharing with you — maybe at an assembly? Special thanks to everyone who allowed their classes to be filmed. Your willingness to give up a few minutes of your class time with this interruption demonstrated your support and concern for your colleagues and their classroom endeavors.



## PowerPoint 102

Last Month Mary Ellen and Laurie attended my beginners workshop on PowerPoint 101. At their request, there will be a second class to continue with their training. Please feel welcome to join us on Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 3:15 in the Computer Lab. If there is enough interest in a repeat of the 101 class, I will be happy to schedule a time to meet with you. Just let me know.

## Computer Lab Use

The schedule for the use of both the library and computer lab will be filling up in March and April as we make accommodations for Rosetta's Decade's Projects, Mary Ellen's 7<sup>th</sup> grade Art Project and Christina's Spanish Project. If you are intending to do a technology project this spring, please see me ASAP so we can set up some times that will get you into the lab. I hope to work with the seventh graders on spreadsheets and PowerPoint this spring. The sixth graders will also be doing a project in Science class. Please don't let the year end without making those arrangements.

## Free Advice

When using technology for a presentation, allow time to set up and test that all systems are go. We have all been at an assembly when the technology was not cooperating. Often, it is because there are several different models of laptops and LCD projectors being used on campus which require different tweaking. I am most willing to help with any set up if you give me a heads up — preferably the day before the presentation. ☺

## Impact

How long it took each technology to reach 50 million users

Radio	38 years
TV	13 years
The Web	4 years
Napster	2 years