



So look forward to less freezes, less crashes, a new desktop look

# From Fortmando

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## OS X IS HAPPENING

At the last All School Faculty Meeting, Eric gave a quick overview of OS X which will be the new operating system on all the school's Macs this fall. Be sure to sign up for a time to bring in your laptop and to pick it up during the summer. The schedule is by the Admissions Office. Erik Wessler and I have it loaded on our laptops to test the waters. So far, so terrific! I think you will enjoy the features of this new system as well as the stability that it offers. Remember that change is the name of the technology game. Just when you get real comfortable with your hardware and software, it changes. My advice is to look at it as an opportunity to become more tech savvy and to learn some awesome new tools that can help you do your job.

With OS X comes the latest versions of i-Tunes, i-Photo and i-Movie. There is a new OS X compatible version of MICROSOFT OFFICE which will also be used. This issue of Fortmando was created with MICROSOFT OFFICE X. It is very similar to OFFICE 2001 which most of you are currently using. Having your laptop upgraded during the summer will give you a little time before the school year begins to become familiar with some of the new software. Rest assured that all the changes will be presented at fall training sessions. One change is that every time you turn on your machines, you will be asked to log into the server.

So look forward to less freezes, less crashes, a new desktop look and some training when you get your laptop back this summer. You will also receive a CD titled Getting Ready for OS X. I highly recommend that you take the time to use it. It is informative and easy to use.

## THANK YOU

Many thanks to Candy, Eden and Rosetta who have agreed to give up their class time so that I can meet with all of the MS students to evaluate their tech skills for the year and to show them some student server housecleaning. I will also give them some information about some of the changes for next year. I know that as the end of the school year approaches, we begin to panic about all that we still want to accomplish, so Candy, Eden and Rosetta, I am grateful for the sacrifice.

## FORTMANDO GOES DIGITAL

It is done! I have posted all issues of FORTMANDO on my webpage as pdf files. Pdf files will open up in Adobe ACROBAT which should be loaded on all of your laptops. Should you have any interest in reviewing past issues (view pictures in color, show friends your great tech projects), check it out at <http://sun.menloschool.org/~nfortman/> My new webpage was created with DREAMWEAVER which will replace Adobe PAGEMILL for web design next year. If you have an opportunity to take a class on how to use this software, go for it.



## 6<sup>th</sup> GENETICS DISCOVERY PROJECT

Sixth graders have returned to the lab to create PP presentations on some incredibly interesting topics including: human cloning, genetically engineered food, DNA analysis in criminal investigations, identical and fraternal twins, sickle cell anemia, Andi the genetically altered monkey, the aftermath of the Chernobyl disaster, and the story of Dolly the Lamb. It is impressive to see the students working on these fascinating projects. They have grown in leaps and bounds in their ability to search for information using the Internet to find reliable resources. They no longer question the necessity for citation. They are comfortably using advanced tools in POWERPOINT. And most impressive to me is the appropriateness of planning to use the technology to enhance, not take over, the information/message that their projects are presenting. Hats off to Grace for her thorough planning of this project. All information was posted on my web page, so students had access to relevant resources and a calendar posting the daily schedule. Her background in investment banking gave her plenty of practice with PP where, she shares, Animation was a big no-no. But just try to tell 6<sup>th</sup> graders that! Randy who was there every day, also, is quite familiar with the technology skills for this project. Students prepared presentations by practicing with their partners in front of an adult. They did not write in complete sentences, but rather bullet point all written information. They used a hardcopy of the notes page feature of PP when presenting to the class. Rosetta, this class is ready for their Decade s Project!

## EXPONENTIAL EXTRAVAGANZA

Ryan s math classes were back in the lab using GSP to graph equations. They chose an experiment, made predictions, ran tests, collected data and wrote reports on their findings. They used recently purchased motion sensors which are shared with the science departments. Impressive stuff Mr. Swolland!

## CITE ¥SITE ¥SIGHT

Maura Sincoff, former 8<sup>th</sup> grade English teacher, reviewed proper citation using Noodlebib with Rosetta s 8<sup>th</sup> grade students as they completed their Decade s PP projects. Knowing that every picture taken from the Internet needed to be properly cited has given students reason to rethink their use of images and certainly the amount of images used from other sources. Please take time to review proper citation when assigning projects. If you need help, Bette and Maura will be glad to spend time teaching you how to use Noodlebib.

## DIGITAL DECADES



Rosetta is setting up for the Decades projects. This year she is using the digital camera to tape portions of the presentations which she will then transfer to a VHS tape archiving the students work. Students are now bringing in DVDs to use in their presentations. All of the faculty i-books and some of the G3 laptops are capable of playing DVDs. When your laptop is connected to the LCD projector, you have a larger view of the DVD when playing it. If you, like me, have an older G3 that does not play DVDs, you can borrow a DVD player from Facilities. There is no plan, currently, to replace the VCRs with DVD players as the Tech Dept. feels that most educational movies are on VHS format. I will advocate strongly in favor of purchasing DVD players, minimally for each team when the budget for 2004-05 year is being planned.

