



Polk/Osceola Best Of eXamples



A monthly newsletter for the technology coaches in Polk and Osceola Counties



SEPTEMBER 2007

# Florida Digital Educator Program

*A statewide integration initiative*

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### Special points of interest:

- Something Different
- Grant resources
- Hubs of Learning
- The FDE website
- **Best Of eXample**

Liza Guasp

### Something Different

One of the most important components of the Florida Digital Educator Program is to make an impact on teaching and learning. I posed this question to many of our teachers, "What is something you have done differently since you went to Florida Digital Educator training?" A few of the teachers responded in those first few busy weeks of school. **Julie Sawyer**, at Michigan Avenue Elementary said, "I taught my kindergarten students how to use digital cameras on the first day of school. They are now taking most of the pictures, and I plan to do digital storytelling with them as the year progresses."

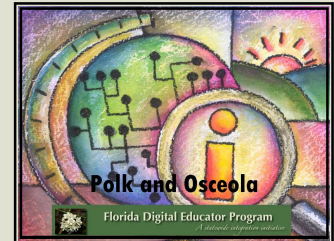
**Fotini Guzman**, computer teacher at Pleasant Hill Elementary School reports, "First, I am using Lit2go with my 4th graders to learn about mp3 and Aesop's Fables. Then, we use PowerPoint to create a slide show to go with the fable they downloaded. Then, we are using a video iPod with a

microphone attachment to record their voice; they have to record the moral of the story. That is the last slide of their PPT. FUN--FUN--FUN"

At Bellalago Charter Academy, **Wendy Norton**, science block teacher shared, "This year I used CrazyTalk software to introduce my classroom rules and lab procedures. I used pictures of two Dalmation puppies and the kids were so engaged. It worked really well."

**Jodie Livingston** has taken her leadership role seriously and is getting her whole grade level at Pleasant Hill Elementary involved with the integration of technology. Jodie wrote, "I have made sure my grade level has an LCD projector in each of their classrooms.....we are now working on how to use this technology everyday...baby steps will get us there!"

I have observed many teachers making individual and school impact. One of



the teachers that was so pleasantly surprised by her school's reaction to her leadership role with technology is **Natalie Odam** at Kissimmee Middle School (see pictures on the next page). Natalie teaches 6th, 7th and 8th grade math and with three preps, she was looking for a way to make mathematics more engaging for the students. She asked her principal if she could have a few computers in her room and instead she was given a complete math lab! Her students are becoming a 21st century learners as teacher and students are excited about the interaction that software and hardware bring to the math curriculum. Sometimes we have not, because we ask not!



**Wendy Norton** loves teaching science at Bellalago Academy. She's a avid user of Promethean Boards, the DIV and an very active Discovery Educator Network STAR member.



**Julie Sawyer** did a live webinar with Mr. Wizard and her kindergarten students at Michigan Ave. Elementary!

The Florida Digital Educator Program (FDEP) is the direct result of the EETT (Enhancing Education Through Technology) grant award to Polk and Osceola County teachers. Our Florida Digital Educators who went to camp this summer all received a new laptop and the ability to have a projector or similar technology for their classroom. Each FDE is mentoring one other teacher, a collaborating teacher, and

### Grant resources

he/she will be receiving up to \$800 in hardware/software incentives that will help them to integrate technology in the classroom. Teachers are choosing items like projectors, video iPods, mp3 players, Interwrite School Pads, Pen Pads, microphones, headsets, Inspiration, Quia, Adobe products and much more. The most important reason for these incentives is to enhance the learning environment to engage our students of today.

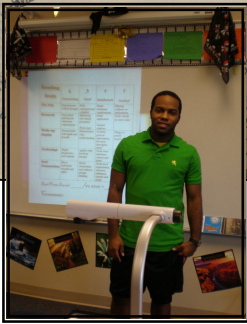
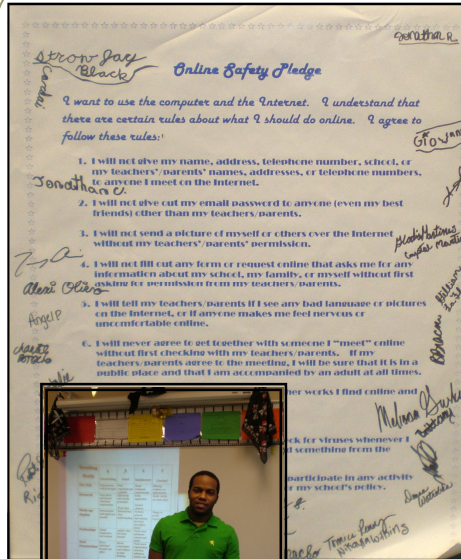


**Jodi Livingston**, at Pleasant Hill Elementary loves making a difference with her new laptop..

## Liza Guasp, 3rd grade teacher

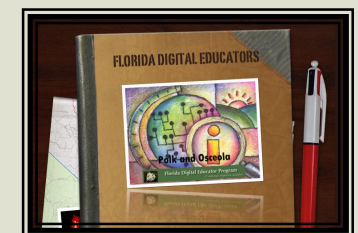
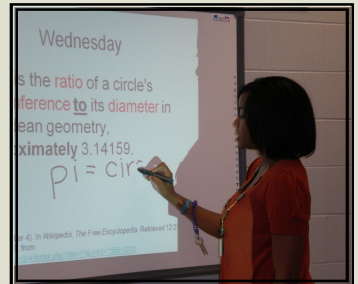
### Poinciana Elementary School, Osceola County

Liza is our "best of eXample" this month because she took on a leadership role at her school that her teachers are really grateful for. In Liza's own words, "I came up with the idea to have a forum where we can email each other regarding technology use in the classroom. As a result of this vision, "PES TECHNOLOGY TIPS" was created on our desktops. I designed it to serve two important purposes: (1) the Tech Coaches post a weekly "Tech Tip of the Week or TTW"- something teachers can implement quickly and easily into their instruction, and (2) to provide a place where teachers can post instructional technology questions and get them answered by one of the Tech Coaches. Teachers can ask things like- "How do I continuously loop my Power Point Presentation?" or "How can I change the background music on my Photo Story presentation?" This is different from, "My printer is not working!" or "I ran out of ink." For those types of questions, teachers keep posting them under "PES Tech Calls" and our Tech Contact takes care of them. If it wasn't because of the Florida Digital Educator training, I would have never thought of doing something like this. Thank you, Liza for understanding the power of collaboration.



**Brandon Shivers** had his students at Ventura Elementary sign an Online Safety Pledge, blew it up poster size, and has it hanging in his classroom as a reminder of the importance of the online experiences this school year.

**Natalie Odom** is transforming the way math is being taught at Kissimmee Middle School.



Visit our website at [www.imc.osceola.k12.fl.us/EETT](http://www.imc.osceola.k12.fl.us/EETT)

## Florida Digital Educator Program

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**Hubs of Learning**  
*iTeach, iLearn, iShare*  
optional trainings for FDEs and collaborating teachers



Hubs of Learning afford teachers in the FDE program an opportunity to collaborate, integrate digital tools in the classroom and share with other teachers on their campus.



## Optional Hubs of Learning

One of the most popular parts of camp was the evening (optional) Hubs of Learning. Teachers explored iPods and iTunes in the classroom, making music with GarageBand, Google Earth and many more. We are offering optional evening trainings throughout the school year, but somehow, it's just not as easy to walk from the dorm to the Hub. Who has time to go to a technology training just for fun? - The Florida Digital Educators! These trainings are small and intimate and have, to date,



included Gaggle.net and Audacity. Next month's PO BOX will highlight the incredible impact that Gaggle.net is having on student learning in both Polk and Osceola. Most of the trainings in Osceola County are on Monday evenings at Lakeview Elementary, the IMC and Pleasant Hill Elementary. The Polk trainings rotate on Tuesday evenings (4:30pm-6:30pm) from Traviss Technical Center to Dr. N.E. Roberts to Lake Marion Creek Elementary. We are getting ready to complete the Audacity trainings in Polk. These Hubs of Learning are designed to be informal hands-on collaborative time to



explore digital opportunities that most of the Florida Digital Educators have been exposed to, but have not had enough time to implement.

Upcoming Hubs of Learning will include using PhotoStory to create instructional videos, iPods in the classroom with an emphasis on the versatility of iTunes (Mac or Windows), Google Earth, Assignment Builder in Discovery streaming and podcasting. In the second semester, Hubs of Learning will begin its first webinar series in the evenings!