



MCCE NEWS

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Billings Tech Cadre: Creating a Professional Learning Community for Technology Integration

by *Desirée Caskey*

Although the federal government has allocated \$650 million dollars for the EETT (Enhancing Education Through Technology) funding, Billings and many Montana schools are seeing very little of that money. This would be a great time to whine and complain about the unfair practices of allocating funds to schools throughout Montana, but instead...this is a story about what one district is doing to combat shrinking funds with increasing technology staff development needs.

For the past several years I have been involved in a professional learning community called Montana Tech Cadre. To learn more about that program, you can read Kathi Hoyt's article. Myself, and several teachers from Billings decided that we needed to duplicate this model for teachers in our district and surrounding communities. This school year we will be starting our own professional learning community called Billings Tech Cadre. We are nicknaming it Camp Cadre, because camp has always been a fun experience where you get to see friends that you normally wouldn't see...and you do all kinds of fun activities. That is exactly what Camp Cadre is!

The focus of the cadre is to provide effective technology staff development for a large group of teachers, but keeping the small group approach active. Our mission statement (adapted from MT Tech Cadre) reads:

To find and share best practices to integrate technology into teaching and learning, by:

- providing a forum for networking & collaboration
- using NETS for teachers & students
- participating in a professional learning community
- modeling & practicing effective instructional strategies while demonstrating emerging technologies.



The cadre is about bringing teachers together from all grade levels and all curriculum areas, and encouraging them to collaborate and share ideas and knowledge. The Camp Cadre days will be filled with group projects to increase technical skills, collaboration skills, and teaching ideas.

The first year of the cadre, we will focus on NETS•T – National Educational Technology Stan-

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Welcome back to the land of the young,

As our school year unfolds and MEA draws near please remind yourselves that as an Educational Group and part of MEA we have an obligation to not only our group, but to all educators as well as our young minds. To be a part of Montana educators we need to do our utmost to attend and uphold the right to continue to have these days of sharing and meetings that enhances and refreshes us all. Please commit to coming to MEA to share and recommit to this hard won right. Many are trying to take this away from us with other meetings at different venues and other PIR times in the summer.

Soon we will be required to attend these summer or similar PIR meetings and the round robin sharing at MEA will be lost. Remember the value you obtain from a united MEA and how we all got to this position. I have had flyers and meetings posted already for meetings and classes during MEA days.

Have a successful fall and continue to use the Web site, our newsletter, and list serve.

I cannot wait to see you all at MEA in October.

Live long and Tech.

Mark Jenkins



THE ORGANIZATION

Did you know that MCCE is your state affiliate of ISTE? You can receive a discount on your ISTE membership because of your membership in MCCE. Be sure to check ISTE's web site. It's a great resource for the technology-using educator.



<http://www.iste.org/>

New ISTE Book on Student-Powered Podcasting

Don't miss the latest ISTE book! In *Student-Powered Podcasting: Teaching for 21st-Century Literacy*, Christopher Shamburg shows how creating podcasts engages students as active participants in culture and society. Audio editing tutorials, 17 adaptable units, assessment rubrics, a discussion of copyright issues, and other resources help teach students 21st-century literacy skills and prepare them for a successful future.

<http://www.iste.org/AM/TemplateRedirect.cfm?template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=24470>



<http://center.uoregon.edu/ISTE/2010/>

MCCE NEWS

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December 12, 2009**

This and past issues of *MCCE News* are available on the World Wide Web at:
<http://www.mcceonline.org/>

Montana Edtech Cadre / Connections



by Kathi Hoyt

As you can see from the above cup the Montana EdTech Cadre blends technology, staff development, collaboration, and effective instruction strategies into a welcoming and satisfying cup to enjoy throughout the year.

Their goal is to identify and disseminate best practices targeting innovative technology integration into teaching and learning, by:

- providing a forum for networking and collaborative work,
- internalizing NETS for teachers and students,
- focusing on exemplary staff development skills,
- utilizing a professional learning community structure (2009-10 Theme: Social Collaboration),
- modeling and practicing effective instructional strategies while demonstrating emerging technologies.

I have been lucky to be a part of this group last year and this year I am the MCCE representative to the Cadre. We meet 3 times during the school year and immerse ourselves in technology, collaboration, and strategies. There is always something new to learn, friendships and connections to strengthen, and of course lots of fun to be had. The guiding light through all of this is Jennifer Arns. She is based out of Oregon and is knowledgeable, energetic, and a great role model for effective instructional strategies. She is also going to be the MCCE keynote speaker this year at the MEA conference. I can hardly wait

to see what she has for us and encourage all of you to come and meet her.

The Cadre is a wonderful way to share and collaborate with other teachers throughout Montana and has been an experience that I will always treasure. We can learn so much from each other, and we don't necessarily need to be part of a Cadre to share our experience and ideas. We have access to the MCCE blog(<http://www.mcceonline.org/blog/>), website, newsletter, and listserv (MTmce@googlegroups.com). All of these avenues connect us instantly no matter where we live in our big state. The more we utilize these tools, the more we can learn from each other. I know that my classroom and my teaching has been enriched through my connection with other teachers from around the state.

I am thankful for the experience of the Cadre, the tech connections available to MCCE members, and the opportunity to attend over 40 (WOW) sessions on technology at our upcoming conference. It's exciting to be a part of all of this and I am looking forward to a great "connected" year.



Do you oovoo? If not, you need to!

by Desireé Caskey

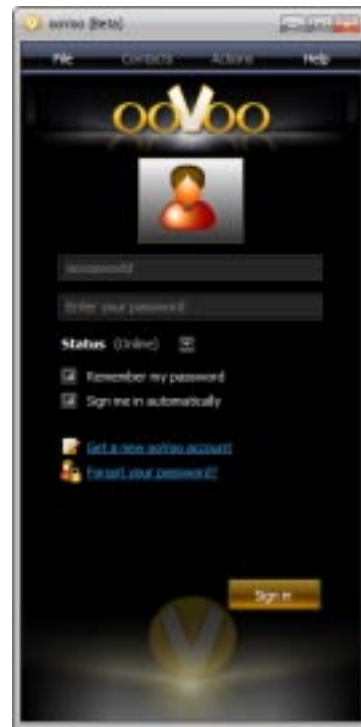
With all the hype over Skype, another video conferencing tool has been overlooked. Oovoo is a free video chat application that lets you hold a video-conference with up to 6 people*.

Last year I was exploring ways to connect multiple classrooms for a collaboration project. Each of the classrooms had Macs, which come with a free video chat program called iChat. This was cool, but what if we wanted to bring in an outside resource...and they used a PC? Well, we could set up multiple accounts on iChat, but this required everyone to set up multiple accounts, and to know which account was being used for the chat session. Google Talk had not been released yet so I started doing some research. This is when I found oovoo. Oovoo is for Mac or Windows, and lets you chat with up to 6 people (including yourself). You can download this free program at <http://www.oovoo.com>.

Like Skype, Oovoo lets you conduct video calls, text chat, conduct phone chats, and send files. But I believe oovoo shines in that you can create a text chat room, create a web video call (chat through a web browser for non-oovoo users) and even embed a "call me" button into your website. The free version lets you conduct 2-way video or audio calls, record and send video messages, video or audio call with non-oovoo users, add

video effects to your account, embed a video chat room into your website and send files up to 5 MB in size. If you want to conduct video chats with more than a 2-way option, oovoo has several different plans, costing up to \$40/month.

*The program used to offer 6-way video chat for free, but it seems they have added a fee for more than 2-way chat.



Billings Tech Cadre

(Continued from Page 1)

dards for Teachers. Each meeting we will focus on a different standard and work on projects that help us better understand what is expected of us as teachers when it comes to technology proficiency. Camp Cadre will meet 5 times throughout the school year, on Saturdays. Having weekend meetings saves money on professional leave, so we are able to serve more teachers. This year we are accepting applications for up to 50 participants. The fee is \$50 to participate – yes, \$50 for 5 Saturdays. There are 7 facilitators that will provide not only instruction but will be modeling effective staff development practices as well as effective technology integration into classroom instruction.

The facilitators for Camp Cadre are teachers who have been involved in technology staff development in some form or another for at least the past 3 years. All of the facilitators are members of TILT (Teachers Integrating & Learning Technology), a professional learning community in the Billings's school district. Several have been involved in the Montana Tech Cadre and most are presenting at MEA this year. You might know some of them:

- Julie Betts - 3rd Grade Teacher
- Desiree Caskey - Technology Integration Specialist
- Dan Erikson - 4th Grade Teacher
- Barb Fettig - High School Teacher
- Kathi Hoyt - Media Specialist
- Elizabeth Waddington - Middle School Teacher
- Jamee Wilson - 4th Grade Teacher

So what does a typical day at Camp Cadre look like? The day starts out with a whole group meeting to outline the expectations of the day. Teachers will be hooking up computers, cameras, gadgets and other toys to get ready for the small group activity. Each group will be given an assignment and a facilitator... then they will be given time to explore,

create and publish a project throughout the day. Groups will be made up of all levels of proficiency, grade and subject... all working together to create a project. Time will be provided for viewing other groups' work, reflection and classroom implications.

Participants in the cadre will be working as part of a team to create a project, but are also required to create and maintain a digital portfolio of their learning and teaching using technology. All of the projects, discussion, and portfolios will be published to the BPS TILT social network. This connects participants in the cadre to another group of educators from Billings and across Montana. Our goal is to ultimately get educators from all across Montana connected.

Teachers from Billings and surrounding schools are welcome to apply for the cadre. We are accepting up to 50 applicants until October 31st, so if you are interested in joining, you can apply online: <http://www.billings.k12.mt.us/tilt/cadre.html>



To learn more about the cadre, you have a few options:
Visit <http://www.billings.k12.mt.us/tilt.cadre2.html>
Email cadre@billings.k12.mt.us with any questions

To learn more about or join the TILT social network:
Visit <http://bpstilt.ning.com>

To learn more about the Montana Tech Cadre:
Visit <http://pdc.oetc.org/montana>



MEA/MFT SECTIONALS BY MCCE

Title	Presenter
iGoogle: Do You Google?	Kathi Hoyt
Engaging Technology Within the Classroom	Jamee Wilson
Using Social Networks in the Primary Classroom	Doretta Lambert
New Technologies for Teaching Biographies	Katy Lefler
Exploring VoiceThread in the Classroom	Dan Erikson
Digital Storytelling	Kathi Hoyt
Twittering to the Blog	Roberta Fuller
Office 2007: What's New and Different?	Katie Kotynski
Tricky Wiki, What?	Dan Erikson
What's with the Wiki?	Roberta Fuller
Innovative EdTech Ideas	Jennifer Arns
Bringing Fairy Tales into the 21st Century	Sandi Shawhan
Delicious-Bookmarks Anywhere You Go!	Karen Mayhall
Connecting to Students (Poetry and Computers)	John Jenkins
PowerPoint is so Yesterday!	Desiree Caskey
(Swish) Alternative to PowerPoint	John Jenkins
Building Parental Connections Using Technology	Tamera Erickson
Bazillions of Digital Photos---Now What?	Elizabeth Waddington
Free Web 2.0 Apps that Make You Cool with Kids!	Bernard Luger
Engaging Technology Within the Classroom	Jamee Wilson
But, it's Just in My Classroom.....	Monique Waddington
Web 2.0 And Your Classroom	Kathi Hoyt
Homophone Project: Using iMovie	Sara Olsgaard
E-Portfolios Made Easy	Katie Kotynski
The Linux Open Source Free Operating System	Tom Morris
Bringing Fairy Tales into the 21st Century	Sandi Shawhan
Exploring VoiceThread in the Classroom	Dan Erikson
Web 2.0 And Your Classroom	Kathi Hoyt
Students Creating Technique Tutorials	Elizabeth Waddington
Connecting to Students (Poetry and Computers)	John Jenkins
Wikis & Blogs in the Primary & Intermediate Grades	Courtney Hill
(Swish) Alternative to PowerPoint	John Jenkins
Gotta_Have Gadgets	Katie Kotynski
PowerPoint is so Yesterday!	Desiree Caskey
Book Sites	Karen Mayhall
What's with the Wiki?	Roberta Fuller
Podcasting: It's Elementary!	Tamara Scott
Book Sites	Karen Mayhall
Free and Open Source Software Roundup	Vince Long
MCCE General Membership Meeting	Desiree Caskey
Building Parental Connections Using Technology	Tamera Erickson
Free Web 2.0 Apps that Make You Cool with Kids!	Bernard Luger
Free and Open Source Software Roundup	Vince Long
The Linux Open Source Free Operating System	Tom Morris
How Do You Doodle? - BYOP (Bring your own pen)	Elizabeth Waddington
Techie Tools in Art Lessons	Elizabeth Waddington

MEA/MFT 2009 Educators Conference Online

<http://www.mea-mft.org/>

Did you know that you can view the conference catalog online? Plus, there is update-to-date information about the conference. You can even keep up with it on Twitter.

Curriki

<http://www.curriki.org>

Free and open source curriculum. Similar to Wikipedia, this site features an ever-growing body of lesson plans and project that span all grade levels and curriculum areas. Originally started as Global Education and Learning Community by Sun Microsystems, their focus is "on developing an online repository for K-12 curricula in the areas of mathematics, science, technology, reading and language arts, and languages." There are currently hundred of lessons available.

T.H.E. Conference Calendar

<http://www.theconferencecalendar.com/>

Looking for a educational technology conference? This online database let's you search by location, month, and year.

TeacherTube

<http://www.teachertube.com/>

Like its namesake YouTube, the site features thousands of teacher-made instructional videos but also includes audio files and documents. Subjects range from quick demonstrations on how to teach Pi to learning the state capitals to how to use your Smartboard.

Bing

www.bing.com

This is Microsoft's salvo toward Google in the battle of the search engines. Bing is an extremely powerful tool with some features not found in the competition. When viewing search results, hovering the cursor adjacent to the result pops up a window providing more detail about that selection. It has video search, like Google, however, when hovering the cursor over the thumbnails of the videos, the video plays. Each day features a different wallpaper, usually a photo of some exotic locale, with rollover clues as to its location.

**Montana Council for Computers and Technology in Education
Membership Form**

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ E-mail _____

New Member _____ Renewal _____

Area of Interest: College _____ High School _____ K-8 _____

Please be an active member by indicating your area(s) of interest:

_____ willing to be an officer _____ willing to submit articles for the newsletter

_____ willing to be on the Board of Directors _____ willing to work on MCCE committees

_____ willing to be on a committee for a convention

Dues: _____ \$15.00 per year _____ \$35.00 for 3 years

Mail the completed membership form and dues to:

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