



# MCCE NEWS

MONTANA COUNCIL FOR COMPUTERS  
AND  
TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATION

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## There's a Wiki for that

by *Desirée Caskey*

If you have not yet ventured into the world of Wikis, you are missing a lot. But, probably more importantly, your students are missing out. Wikis provide an environment for writing and reading as well as collaboration...on any subject. Wikis are flexible and allow for growth, not only in content, but also in reader and authorship. Wikis are also very easy to learn compared to other technologies.

So, what is a wiki? A wiki is simply a web-based tool where a collection of people contribute to the content of the product – a website. You can have one main author, or many authors. Each contributor can have an area or pages of their own, or all can contribute to the same area. Wikis

can be public or private and contributions can be open or by authorization only. Each wiki tool has a lot of options built-in for the creator to decide how his environment will look and feel. Some of the more popular wiki tools for education are wikispaces, wetpaint, PbWorks, SeedWiki, and PikiWiki (for younger students). You can find one that works for you and or your students.

How are wikis being used in education? I have compiled a collection of wikis in several different areas to help you get started. These areas are professional development wikis, technology literacy wikis, and curriculum specific wikis.

### Wikis for Professional Development

Classroom Instruction that Works:  
<http://marzano.wetpaint.com/>

Lists teaching strategies and different digital tools that you can use to accomplish that strategy.



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Hi! I would like to take a minute to introduce myself. My name is Kathi Hoyt and I am a Media Specialist (aka. School librarian) at Burlington Elementary in Billings. As of March 13, 2010 I am also the

new President of MCCE. I have been a classroom teacher and a librarian for many years and fell in love with technology with the first classroom Apple IIe. I have been using technology and incorporating it into my curriculum ever since. I am part of a program called TILT, Teachers Integrating and Learning Technology, here in Billings and also a part of the Montana Technology Cadre. I joined MCCE because I wanted to be a part of a group that enjoyed and used technology and I haven't been disappointed.

MCCE is a great group of motivated, creative teachers with a lot to offer. As President of our organization I would like to promote the sharing of ideas, questions, technology know how, and new discoveries through our blog, newsletter, and website.

<http://www.mcceonline.org>

MCCE continues to have great sectionals at MEA/MFT as well as our successful Summer Technology Institute. These are great opportunities to share and learn together.

I have always been a strong advocate for MCCE and will continue to promote our curriculum group, build our membership, and together we can make this a great year. We are a group of incredible teachers that enjoy using technology and have so much to offer each other.... Now we just need to take that step and reach out to each other and share some of that geekiness.



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



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

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.

**Do you want near-immediate answers to your tech questions?**

Join MCCE and have access to the expertise of our membership through our online mailing list. See our membership form on Page 10.



**SAVE THE DATE**

**2010 MCCE Tech Summit**

3-day technology conference  
August 9, 10 & 11  
Skyview High School

<http://www.mcceconference.com>

**MCCE NEWS**

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Next Submission Deadline:  
May 12, 2009

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

## MCCE Spring Board Meeting

by Kathi Hoyt

The Spring meeting of the MCCE Board was held on March 13, 2010 at Burlington Elementary in Billings. We had 5 members of the board physically present in Billings on this sunny day. I say “physically present” because we also had 2 additional board members, Cathy and Tami, join us through the use of the program Skype. It was so 21<sup>st</sup> Century to have a part of our group join us through the use of technology that it reminded me of how students must feel when we bring these types of opportunities into the classroom.

So, with a computer on the stool next to our table, we continued to guide the course of MCCE for the upcoming months.

Topics we discussed centered around continued learning and sharing opportunities through participation in MEA/MFT in Helena next year. Cathy Stone is heading up our committee to make sure we have another great involvement in the convention. (Thank you Cathy.) Desiree Caskey also talked briefly about the upcoming Summer Technology Institute to be held in Billings Aug. 9-11. This will be the third year this is offered and continues to grow and expand with new and exciting learning opportunities.

We are moving forward with our Montana Educator Award for Technology, which will also be tied into the national level award submitted to ITSE. This is quite a process and Jennifer Harrison has graciously offered to help head this up. OPI Technology Curriculum update was shared and also information on the Montana Technology Cadre. Updates on our blog, newsletter, and webpage were also on our agenda.

As the meeting came to a close and we each headed to our home towns with wishes for a safe drive, I thought about how Skype had enabled 2 members to join us from afar, and how technology had made our large state just a little bit smaller.



Meeting by Skype

## Consider Presenting at MEA-MFT

All good things take time. It is true of wine, cheese, relationships and the MEA-MFT annual conference. The planning for the next year’s conference starts almost immediately after the one just completed. Planning meetings with curriculum groups are held in February and scheduling of sectionals is held in May.

Please consider presenting a sectional related to technology for your colleagues. The 2009 conference had a record number 44 sectionals presented in the name of MCCE and were well attended. Our organization needs you. Your profession needs you. Consider giving at least a little bit of your time and your expertise. Submit your sectional online at [www.mea-mft.org](http://www.mea-mft.org). Go to the bottom of the page under “Other info” and click on “2010 Educators’ Conference.” Filling in the application and submitting it is a easy.

Remember: MEA will pay a stipend of \$30 per hour for sectionals, and our own organization will pay a \$20 stipend to individual who present under the MCCE curriculum group. It’s not a “get rich quick” perhaps, but it’s nice to know you’re appreciated. Please apply by May 7, 2010.

Other important information about the 2010 MEA-MFT Educator’s Conference:

- It will be October 21 and 22 at Helena High School and the U of M Helena College of Technology
- We will have a block of rooms booked at a Helena locale. Stay tuned for details.
- Our General MCCE membership meeting will be on Friday, October 22.



### WANTED:

#### Newsletter Articles for MCCE News

Software Reviews, Classroom Technology Tips, Student-Written Stories, Web Site Reviews. Submit your articles to:

[longv@billings.k12.mt.us](mailto:longv@billings.k12.mt.us)

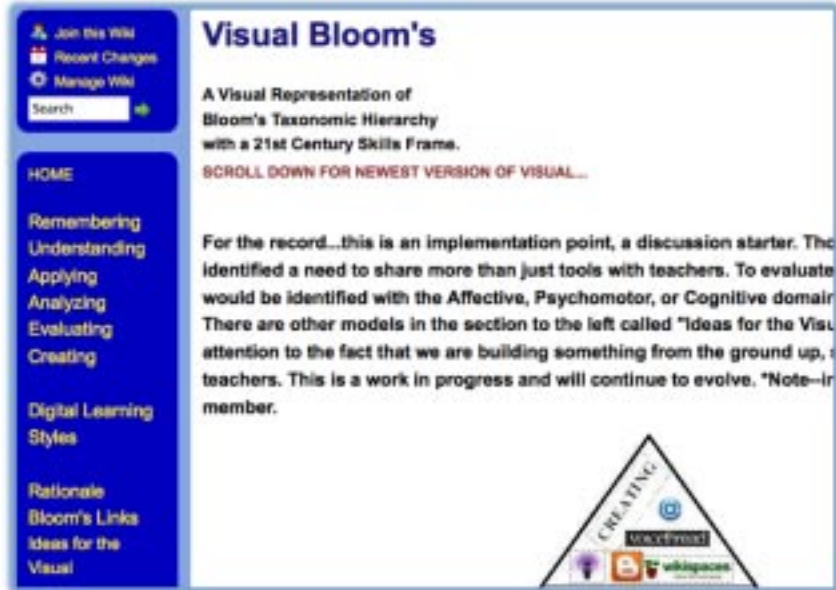
## There's a Wiki for that

(Continued from Page 1)

Visual Bloom's:

<http://visualblooms.wikispaces.com/>

A great site for reminding us of the Bloom's taxonomic hierarchy and strategies in each.



Educational Origami: <http://edorigami.wikispaces.com>

Fig 1



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## There's a Wiki for that

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### Wikis for Technology Literacy

NETS for Students by ISTE:  
<http://nets-implementation.iste.wikispaces.net/>

ISTE's National Educational Technology Standards for Students wiki provides resources for implementing digital tools into your classroom teaching.



Cool Tools for Schools:  
<http://cooltoolsforschools.wikispaces.com/>

This site organizes a plethora of digital tools into usable categories. Online timelines, graphic organizers, multimedia presentation tools...well worth exploring.



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## There's a Wiki for that

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Teach Digital by Wes Fryer:  
<http://wiki.wesfryer.com/>

Wes Fryer is a leader in technology integration and digital learning. He is responsible for Moving at the Speed of Creativity.



### Wikis that are Curriculum Specific

#### Math

All About Math (Elementary):  
<http://allaboutmath.wikispaces.com/>  
 Wikiversity (High School):  
[http://en.wikiversity.org/wiki/Topic:High\\_school\\_mathematics](http://en.wikiversity.org/wiki/Topic:High_school_mathematics)  
 Math Wikia (all grade levels):  
[http://math.wikia.com/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://math.wikia.com/wiki/Main_Page)

#### Science:

Montana Science Teachers Association: MSTA:  
<http://msta.wikispaces.com/>  
 Science Cafés: <http://sciencecafe.wikispaces.com>  
 Wikia Science: [http://science.wikia.com/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://science.wikia.com/wiki/Main_Page)

#### Language Arts:

Tim Fredrick's ELA Teaching Wiki:  
<http://timfredrick.pbworks.com/>  
 A collection of wikis to explore:  
<http://wikibasics.wikispaces.com/>  
 Language+Arts%2C+Literacy%2C+%26+Library

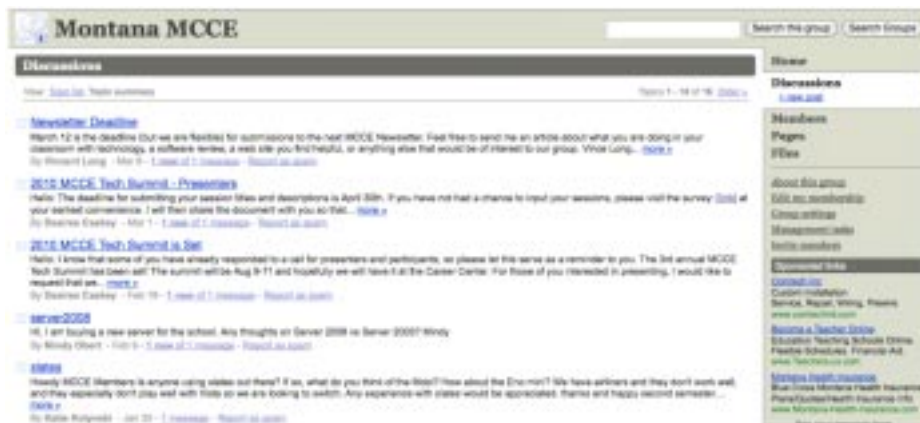
### Social Studies:

History Happening (Asian History):  
<http://sasasianhistory.wetpaint.com/>  
 Wiki Books – US History:  
[http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/US\\_History](http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/US_History)  
 Atlas of US Presidential Elections:  
<http://uselectionatlas.org/>

### Listing of classroom wikis so you can explore and get ideas. You can also list yours here:

Wikis in Education:  
<http://wikisineducation.wetpaint.com/page/Wikis+in+the+Classroom>  
 Educational Wikis:  
<http://educationalwikis.wikispaces.com/>  
 Examples+of+educational+wikis  
 CTER: Wiki in K-12 Classroom:  
[http://wik.ed.uiuc.edu/index.php/Wiki\\_in\\_a\\_K-12\\_classroom](http://wik.ed.uiuc.edu/index.php/Wiki_in_a_K-12_classroom)  
 Moving Forward:  
<http://movingforward.wikispaces.com/Wikis>

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## Listserv turns into a discussion group, thanks to Google

by Desiree Caskey

Many of you probably belong to email listservs and visit Internet discussion locations frequently to keep yourself up-to-date on important topics. If you belong to multiple discussion groups, it is easy to forget about the MCCE discussion group provided through Google Groups, available only for our membership. Here is a quick description of that service as part of your membership.

### What is the Discussion Group?

Montana MCCE is an Internet discussion group hosted by Google. When you belong to a discussion group, each post is sent out to the members of that group. Any replies to that discussion are seen as a thread...similar to a comment on a blog post. Groups can be set up so that only one person is allowed to post or all members are allowed to post. Our discussion group allows for any member of MCCE to start a discussion. Not sure if you belong? On the membership form you filled out when you joined...there was a choice to be registered on the listserv. If you selected this, you are a member of the discussion group. There are currently 112 members from across Montana that are members of this discussion group.

### How Can I Start a Discussion?

There are two ways to start a discussion. A Google Group lets any member send an email to the group, by simply addressing your email to the group address – in our case MTmce@googlegroups.com. When someone replies to the email, the reply goes back to the entire group...this creates a discussion thread.

You can also visit the discussion site through your browser by visiting <http://groups.google.com/group/MTmce>. If you click on Discussions in the sidebar, you are able to view all discussions or start your own (click on new post).

### Why Should I Participate?

In Montana, we are so spread out, which makes collaboration between districts impossible, if not for the use of technology. Communication amongst our membership through this discussion group closes that distance. It is amazing to me how many times I hear someone say, “I don’t want to feel stupid by asking a dumb question.” The idea behind this service is to help us ALL LEARN FROM EACH OTHER. Our membership consists of primary teachers through college professors. It has teachers who have one computer in their classroom, to teachers responsible for entire networks of computers. Our membership has teachers who are just venturing into using technology to those that write programs to make it all work. We are all represented. What better place to get your questions answered and share ideas than the MCCE discussion group.

### There’s a Wiki for that

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If you are familiar with wikis but want to explore the different ones before venturing off and creating your own, you might want to visit this website that has a wiki comparison tool: <http://www.wikimatrix.org/>...use this to learn about different wiki products and compare. Be prepared, there are a lot of wiki tools out there.

Although getting started creating your own classroom wiki is quite easy, I would caution you to have a plan before jumping in. Many teachers hear that wikis are this great teaching and learning tool and create one for themselves...without knowing the purpose or direction they want to take with it. The end result is a lot of wikis with no one using them. When your time is so precious anyway, taking a bit of time to create a plan for your wiki will save you wasted time in the long run.

## Focus on Project-Based Learning

by Jennifer L. Harrison, Rocky Boy Schools

In what classroom can one pair of students be building a roller coaster, another be producing a movie, and yet another be flying an airplane? In Montana that classroom



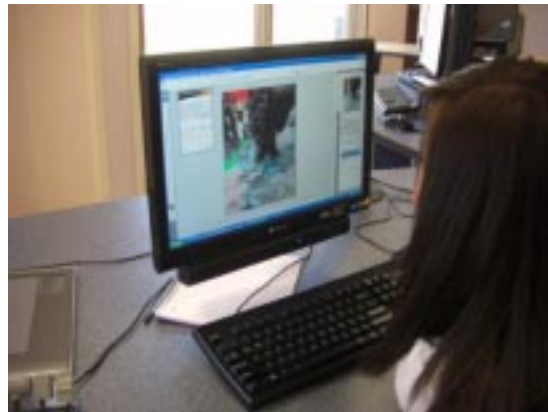
would be found in Ronan or Rocky Boy Schools where Smart Labs are being filled with students who choose their own learning paths. Currently Ronan and Rocky Boy Schools are the only schools in Montana with Smart Labs. Ronan has one in its elementary and one in its high school. Rocky Boy has one that services grades 7-12.



For my students the SmartLab™, is a place where they control their learning. As each student walks in to the classroom and logs on to his computer, he controls what he will learn that day. The role of the teacher has changed.

The teacher is now just a facilitator who guides the student, helps the student find resources when the student gets stuck, and monitors the progress.

This truly is futuristic education. All work is project-based with the emphasis on individual exploration and learning. The computers are all networked, but all have different programs on them. It would be impossible to teach the same thing to the entire class because each computer station (4 stations of 3 computers each) is set up for a different set of projects. One station focuses on graphic



design, complete with PhotoShop, ImageBlender, Corel Paint, Corel Draw, and Wacom tablet, while another has pneumatics with air compressor, Vernier Probreware, and a machine to test tensile strength of metal. The third station has a musical keyboard attached while one of its partners has video editing equipment and the third has a yoke for flight simulation. Finally, the fourth has SimCity, Adobe CS3, and Incredible Machines. If a student would rather construct something, the lab also has K'Nex, Legos and MindStorms, Zobe, Fischertechnik, Inventa, and Vex Robotics. The possibilities are limited only by one's imagination.

According to the Creative Learning System's web site, a SmartLab™, is "21st Century Learning Labs for Students of all Abilities Creative Learning Systems engages learners with fully-integrated classroom systems focused on technology exploration, alternative energy education and media production. In a Creative Learning Systems SmartLab™, students develop 21st century skills such as critical thinking and problem solving, collaboration, communication, project-management and self-direction." They apply leading-edge technology to academically linked, hands-on projects. It's a learning experience that engages, challenges and motivates like no other.

## Technology Cadre Builds Skills

by Andy Meyer

The air is filled with excited voices. The students each found seats, some near people they knew from school. Others near students they had never met. As our leaders enter, the anticipation is high. This is not a class filled with children from school. During the week, we are teachers in elementary, middle and high schools, but one Saturday a month, we become the participants in the Technology Cadre.

I was delighted to be part of this incredible undertaking. Our leaders were 6-7 teachers and Desiree Caskey, the technology integration specialist for the district. The Technology Cadre is an extension of TILT (Teachers Integrating and Learning Technology). TILT is limited to a small number BPS teachers each year. Cadre offers the same type of opportunity to a much larger group and extends beyond the school district boundary.

Cadre Campers, using the NETS standards for teachers, learn ways to integrate a variety of technologies into lessons. I think what excited me most was the lack of actual hardware. I had my own computer of course, but Cadre does not rely on fancy gizmos to entice learning. Instead, we are invited into the world of Web 2.0. It is filled with a treasure trove of educational tools all available online. Most of the tools found in Web 2.0 products are the best price. They are FREE! And, many offer support for educators and students.

In a matter of three weeks, I created a cartoon to explain classification of animals, made a wiki, learned to Skype and how to develop a VoiceThread project. I not only learned how each one works, I learned how to use them in my lessons. The first NETS standard is to “Facilitate and Inspire Student Learning and Creativity”. With the tools I learned at Cadre, I can use the technology in class. But more than that, I can inspire a student, show them a new way to look at an old problem and compare that knowledge with other students in the world; literally. I can inspire a student to try something new without the fear of failing. That is what teachers do best.



## Billings West High students use Skype to Connect with a Classroom in Kyrgyzstan

by Doug Van Zee

During a parent meeting for a group of West High students taking a trip to Washington D.C., the students had a chance to exchange ideas and ask questions with a class in Kyrgyzstan via Skype (7pm our time and 8am their time).



The event started with West High giving a tour of D.C. via Google Earth – a feature in Skype where you can share your screen and launch/manipulate applications – to the classroom in Kyrgyzstan. Then West High and Billings were shown in Google Earth so that this foreign classroom could see Montana. Then, the teacher in Kyrgyzstan provided a Google Earth tour of their country, town and school.



After the parents left, the students of West gathered in front of the computer and each student introduced themselves and gave a short bio. The same was done on the other side of the globe. After that, the real discussion began. The topics were “What is genocide?” and “How can we prevent it?” There was a great deal of valuable exchange between the two classrooms. Students on both ends had fun learning from each other.

One of BWHS’s exchange students had a fun exchange, in German, with two girls from Kyrgyzstan.

## MCCE 2009-2010

### Officers

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#### Terms through 2011

James Gregg

Mindy Obert

Kathryn Spraggins

#### Terms through 2012

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Cathy Stone

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### 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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Lincoln Education Center  
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Billings, MT 59101