



POOLSIDE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Dive into learning new skills over your summer break.

by Vicki A. Davis

Even if you plan to spend your summer at the beach or pool, a laptop and MP3 player can bring professional-development opportunities to your lounge chair. By visiting online educator lounges, tuning into educational online radio, plunging into blogs and wikis, and joining collaborative online spaces, you can further your education and return to school in the fall with a lot of great new ideas—and a tan.

(Continued on page 12)

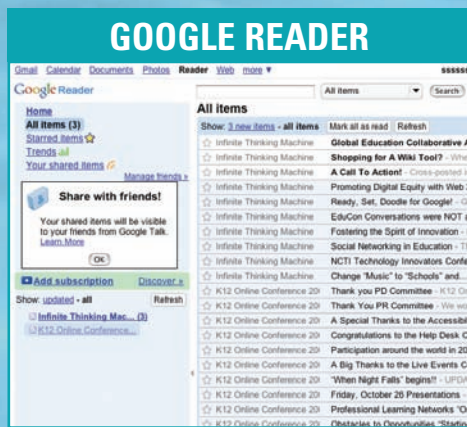
EDUCATOR SPOTLIGHT

Kristin Hokanson
Technology-integration coach
Upper Merion Area High School
King of Prussia, PA
Cable provided by Comcast

Louise Maine
Biology/environmental science teacher
Punxsutawney Area High School
Punxsutawney, PA
Cable provided by Comcast

Kate Olson
Business education teacher
School District of La Cross
La Cross, WI
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Kathy Shields
Teacher, Webmaster
Creek View Elementary
Alpharetta, GA
Cable provided by Comcast



brushing up on her knowledge of Flash animation software and Moodle (a classroom-management tool) by signing up for two months of classes at lynda.com, a site offering tutorials in many types of software. Shields will use her new knowledge to rework her school's website and make it more interactive.

Some teachers use free collaborative tools, such as Google Docs and wikis, to write reports and plans. Technology-integration coach Kristin Hokanson, in King of Prussia, Penn., is working with teachers at her high school to integrate technology into their teaching and is part of a team working to create a comprehensive K-12 integrated technology plan. "We are using Google Docs so that teachers at all levels can provide their input," says Hokanson. "It is great that we don't have to worry about everyone's vacation schedules, because this document can continue to evolve."

Hokanson's school also has a wiki, which the assistant superintendent uses to keep every-

one abreast of the district's initiatives. "She keeps it updated with meeting notes, research, and current information," says Hokanson.

DIVE RIGHT IN

With high-speed Internet access and a laptop, you can bring a world of professional development poolside. Chat with other teachers, listen in on a world of exciting educational news, immerse yourself in educational blogs, and dive into new learning experiences. As Louise Maine says, "Taking ownership of your own learning and professional growth is a worthwhile pursuit and an excellent model for students and teachers alike. It will change the way you view learning and, as a result, change the way learning happens in your classroom." ::

Vicki Davis, a 2008 Cable's Leaders in Learning Award finalist and teacher in Camilla, Ga., blogs at Cool Cat Teacher (coolcatteacher.blogspot.com).

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www.netvibes.com

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www.edtechtalk.com

TUTORIALS

Google Reader
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www.youtube.com/watch?v=XLtSd0ExTG8

Infinite Thinking Machine
www.infinitethinking.org

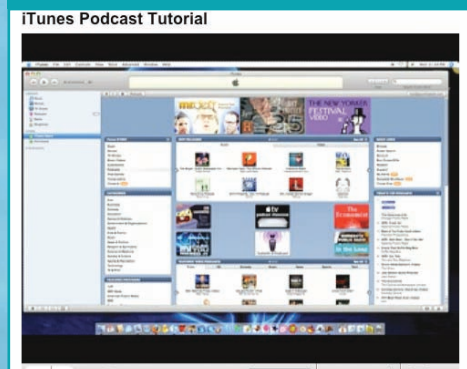
Netvibes Tutorial
www.masey.com.au/blog/index.php/toolbox/netvibes-tutorial/

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k12onlineconference.org

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