

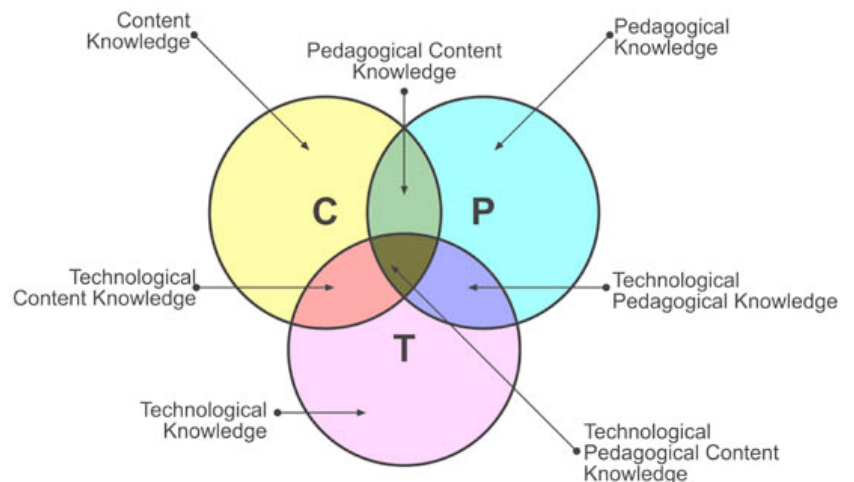


## Encouraging Technology Integration

No matter what I write about in this newsletter, my main objective is to help you figure out ways to integrate technology in the classroom. Your own productivity is important; but, for me, the bottom line is getting technology into the hands of students.

But, when I talk with principals, technology leaders, and instructional technology resource teachers, I hear them talk about the continued difficulty of getting teachers to use technology. While the ITRTs are having success, we may need to make larger changes in the way we think about technology integration, which Harris (2005) defines as “the pervasive and productive use of educational technologies for purposes of learning and teaching.”

In order to use technology effectively, teachers must not only learn about the technology itself but also be able to see how it dovetails with their content and pedagogy. A new framework developed by Mishra and Koehler (2006)--TPCK (Technological, Pedagogical, Content Knowledge)--attempts to get at the complexity of knowledge that teachers must bring to the planning process. Not only must teachers know about the individual components of the framework, they must also be able to work in the overlapping sections, including the center where all three elements come together.



This framework offers some guidance for developing professional development. The authors maintain a public wiki with links to articles and information about TPCK: <http://tpck.pbwiki.com>.

And, you can read Dr. Judi Harris’s 2005 editorial about technology integration at <http://www.citejournal.org/vol5/iss2/editorial/article1.cfm>.

# Conference Calendar

The best place to look for educational technology conferences is at T.H.E. Journal (<http://www.thejournal.com/>). Their searchable calendar is a comprehensive guide to national and international conferences. In this space, we'll be featuring conferences of particular interest to Virginia educators. This month, I've added a few online events, often called "webinars."

## **Innovate 2007: May 8, 2007, Richmond, Virginia.**

Innovate 2007, modeled after the WIRED NextFest expo, will showcase the innovative technologies and products that could transform education. The expo is organized around the five major components of Virginia's long-range technology plan: integration, professional development, connectivity, educational applications and accountability. You can still register online at <http://www.innovate2007.org>.

## **National Educational Computing Conference: June 24-27, 2007, Atlanta, Georgia.**

Thousands of educators come together once a year to talk about technology. Just amazing! And this coming year, it is close by. Plan now to send a team to this premiere educational technology conference. Visit the website for more information:

<http://center.uoregon.edu/ISTE/NECC2007/>

## **ED-MEDIA: World Conference on Educational Multimedia, Hypermedia, and Telecommunications: June 25-29, 2007, Vancouver, BC.**

ED-MEDIA--World Conference on Educational Multimedia, Hypermedia & Telecommunications--is an international conference, organized by the Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE). The conference spans all disciplines and levels of education and annually attracts more than 1,500 leaders in the field from over 70 countries. <http://www.aace.org/conf/edmedia/default.htm>

## **Webinar: 5 Steps to Integrating Technology, May 10, 2007, 4 PM**

TechLearning sponsors free webinars throughout the year. These are generally vendor-type presentations. They feature emerging technologies of interest to educators. For instance, this month, the topic is audio in the classroom and classroom amplification technology. You do have to complete a short registration form. <http://www.techlearning.com/events/>

## **ISTE's Technology in Practice Webinar Series Presents Maximizing Interactive Video Communications: Methods for Motivating Teachers and Captivating Learners, Tuesday, May 15, 2007, 4 pm Eastern**

Registration is still open for this online event that focuses on video conferencing in the classroom. It is \$50 for ISTE members, \$125 for non-members. It includes a copy of Videoconferencing for K-12 Classrooms: A Program Development Guide.

[http://www.iste.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Membership/Webinar\\_Series/ISTE\\_Webinars.htm](http://www.iste.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Membership/Webinar_Series/ISTE_Webinars.htm)

# Jamestown 400

After years of preparation, the big celebration of Jamestown's 400th birthday is almost here! While I am not looking forward to the crowds, I must admit that it is exciting. The Queen is coming next week, and the anniversary weekend is May 13-14. The official website is <http://www.jamestown2007.org/>, and that should be your first stop on this virtual field trip to Jamestown.

I always start at the kids' page of any website and quickly found the video from the November 2006 webcast hosted by Gwen Ifil. It's housed at the History Channel. Just click the log in page to view it:

<http://www.history.com/classroom/jamestownlive/>.

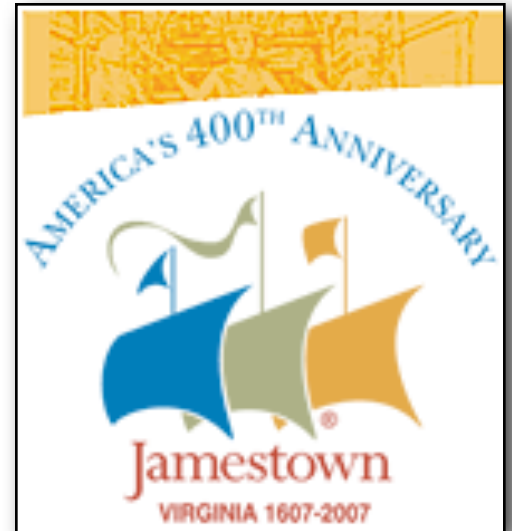
The Jamestown 2007 website is also the home of the Jamestown Online Adventure, which I know I've mentioned before...take a break and have a go at setting up your own colony in the New World:

<http://www.jamestown2007.org/kids-jamestown-adventure.cfm>

The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation has created the Jamestown Chronicles, a series of spoken monologues that allow us to meet some of the men and women who shaped this rich, tumultuous chapter in American history. Some are real people like James I and others are fictional: <http://www.historyisfun.org/chronicles/main.html>

Jamestown is a great way to introduce students to the work of archaeologists. The Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA) is the place to go to learn more about how scientists have furthered our understanding of early Jamestown. An interactive map allows users to explore the fort site. The site also has extensive photos of artifacts just perfect for creating multimedia presentations. <http://www.apva.org/jr.html>

Virtual Jamestown is a wide-ranging collection of materials. Users can explore original maps and create interactive ones that demonstrate the various expeditions. There are videos of interviews with contemporary Native Americans. And, don't miss the panoramas of an Algonkian village and Jamestown Fort. This project was created by a variety of partners, including Virginia Tech: <http://www.virtualjamestown.org/>



## Virtual Jamestown

# Good Reads



We can't be good technology ambassadors if we aren't well-informed. And with the Internet, keeping up to date has never been easier. Each month, I'll be highlighting interesting, relevant sources from research projects to government reports and ezines to bloggers.

## **The First Cohort Report to Congress**

This report, from The National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance, tries to start answering questions about the effectiveness of software programs in raising students' test scores. It reports one year's worth of data related to the use of 16 computer software programs for reading and math. Their findings, that there was no significant difference in test scores between the students who used software and the students who didn't, made minor waves when it was published last month. They did find that students who used software tended to be more self-directed with their teachers doing more individual rather than whole group instruction.

<http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/pubs/20074005/index.asp>

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## **Just for Fun (and maybe some learning, too!)**

### National Geographic Videos

*The membership of our Society will not be confined to professional geographers, but will include that large number who, like myself, desire to diffuse the knowledge so gained, among men, so that we may all know more of the world upon which we live.*

*Gardiner Hubbard, 1st President of the National Geographic Society*

I am planning a summer trip to Vancouver, British Columbia; of course, I am using the web extensively. How DID we do travel planning pre-web? As I was surfing, I happened upon the National Geographic Society collection of videos. They are short features about the world in which we live, including one about the Canadian rainforest. Well-made with stunning video and interesting narration: <http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/> When you're done browsing those videos, be sure to check out the live webcams:

<http://magma.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/wildcams.html>. I just watched some sandhill cranes in Nebraska and now I'm spying on a polar bear in Canada!