



TECH BYTES



Orange Board of Education

January 2016 2013

gooru

<http://www.gooru.org/#home>

Educators are using Gooru in their classrooms to personalize learning and help students reach their full potential. In our mission to make high-quality educational resources free and accessible, Gooru's potential is equal to the innovation and creativity of the educators and students who use it.

The Gooru Innovation Fellow Program

Gooru's mission is to honor the human right to education. We envision a world in which technology and a supportive community empower every student to personalize his or her learning. Educators support individual students while contributing to a larger community.

Gooru supports students, teachers, schools, districts, developers, partners, and other audiences who are honoring the human right to education. We connect inspiring educators and encourage collaboration and conversation between them.

What do Gooru Innovation Fellows do?

Innovation Fellows share the great work they are doing with Gooru Community as educator-leaders. Over the course of the school year, they build and share the content from their Gooru course, visit and observe other Fellows' classrooms and open their own, and stay in conversation with Fellows and the Gooru team.

Why become a Gooru Innovation Fellow?

Gooru supports all Fellows in learning from and communicating and sharing with other Fellows. We'll collect and share the stories and practices of Fellows, cover the costs of travel to other Fellows' classrooms, and recognize the contributions of Fellows in a 2016 Showcase.

How do I Become a Fellow?

We are still accepting applications for the 2015-2016 cohort of Gooru Innovation Fellows!

Overview Link:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lO0fcxfiJN3neF8GtZiWjS9cVnCDu4sLMEPPbZK0ni4/edit>

Applicatin Link:

https://docs.google.com/a/orange.k12.nj.us/forms/d/18WmkKtO9oCxtqnoc6jZe5FdSOZmAC_X740HUcE6x_S8/viewform

CREATIVITY

powers the learning,

electrifies the passion,



& moves the soul.

Krissy Venosdale
VENSPIRED





January 2016 Happy New Year!

January is a significant month on the calendar that marks the end of one year and the beginning of another. This month ushers in the opportunity for New Year's Resolutions and celebrations around the world.

New Year's Celebrations Around the World:

New Year's Eve (United States & Around the World)

In many places people stay up late to see the old year out and the New Year in. Almost everywhere in the world church bells ring, horns toot, whistles blow, sirens shriek. London's Trafalgar Square and New York City's Times Square swarm with crowds of happy, noisy people. The hullabaloo expresses people's high spirits at holiday time.

Chinese New Year (China)

Many Chinese children dress in new clothes to celebrate the Chinese New Year. People carry lanterns and join in a huge parade led by a silk dragon, the Chinese symbol of strength. According to legend, the dragon hibernates most of the year, so people throw firecrackers to keep the dragon awake. In the Chinese lunar calendar each of the 12 years is named after an animal. According to Legend, Lord Buddha asked all the animals to come to him before he left the earth. Only 12 animals came to wish him farewell, and as a reward Buddha named a year after each one.

Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur (Jewish New Year)

In September or October, Jews believe that God opens the Book of Life for 10 days, starting with Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish New Year) and ending with Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement). During these days, the holiest in the Jewish year, Jews try to atone for any wrongdoing and to forgive others. A ram's horn trumpet, known as the shofar, is blown before and during Rosh Hashanah and at the conclusion of Yom Kippur.

Songkran (Thailand)

In Thailand, a special three-day water festival on April 13-15 marks Songkran, the Buddhists' celebration of the New Year. Parades feature huge statues of Buddha that spray water on passersby. In small villages, young people throw water at each other for fun. People also release fish into rivers as an act of kindness. At Songkran, people tie strings around each other's wrists to show their respect. A person can have as many as 25 or 30 strings on one wrist, each from a different person. The strings are supposed to be left on until they fall off naturally.

New Year's Celebrations

Scholastic

Celebrate the New Year with Excitement and New Goals in the Classroom

<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/top-teaching/2011/12/celebrate-new-year-excitement-and-new-goals-classroom>

Education World

New Year's Celebrations Around the World

http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/newsforyou/newsforyou018.shtml

Bright Hub Education

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Lesson: Part 1 of 2

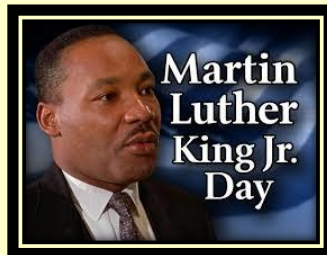
<http://www.brighthouseeducation.com/lesson-plans-grades-3-5/9184-rosh-hashanah-and-yom-kippur-lesson-part-one-of-two/>

Peace Corps

Songkran

<http://www.peacecorps.gov/wws/lesson-plans/celebrating-our-connections-through-water/>

January 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Day of Service



Always celebrated on the third Monday in January, this federal holiday honors Reverend King's life and commitment to equality and unity. The Day of Service encourages citizens to follow King's words: "Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve." Read more at the Martin Luther King, Jr. website. Volunteers of all ages work on projects in their communities to honor King's dedication to community service. See also NEA's Classroom Resources for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Martin Luther Day Recognitions:

- 1973 Illinois is first state to adopt MLK Day as a state holiday
1992 Arizona citizens vote to enact MLK Day.
1999 New Hampshire becomes the last state to adopt MLK Day as a paid state holiday, replacing its optional Civil Rights Day.
2000 Utah becomes the last state to recognize MLK Day by name, renaming its Human Rights Day state holiday.
2000 South Carolina becomes the last state to make MLK Day a paid holiday for all state employees. Until now, employees could choose between celebrating it or one of three Confederate-related holidays.

Lesson Planning Resources

The New York Times-Learning Network

http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/01/15/celebrating-mlk-day/?_r=0

Education World

Martin Luther King Jr.: A Fact or Opinion Activity

http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/02/lp248-01.shtml

NEA (National Education Association)

Classroom Resources for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

<http://www.nea.org/tools/lessons/mlk-day.html>

Martin Luther King Jr. Website

<http://www.nationalservice.gov/mlkday>

NEA Resources

<http://www.nea.org/tools/lessons/mlk-day.html>

Teacher's Corner

<http://seasonal.theteacherscorner.net/martin-luther-king-day/>

TeaherVision

<https://www.teachervision.com/martin-luther-king-jr/teacher-resources/6643.html>



Common Sense for Common Core

<http://commoncore.scholastic.com/home>

Site Resources

- ✓ Teaching Nonfiction
 - ✓ Lesson Plans
 - ✓ Book List
 - ✓ New
 - ✓ Resources
 - ✓ Get Answers
- ✓ Common Core Basics
 - ✓ Expert Video
 - ✓ Editor's Corner



https://wiggio.com/?#tpl=home_0

Wiggio.com is a free, online toolkit that makes it easy to work in groups. The platform is designed to be easy and straightforward, even for the least tech-savvy members of your group. It provides everything you need to work productively in your groups, without bogging you down with complexities and unnecessary features. Wiggio is currently used by all types of groups.



<https://kids.usa.gov/teachers/calendar/december/index.shtml>



TAGBOARD

<http://tagboard.com>



Tagboard is a very useful tool to view hashtags on a variety of social networks. For example, Tagboard currently aggregates Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, Vine, Google+ and App.net hashtags, which allows the user to see one screen content from the six networks. Tagboard has another convenient feature as well, the ability to search any hashtag via Tagboard directly from the location bar for Google Chrome or Safari web browsers by downloading the extension from Tagboard's website at <http://tagboard.com>, then go to tools.

What is a hashtag? A hashtag creates a way of putting messages of similar topics in one place so that a user can search and see the results in a more efficient manner. Usually a hashtag has a word or even a phrase that is followed by the # symbol. For example, "Just found out my dad is my English teacher. #awkward" or "It's Monday!! #excited #sarcasm" or you could search #CNN.

What makes Tagboard so convenient is that users don't have to be subscribers to any of the networks because that is taken care of by Tagboard. In a matter of ten to fifteen minutes, you can check a variety of hashtags that are important to you or students and learn a lot of information. A printable list of more popular hashtags in education can be found at: <http://www.edtechmagazine.com/k12/article/2013/03/printable-list-best-education-hashtags-infographic>



<http://www.gotitapp.co/>

This New App Wants to Help You With Your Homework

With GotIt!, high school students take a photo of a tricky math or science problem and get live tutoring by text. The Silicon Valley-based company, GotIt!, has developed an app of the same name. High school students submit their math and science questions and tutors bid to answer. When a student accepts a bid, which is usually less than a dollar, he or she gets a 10-minute-long tutoring session over text. Peter Relan, the co-founder and chairman, says they want to level the playing field and make sure that any student anywhere can get their complicated questions answered one-on-one.



How to Talk to Your Kids about the News

<http://kidshealth.org/parent/positive/talk/news.html>

News gleaned from the TV, radio, or Internet can be a positive educational experience for kids. But when the images presented are violent or the stories touch on disturbing topics, problems can arise.

Seeing coverage of upsetting events like natural disasters, terrorist attacks, or mass shootings might cause kids to worry that something similar could happen to them or their loved ones. It also can make them fear some aspect of daily life – like thunderstorms – that they never worried about before.

How can you deal with these disturbing stories and images? Talking to your kids about what they watch or hear will help them put frightening information into a reasonable context.

What's in the article?

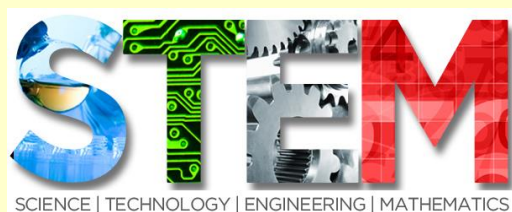
- How Kids Perceive the News
- Talking About the News
- Tips for Parents

2016 Monthly Fun Facts Calendar



Click on the January link below to find fun activities on holidays, events, and celebrations. There's something worth celebrating every day!

<http://life.familyeducation.com/calendar/printable/58376.html?month=1&year=2016>



<http://stem-works.com/subjects>

The STEM-Works team developed a Web portal that supports volunteers that are working in their local communities to increase science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) skills in our nation's youth. Our program is designed to help STEM professionals, club leaders and teachers find activities, projects and events that allow them to teach STEM skills to young people. By providing those volunteers access to quality material on exciting subjects like Robotics, Wind Energy and Forensics, we hope they will help young people gain confidence and interests in STEM fields. The same material is available for parents and teachers and will include group activities as well as individual projects.



The Coding Story in Numbers:

1. In the United States, 74% of girls express interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) in middle school.
2. By high school, only 0.3% plan to major in Computer science.
3. Computer Science jobs will be the highest paying sectors over the next decade, paying almost \$15,000 more than average.
4. Encouragement from adults and peers is the #1 contributor to a girl's decision to pursue Computer Science.

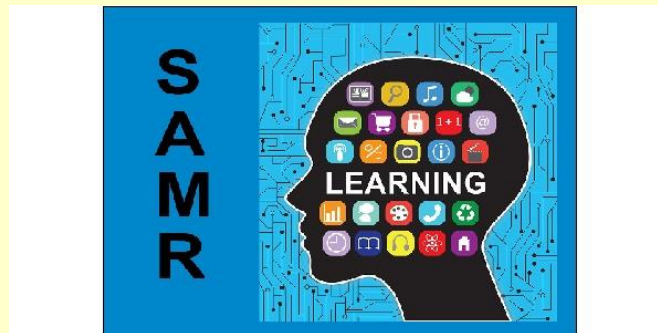
Coding can be fun for people of all ages. Here are some fun projects to help you get started or move you along.

Design a ZAC Zac Posen dress that turns heads and lights up the fashion world!

<https://www.madewithcode.com/projects/fashion>

Disney's PIXAR Inside Out <https://www.madewithcode.com/projects/insideout>

Star Wars Galaxy - May the code be with you! <https://code.org/starwars>



The SAMR Model: Explained For Teachers

This short video helps you visualize how the integration of educational technology into the classroom impacts teaching and student learning.

The Substitution Augmentation Modification Redefinition, or the SAMR model offers a method of seeing how computer technology may impact teaching and learning. It shows a progression that adopters of educational technology often follow as they integrate technology into their classrooms.

<http://blog.practutor.com/the-samr-model-explained-for-teachers/>



Browse in Private with Incognito Mode

<https://support.google.com/chrome/answer/95464?hl=en>

If you don't want Google Chrome to save a record of what you visit and download, you can browse the web in incognito mode.

How to go incognito

You can open an incognito window on your computer and mobile devices to prevent Chrome from saving your browsing history. You can switch between an incognito window and any regular windows you have open. You'll only be in incognito mode when you're using the incognito window.

How incognito mode works

Incognito is a mode that opens a new window where you can browse the Internet in private without Chrome saving the sites you visit. You can switch between an incognito window and any regular Chrome browsing windows you have open. You'll only be in incognito mode when you're using the incognito window.

Be careful. Incognito mode only prevents Chrome from saving your site visit activity. It won't stop other sources from seeing your browsing activity, including:

- Your internet service provider
- Your employer (if you're using a work computer)
- The websites you visit themselves
- What you've downloaded

Chrome won't save a record of the files you download in incognito mode. However, the downloaded files will be saved to your computer's Downloads folder, where you and any other users of your computer can see and open them, even after you close your incognito tabs.

FREE ONLINE WEBINAR



Unleashing Student Creativity

https://youtu.be/Aqz7s9W1Kdg?list=PLLLdUVH7KOPe2p49YAvPt_J_gf3UuNpFP

Question to Ponder

What Percentage of your classroom experience is CREATED by STUDENTS?

- ✓ Empowering Student to Tell the Story of their Learning
- ✓ Reinvent Common Task to Become Creative Tasks



26 Tips for Teaching with Google Apps

Google Apps for Education is an incredible platform that is revolutionizing the way teachers teach and students learn. Using the power of interactive, cloud-based technology, school administrators and teachers can now connect with students in an enhanced way.

Social media, online games and the internet dominate student lives outside the classroom. Google Apps for Education allows you to bring that environment into the classroom and make the students' educational experience more relevant and better mirror their day-to-day lives.

This guide will teach you to be as tech-savvy as your students. It is meant to acquaint you with Google Apps' major features and is loaded with best practices and lots of helpful, actionable tips to optimize your investment in Google Apps and improve your students' learning experience.

Google Docs can do everything Word (or any other word processing program) can, but it also allows you to share created documents with anyone else on the system you choose. Group teaching and close communication with students becomes easier with Docs, as does collaboration among students.

Google Spreadsheets doesn't reinvent the Excel wheel. The beauty of it is the same as the other Google Apps components: the ability to virtually share your work with anyone with access to the system.

Google Presentations can be just as impressive as PowerPoint, but again, becomes even more powerful because more than one user can access it. The phenomenon of fumbling through multiple PowerPoint versions is eliminated.

Forms can be sent outside your school domain, so you're not limited to just colleagues inside the school. And the results of any forms project are neatly summarized with charts, graphs, bells, whistles and statistics about all your responses.

Sites is a powerful teaching tool where you can build interactive websites for students to share information and collaborate on documents, videos, schedules, and more.

The guide provides tips for each app discussed above and more.

<https://www.thegooru.com/26-tips-for-teaching-with-google-apps/>



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

Lowe's will donate up to \$5 million to public schools and public school parent teacher groups - at as many as 1,000 different public schools per school year. Click here to see if you are eligible!

Raise up to \$5,000 for your school in minutes.

It's almost that easy when you take advantage of Lowe's Toolbox for Education grant program. Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation (LCEF) knows how hard you work for your kids and your community and we're dedicated to helping your parent-teacher group achieve even more for your school. Apply for our Toolbox for Education Grant now and build on your already impressive parent group success with Lowe's.

Now in its 10th year of helping build better schools and communities, the Lowe's Toolbox for Education program has provided over \$42 million to more than 9,600 schools across the country.

For more than 65 years, Lowe's has supported the communities we call home. At a time when schools and community groups are struggling to support the basic needs of their communities, the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation recognizes the importance of financial support.

This year, as a foundation, we are challenging ourselves to seek ways to provide the tools that help our educators and parent groups through today's challenging times efficiently, while providing the greatest impact, with basic necessities taking priority.



National Council of Teachers of Mathematics

<http://www.nctm.org/Grants/>

Apply for NCTM's Mathematics Education Trust grants, scholarships, and awards. Funding ranges from \$1,200 to \$24,000 and is available to help math teachers, prospective teachers, and other math educators improve the teaching and learning of mathematics.

Administrator's Resource Corner



School Theme- Make it a Dream

<http://www.legacyproject.org/guides/dreamtheme.html>

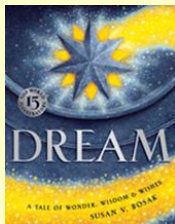
Every child needs a dream - learning in the 21st Century includes helping students to become “goal getters”

Hundreds of thousands of demonstrators flocked to the nation's capital on August 28, 1963, for the March on Washington to hear one of the most famous speeches today, delivered by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "I Have a Dream". Every third Monday in January we celebrate Dr. King in his race for freedom, equality and peace. As we enter a new year, and celebrate a man who stood for non-violent activism through the Civil Rights Movement, let's reflect on our "dreams"; as a school, as individuals, and as a community, as we impact the lives of our students in the context of the people and the world around them.

The **Legacy Project.org** discuss the School Theme- **Make it a Dream project**, noting the importance of themes:

- * unite both students and teachers
- * They rally everyone around one central idea
- * build a sense of cohesiveness as a group.
- * build the larger school community by bringing together the student population in different ways than the usual grade level groups.
- * enables teachers to meaningfully link different content areas so that students develop "big picture" ideas.

LifeDreams explores personal development and creating your life. What are your dreams - what would you like to be, do, learn? How can you achieve your goals? What can you learn about your own hopes and dreams and those of others? How can you be the best you can be throughout your lifetime?



Dream is a book that reveals more with each reading. The story begins at the end of the rainbow with the Dream Chest, a magical portal between "what is" and "what can be." A wise old star emerges as your guide and asks, "What's your dream?"

<http://www.legacyproject.org/books/dream.html>

TECHNOLOGY HUMOR

