



# TECH BYTES



Orange Board of Education

July/August 2015

## Summertime Special Edition



### WHAT'S A SUMMER FOR?

<http://www.teachingquality.org/content/blogs/liz-prather/what-s-summer>

### HOW TEACHERS CAN RECHARGE THIS SUMMER

<http://tinyurl.com/pkwcyzz>

While the rest of the world thinks teachers will be basking in the sun, sailing the blue seas, and exploring China during their well-deserved break, in reality, most of us will be enrolled in classes working toward our Master's degree or Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study, earning PDPs in professional development courses, restructuring lesson plans, taking part in leadership initiatives, and analyzing data to improve student performances.

Despite all that, it's incredibly important for teachers to recharge those batteries before heading back to school in August or September. This site provides some tips on how to recharge.

### TEN THINGS YOU CAN DO THIS SUMMER TO PREPARE FOR TEACHING IN A 1:1 CLASSROOM WITH CHROMEBOOKS

<http://tinyurl.com/q8bbx33>

Are you eager to integrate this technology into instruction but unsure how? Here are ten things you can do this summer to hit the ground running in the fall, brought to you by a teacher who has been in your shoes.

## **CHALKUP**

### **Summer Listening**

<http://tinyurl.com/q3o7o82>

### **The Education Podcasts That Should be in Your Headphones Right Now**

These delicious, bite-sized stories are ideal for a trip to the gym or your daily commute. We made a list of the education podcasts we've been streaming here at Chalkup.

## **BOOKS WORTH READING**

### **Creative, Innovative Summer Books**

<https://ahog.wordpress.com/>

Find titles that could fan the flames of creativity and innovation on your campus and for you as a professional!

## **GOOGLE SCHOLARS**

### **Learn How Your Students Can Use Google Scholar for Research**

<http://tinyurl.com/qhzw2q5>

We're living in the information age. Everything we want to know is available to us from our pockets. When it comes to utilizing these tools to complete assignments, it is important to use reliable sources of information and accurately cite them. Google Scholar - from our friends at Google - makes it easy to do both.

## **TOP 12 SUMMER TIPS FOR TEACHERS**

<http://tinyurl.com/pqfoggq>

During summer days, if you're a top teacher, you'll take time to improve your best asset -- you. Happy Summer!

So have an awesome, funny, happy, sensational, disconnected, connected blast of a summer. Come back better than ever, because you will make the difference in your school this next year. Be epic. Be awesome. Level up your learning, and your students will, too!

## **JOIN A TWITTER EDUCATIONAL CHAT**

<http://tinyurl.com/qgmb595>

This is a video tutorial for all who just don't "get" twitter chats.

## **7 TECH TOOLS FOR FAST FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT**

<http://tinyurl.com/q8ljf8t>

In education, there is nothing—not even technology—that is a silver bullet. But technology does have a reputation for making difficult, time-consuming tasks like formative assessment a bit more efficient. These tools are free tech-tools that help me engage students, track their individual achievement, and provide them with opportunities for improvement.

## **edWeb.net**

<http://home.edweb.net/upcoming-webinars/>

Register for a webinar for July and August. Just hover over a date and go to the details, then click on the link to register. You'll receive a CE certificate for attending live. If you can't

attend live, join the community where we post the webinar recordings and slides, and also provide a quiz so you can get a CE certificate!

### **EDTECH TEACHER**

<http://edtechteacher.org/webinararchive>

### **RETREAT TO ADVANCE**

[http://smartblogs.com/education/2015/06/10/retreat-to-advance/?utm\\_source=brief](http://smartblogs.com/education/2015/06/10/retreat-to-advance/?utm_source=brief)

We offer archived, free ed tech webinars aimed at helping educators integrate technology effectively in the classroom. This is a great opportunity learn something new, as well as to connect with other teachers from across the country and around the world.

In this blog post, educator Jim Dillon shares the benefits of a retreat and challenges educators to have some fun this summer. Embrace downtime by going on a retreat. A retreat is designed to renew and replenish a person's heart and mind. Educators can retreat alone or together; they can do it formally or informally. A retreat is an affirmation of the concept that true change comes from people not programs and that the best use of an educator's time might be taking time off.

### **Part 1: Forty Educational Websites for Your Summer 2015 Toolkit**

<http://www.techlearning.com/blogentry/9448>

Welcome to a post and the summer of 2015... at least in the USA. I have a real treat for you in the coming weeks. I will be sharing some of those websites I feel should be in every teacher's toolbox! I have forty... maybe more... and I am sending out ten new ones in each post.

Remember I am picking these from thousands and I am trying to find those sites that are up and coming and might just be the next big edtech hit. You might also notice I am also including a few sites that have been around for awhile. They include ones that I feel educators might want to be a little more aware of. I hope you enjoy and try some of these out during the summer months. Please follow this post for additional sites to explore.

### **STANARDS PLANNER**

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

Standards Planner is an online tool that lets teachers create and organize their lessons quickly and easily. As you wrap up classes for summer and get ready for next year, Standards Planner will definitely come in handy. They are offering a free account for teachers with extra support, setup, and resources. This includes Khan Academy videos, CK12 resources, and all of the national and state standards including the Common Core, Next Gen Science, and ISTE standards. One new option that has just been released is the click and create feature right on your customized teaching schedule. Just click anywhere on your calendar and create or store your resources. Then when you come back next school year just select the day, click on the resource, and use it in the classroom. Standards Planner is free for teachers and integrates with your existing Google, Edmodo, Clever, Office 365 account. Learn more by visiting their website!

### **TESOL**

### **TEACHING ENGLISH TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES**

<http://americantesol.com/tesol-lectures.htm>

TESOL webinars are presented every Friday at 4 PM EST time with Shelly Terrell. Webinars are open to the public, and a certificate of attendance is provided. There is a playlist of archive webinars on the website.

### **appoLearning**

<http://tinyurl.com/npjrslf>

### **Easily find that Perfect App or Website You've Been Looking for!**

As teachers, we all know the countless hours we've been sucked into the computer looking for that "just-right idea" to add to our lesson plans. Most often we end up searching for an engaging app, website, video, or game that will help students understand the concept, skill, or strategy within the lesson. Wouldn't it be nice if there were one spot where someone has already curated/gathered all of these great resources AND organized them for you? Not only if that spot was organized but if there was also a way within that treasure chest of resources to also start saving those items as your own? -- and you had the ability to organize them the way you wanted. What if you could also share them easily with friends or colleagues?

### **SKYPE IN THE CLASSROOM**

<https://education.skype.com/>

"Skype Classroom," has a free extensive database of resources for use in the classroom, as well as access to thousands of educators looking to link up with other classrooms. One of the great things about Skype Classroom is the ability to search by lesson, subject, age group or teacher in an effort to connect with classrooms around the world. One particularly fun way to connect and share ideas with other classrooms is through Mystery Skype sessions, which engages every student in the classroom as they search for clues and try and try and solve a mystery.

### **GROW LIKE GRASS**

A Smart Blog on Education

[http://smartblogs.com/education/2015/06/17/grow-like-the-grass/?utm\\_source=brief](http://smartblogs.com/education/2015/06/17/grow-like-the-grass/?utm_source=brief)

In this post, education leader Fred Ende encourages educators to use the summer as a time to slow down, reflect and relax.

### **7 WAYS TO RECHARGE YOUR PASSION FOR TEACHING THIS SUMMER**

<http://tinyurl.com/qcy92ok>

Many of us have heard that final bell or are getting close to it. We find ourselves at the start of a summer ahead. A time to refresh, relax and renew our spirits. Just as summer is a time of renewal, it's also a great chance to recharge your passion for teaching. This website offers seven ways to recharge your passion for teaching over the summer.