90 Days of Summer

A daily dose of special education technology professional development for education professionals. This summer, spend 10-20 minutes a day exploring new ideas, skills, and resources. (Access a digital calendar with links at http://www.setp.net/summer/90days.html).

June 1 Teacher Tube

By now you know that most of your students visit YouTube on a daily basis. Today, explore the video mecca known as Teacher Tube (http://www.teachertube.com) to view videos that may have application in your classroom.

June 2 Getting Organized

Managing a to-do list is an essential function of staying organized and getting tasks completed in a timely manner. Explore the free online tool, Toodledo (http://toodledo.com/) and learn how it can help you get organized by using folders, due-dates, priorities, tags, context, goals, notes, time estimates and other information. The results will yield a to-do list that is easy to organize, search, and sort.

By Dave Edyburn

90 Days of Summer: June 3 - 9

June 3 The Greatest Generation (Multimedia E-book)

The Long Beach (CA) Public Library Foundation sponsors a community-wide book club. This summer's selection is The Greatest Generation by Tom Brokaw. Visit the companion page (http://cetl.edtech.csulb.edu/tgg/book.html) to access the multimedia e-book. Listen to selected stories read by the author.

June 4 Google Notebook

Professionals spend an increasing amount of time using the Web for research. A new tool has been designed to facilitate collaborative online research. Check out Google Notebook (http://www.google.com/notebook). Consider how this electronic clipping file might help you store and retrieve all sorts of information.

June 5 Wikipedia

If you have not been to Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page) in the past 24 hours, you are out of sync with most young people. Visit Wikipedia and explore topics of personal interest. How might you integrate this tool into your curriculum?

June 6 Convert Documents to PDF

When you make a document and share it with someone else, they must have the same program you used to create the document in order to open it. Adobe Acrobat was created to save documents in PDF format so that any document could be shared with everyone. Today, learn how you can convert any document into a PDF by using a free PDF online conversion service known as PDF Online (https://www.pdfonline.com/convert_pdf.asp).

June 7 Boardmaker Resources

Boardmaker is a software product that is used to make communication boards, picture schedules, and information sheets for students with communication impairments. Increasingly, this product is used extensively when planning instruction for students with Autism. Today, spend some time exploring Boardmaker Resources (http://www.aacintervention.com/boardmaker.html).

June 8 Web Accessibility

As the Web becomes an essential information tool, it is necessary to ensure its accessibility for individuals with disabilities. Today, spend some time learning more about Web accessibility. Visit: WebAIM: Introduction to Web Accessibility (http://www.webaim.org/intro/).

June 9 Web Accessibility for Section 508

Yesterday we learned about Web accessibility issues. Today, ramp up your Web development skills by completing a free short course on accessible Web design created by Jim Thatcher (http://www.jimthatch-

90 Days of Summer: June 10 - 16

June 10 Just for Kids

Looking for resources to share with children that might become bored this summer? Cool Spots for Kids (http://www.4kids.org/coolspots/) is an awesome collection of Web sites that appeal to kids of all ages. Perfect for that rainy summer day!

June 11 Assistive Technology Consideration

A core function of every assistive technology team involves the evaluation of the need for assistive technology. What types of assessment protocols does your team use? One of the most popular assessment protocols was developed by the Wisconsin Assistive Technology Initiative. Download a pdf copy or order the materials in print format (http://www.wati.org/Products/pdf/Assessment_Forms_only.pdf).

June 12 RubiStar

RubiStar (http://rubistar.4teachers.org/) is a free tool for making rubrics. This site also provides access to rubrics made by other teachers, so before your make your own, be sure to check if an existing rubric will meet your needs. For anyone who has made a rubric by hand, this site is a valuable resource.

June 13 Technology and Privacy

Concerns about privacy are increasingly raised in light of various technologies to capture, store, and retrieve personal information. Today, view a short movie that features one scenario of the future. Consider the implication of what could happen when extensive databases are integrated as you watch what happens to one gentleman as he tries to order a pizza (http://www.aclu.org/pizza/).

June 14 Current Awareness

Do you have trouble staying up to date with all the new developments on the Web? Take time today to explore the Scout Report (http://scout.wisc.edu/). This free service will deliver an email report to you every Friday with the latest and greatest finds.

June 15 Google Labs

To facilitate Google's innovative development, they release products that are still under development. Visit the not so secret area of the Google web site known as Google Labs (http://labs.google.com/). Take a peek to see what types of new tools are ready for your use today.

June 16 PocketMOD

PocketMOD (http://www.pocket-mod.com/) is a free personal disposable personal organizer. Create your own PocketMod using a variety of templates in five easy steps. While PDAs are great, nothing beats a folded piece of paper. Do you know anyone who could benefit from having their own PocketMOD?

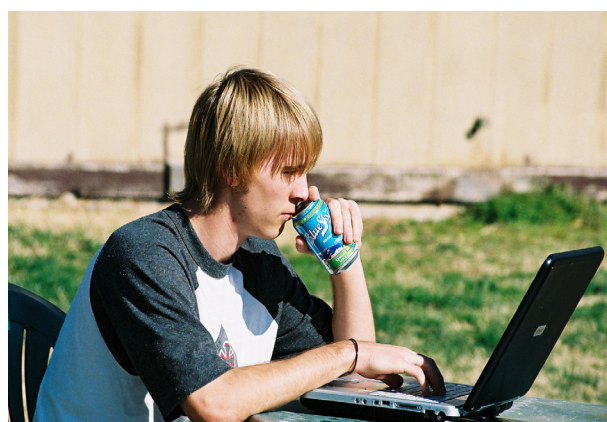# 90 Days of Summer: June 17 - 23

June 17 MAKE Magazine

So Dad's a little on the geeky side? Here's something you can share with him today, MAKE Magazine, (http://www.makezine.com/) and then promise to buy him a subscription to the quarterly print magazine. MAKE Magazine focuses exclusively on do-it-yourself technology projects.

June 18 International Children's Digital Library

While school has been out for a few days, it is probably not too soon to help a child explore some summer reading options. Today, check out The International Children's Digital Library (http://www.childrenslibrary.org/) to search for diverse children's books. Also search by genre, language, tolerance and respect for diverse cultures, languages, and ideas.

June 19 Two Cents Worth

Many educational leaders have started their own blogs. Readers often become fans of certain thought leaders as they periodically check-in to see what the great minds are thinking about. One such leader in education technology is David Warlick. Check out his blog, Two Cents Worth (http://davidwarlick.com/2cents/) and see what he has thinking about lately.

June 20 Assistive Technology Planner

The National Assistive Technology Research Institute has published a product known as the Assistive Technology Planner (http://natri.uky.edu/atPlannermenu.html). Explore the free online components for teachers, families, and administrators and the link to purchase print materials. Valuable tools for IEP teams.

June 21 wikiHow

The success of Wikipedia has spawned a variety of open-source knowledge building communities. WikiHow (http://www.wikihow.com/Main-Page) seeks to be the largest collection of step-by-step how-to information. Visit, view, and contribute today. As this collection develops, how might detailed how-to guides help students seeking to learn to complete new tasks?

June 22 Life Hack

Life Hack (http://www.lifehack.org) is a blog that focuses on sharing techniques for becoming more productive and using technology, or work-arounds, to get things done. Every visit is refreshing and inspiring!

June 23 Internet Radio

Internet radio takes music to another level. Visit Pandora (http://pandora.com/) and create your own radio station by naming an artist or album that you like. Pandora will then analyze the attributes of that song and then play other songs that it predicts you will also like. This work is based on work known as the Music Genome Project.

90 Days of Summer: June 24 - 30

June 24 Photoshopped Reality

PhotoShop is recognized as one of the core tools of digital graphic designers. Today, view the handiwork of talented PhotoShop users (http://www.worth1000.com/potd.asp) as they present photos that alter reality in provocative ways. Do you have any students that might be inspired to work with digital images in this way?

June 25 Second Life

Second Life (http://www.secondlife.com) is a 3-D virtual world of over seven million people. Open a free account and create an avatar to do your bidding as you tour the virtual world and interact with others. Settle down, buy land, and you can create your own island in this virtual world.

June 26 Graphic Search Engines

While Google and Yahoo are the acknowledged search engine leaders, new tools attempt to add value to the search process by clustering the results so that you can discern which grouping is most appropriate for your interests. Today, conduct a search in the following four search engines to experience how these emerging tools may assist you: Clusty (http://www.clusty.com), Grokker (http://www.grokker.com), Kartoo (http://www.kartoo.com), and Vivisimo (http://vivisimo.com/).

June 27 Teaching Every Student in the Digital Age

Read the seminal book describing the principles of universal design for learning, Teaching Every Student in the Digital Age, (http://www.cast.org/teachingeverystudent/ideas/tes/), available free online.

June 28 Teaching Every Student Blog

This blog (http://teachingeverystudent.blogspot.com/) discusses issues associated with universal design for learning and the use of technology to enhance learning for all students. Explore the practical implications of UDL concepts for your classroom.
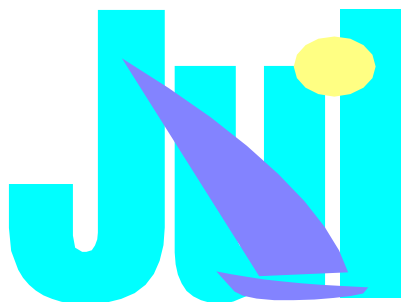
June 29 Toolkit on Teaching and Assessing Students with Disabilities

The Office of Special Education Programs in the U.S. Department of Education has created a Web page (http://www.osepideasthatwork.org/toolkit/) with a collection of tools to assist teachers in teaching and assessing students with disabilities. Explore the resources for use in your classroom.

June 30 Create Online Quizzes

ProProfs Quiz School (http://www.proprofs.com/quiz-school/) is a free learning tool that enables educators to utilize the power of the Internet to create online quizzes and practice tests for their students. The site also provides a quiz library, where teachers can browse through the categories or search to find existing quizzes of interest. Teachers can also share quizzes with their colleagues or post quizzes on their class Web page.

90 Days of Summer: July 1 - 7

July 1 Local Maps

Google offers a variety of tools that significantly extend the power of the Web. Explore the use of Google Maps (http://maps.google.com/maps) to find businesses near your home. For example, enter: "restaurants near your home address" to see a list of restaurants mapped relative to your house. Think about the possibilities for this tool while you travel this summer.

July 2 $100 Laptops

Researchers at MIT have been working to develop a wireless Internet, battery operated computer for students in third world countries. Now that the computer is in limited production, some are asking whether there is a market in the U.S. for this new computer. Today, explore the $100 Laptop initiative (http://www.laptop.org/).

July 3 The Why Files

The ability to ask Why? is a core motivation for all scientists. The Why Files (http://whyfiles.org) is a comprehensive resource for engaging students in science by asking why things work the way they do. Explore this site and consider the many ways you can integrate this into your curriculum next year.

July 4 News Around the World

As American celebrates the Fourth of July, take some time today to view the front page of newspapers from around the U.S. and the world at Today's Front Pages (http://www.newseum.org/todaysfrontpages/). Consider how this information resource could be used in the classroom to compare news coverage of major news events from various perspectives.

July 5 Thinkfinity

Thinkfinity (http://www.thinkfinity.org) is a free, comprehensive digital learning platform, built upon the merger of Verizon MarcoPolo and the Verizon Literacy Network. Thinkfinity, which means "endless possibilities for learning," provides access to a wide variety of interactive learning resources.

July 6 Introduction to Cascading Style Sheets (CSS)

CSS is an important Web design technique for creating accessible Web pages. Today, explore an online tutorial, Learning CSS (http://www.utexas.edu/learn/css/index.html), that offers a great introduction to the key concepts associated with CSS.

July 7 CSS Layouts

Today's activities build on the knowledge gained in yesterday's session on CSS.
Ruthsarian Layouts (http://webhost.bridgew.edu/etribou/layouts/index.html) offers visitors the opportunity to download working CSS pages that can be used to make your own Web pages using CSS.

90 Days of Summer: July 8 - 14

July 8 Free Online Whiteboard

Imagination Cubed (http://www.imaginationcubed.com/) is an amazing free Web-based white board. Use a digital ink pen to draw on the screen, then replay your drawing as a movie. Options are also available for inviting a friend to draw with you and to email your drawings to friends. How might this tool be used in your classroom?

July 9 Virtual Interview

InterviewTrue (http://www.interviewtrue.com/) is a new service that sets a new standard for preparing for an interview. A 24-hour trial is free and a six-month subscription is $19.95. Use a webcam and select from 1,000 questions, your response to the virtual interview is recorded, and you can email your video to friends. An awesome training tool for students.

July 10 Youthhood

Youthhood (http://www.youthhood.org) is an online community for students created by transition specialists at the University of Minnesota. Provides information and resources on important developmental topics to prepare for life after high school in a teen-friendly manner. Useful for all secondary students.

July 11 SparkTop

SparkTop (http://www.sparktop.org) is a Web site sponsored by the Schwab Learning Foundation as a gathering place for students with learning differences to create, talk with others, play games, and discover new ways to be successful. Share this Web site with a young person today.

July 12 TinSnips

TinSnips (http://www.tinsnips.org/) is a special education resource with specialized teaching tools, techniques, worksheets and activities for teachers of students who have autistic spectrum disorders and related developmental disabilities. Many of the activities may also be appropriate for prekindergarten and kindergarten children.

July 13 Highlight the Web

i-Lighter (http://www.i-lighter.com/) is a yellow highlighter for the Web. i-Lighter lets you highlight and automatically save anything you want from any web page and then retrieve it later. Requires Windows. Free.

July 14 Electronic Field Trips

Ball State University has created an Electronic Field Trip Program (http://www.bsu.edu/eft/home/11whatIsAnEFT.htm) that combines the best of the Web, broadcast quality video, and valuable instructional materials. Explore the possibilities for your school for the 2007-2008 school year.

90 Days of Summer: July 15 - 21

July 15 Audio Books

Spend some time today browsing an audio book to enjoy this summer. Locate free audio books (http://www.audiobooksforfree.com) or search for commercial audio books (http://www.audible.com). Consider whether you should make an audio book report assignment next school year to allow all students to experience this alternative form of reading.

July 16 Take the Weather Challenge

The Weather Channel presents a set of realistic weather conditions in this interactive educational resource. Middle school students will learn how to make important safety decisions during severe weather events when they become virtual youth interns in the Severe Weather Command Center and field questions from virtual families around the country (http://www.weatherclassroom.com/home_students.php).

July 17 Enrichment and Differentiation

Renzulli Learning Systems (http://demo.renzullilearning.com/) surveys student interests online and then generates a list of possible projects for them to complete. Access to the learning system requires a site license but you can sample each of the areas in this free demo/tour. Valuable for any school interested in differentiated instruction.

July 18 PowerPoint Timers

When teachers or workshop leaders ask students or participants to meet in groups and discuss a topic, time management is often a problem. Today, explore a collection of PowerPoint Timers (http://www.interventioncentral.org/timers.php) and download a time you can use in your classroom.

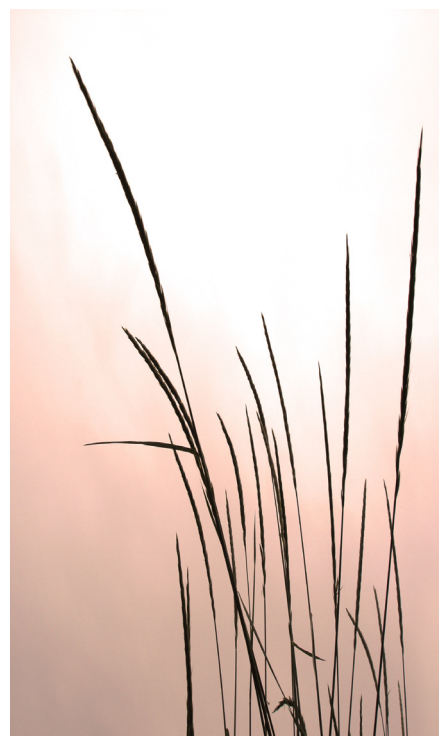### July 19 Busy Teachers

Busy Teachers WebSite K-12 (http://www.ceismc.gatech.edu/busyt/) is a well-organized collection of Web Links. Review this collection and see if there is anything you want to use in your classroom next school year. Is this site worth bookmarking?

July 20 EdHelper

EdHelper (http://www.edhelper.com/) is a subscription service ($19.95 annually) that is designed to help teachers create instructional materials for their classroom. Of particular interest to special educators is the ability to create interactive quizzes, study guides, practice sheets, and more.

July 21 Online Digital Books

The National Academies Press has been a leading publisher demonstrating how to publish both print and digital texts. For example, their book, How People Learn, has generated significant attention in the field of education. View the book online (free), or purchase a pdf or print copy (http://books.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=9853). What do you think of this glimpse of the future of future of publishing?

90 Days of Summer: July 22 - 28

July 22 Movie Trailers and Clips

Explore both ends of the movie making spectrum today. Begin by checking out movie trailers of forth-coming commercial movies at Apple's Movie Trailers page (http://www.apple.com/trailers). Then, check out the latest homemade movies posted at YouTube (http://www.youtube.com).

July 23 Cornucopia of Disability Information

Teachers are often called upon to provide information about disabilities to parents or other teachers. The Cornucopia of Disability Information (http://codi.buffalo.edu) is a wealth of well-organized links to disability information. Explore these resources and consider bookmarking links you want to share with others.

July 24 Family Village

The Family Village (http://www.familyvillage.wisc.edu/) is a global community of resources and support for individuals with disabilities and their families. A valuable resource to share with every family. Consider preparing a short description of this Web site for a parent newsletter that you can send home in the fall.

July 25 NIMAS

The National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS) is an important federal law direct-ing the development of accessible instructional materials. Read more about the latest developments regarding the creation of a federal repository for accessible materials (http://nimas.cast.org/).

July 26 BookShare.org

BookShare.org (http://www.bookshare.org) gives print disabled people in the United States legal access to over 32,300 books and 150 periodicals that are converted to Braille, large print or text to speech audio files. While some materials are open access, most materials must be accessed through a qualified member-ship based on a print disability. Explore the collection to determine if this might be useful to recommend to some individuals and their families.

July 27 Book Builder

CAST has created on interactive online tool that enables educators to develop their own digital books to support reading instruction for students ages 3-10. Experience Book Builder (http://bookbuilder.cast.org). Consider whether this might be a resource to use in one of the writing assignments during the com-ing year.

July 28 EPIC 2014

EPIC 2014 is a Flash movie that provides a glimpse of the future as it unfolds due to the convergence of media and technology. Read about it at Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/EPIC_2014), then, view the movie online (http://epic.makingithappen.co.uk).

90 Days of Summer: July 24 - August 4

July 29 Google Docs and Spreadsheets

Google has created two online productivity tools (word processing and spreadsheets) that allow users to create and store information online (http://docs.google.com). While the initiative has obvious implications for Microsoft, the chief attribute is that your documents can be accessed from any computer (think: home and school) and, if you so choose, you can designate access to multiple users (think: co-authors, committees, etc.). Requires a free Google account. Do these new tools have any implications for schools?

July 30 Learning Management Systems

The increased use of the Web for instruction has led to the development of a number of online learning systems (e.g., BlackBoard, Desire2Learn). Today, learn more about open source learning management systems (http://www.learningcircuits.org/2005/oct2005/adkins.htm). With some technical skills (or, assistance) you can download software and set up your own online course.

July 31 BrainPop, BrainPop Jr., and BrainPop Espanol

BrainPOP (http://www.brainpop.com) provides more than 600 animated movies in seven subjects: Science, Math, English, Social Studies, Health, Arts and Music, and Technology. Each movie is supported by activities such as a quiz, comic strip, experiment and other printable worksheets, all of which speak to kids in a language and voice that they can understand. Available for grades 3-12, K-3, and Spanish.

August 1 Classroom Architect

School will be starting soon. Use the Classroom Architect (http://classroom.4teachers.org/) or Scholastic's Classroom Set-up Tool (http://teacher.scholastic.com/tools/class_setup/) to create the optimal learning space and seating chart.

August 2 Web 2.0

Many experts believe the Web has progressed developmentally into a new era (Web 2.0). A three part series profiling an array of Web 2.0 applications and descriptions of how these tools may impact teaching and learning: Back to School with the Class of Web 2.0 (http://www.solutionwatch.com/512/back-to-school- with-the-class-of-web-20-part-1/).

August 3 Homework Help

Many schools maintain a homework help page on their Web site. What types of links would you suggest be added to a homework help page? Explore some possibilities: Yahooligans (http://kids.yahoo.com/), KidsClick! (http://www.kidsclick.org/), Kidsplace (http://www.ipl.org/div/kidspace/), and FactMonster (http://www.factmonster.com/).

August 4 Curriculum Focal Points

Recently, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics made a major announcement about the nature of math standards. They felt that the current implementation of math standards has resulted in a curriculum of breadth at the expense of having children have a depth of understanding about mathematics. In response, they proposed the identification of Curriculum Focal Points (http://www.nctm.org/focal-points) that recommends that preK-8 students master only three basic skills at each level. Today, read more about this important standards-based instruction initiative.

90 Days of Summer: August 5 - 11

August 5 Learning About Disabilities

Books and films are powerful teaching tools for helping others learn about the effect of a disability. To see a bibliography of children's books that involve a character with a disability, visit: http://www.kidsource.com/NICHCY/literature.html. To search for movies that involve a character with a disability, visit: http://www.disabilityfilms.co.uk/.

August 6 Read, Write, Think

Read, Write, Think (http://www.readwritethink.org) was developed by the International Reading Association and the National Council of Teachers of English. The site features an awesome collection of teacher resources and interactive student activities that have been designed to foster literacy and thinking skills. These activities will fit into every classroom.

August 7 Visual Thesaurus

Building vocabulary is an important task in every subject. Visual Thesaurus (http://www.visualthesaurus.com) is both a software product and Web site that engages students by drawing a map of synonyms and antonyms related to a word that you enter. An amazing tool to engage struggling readers and writers.

August 8 Communities of Practice

Communities of practice are social learning networks that help professionals understand how things work. Consider joining one of the three leading special education technology communities of practice: The QIAT Listserv (http://www.qiat.org), Closing the Gap Forums (http://www.closingthegap.com), or The Family Center on Technology and Disability Online Discussions (http://www.fctd.info/webboard/index.php).

August 9 NetTrekker

NetTrekker d.i. (http://www.nettrekker.com/di) is a specialized search engine of over 180,000 Web resources for supporting differentiated instruction. After searching by topic/standard, refine the focus by reviewing Web sites by readability. A valuable and affordable resource for every teacher. Free 14-day trial.

August 10 Clip Art for Teachers

While Google image searches (http://images.google.com) are sometimes useful for teachers looking for clip art images for their classrooms, several other Web sites specialize in clip art for teachers. Pics4Learning (http://pics.tech4learning.com/) and Free teacher clip art (http://www.teacherfiles.com/clip_art.htm). Spend some time collecting images that you plan to use for PowerPoint presentations, worksheets, and newsletters.

August 11 National Library of Virtual Manipulatives

Many students struggle with the conceptual understanding of math. The National Library of Virtual Manipulatives (http://nlvm.usu.edu/en/nav/vlibrary.html) has a wealth of interactive learning resources that allow students to solve a variety of math problems. Resources are organized by grade, math concept, and specific lesson. Students will enjoy learning math with these interactive activities.

90 Days of Summer: August 12 - 18

August 12 The Office

We often expect that all students have high level of computer skills. Today, explore an online simulation that assesses user's technology skills as they received tasks in the role as a new employee in The Office (http://www.lexiconsys.com/dswmedia/working_simulations.html).

August 13 Computer Training

Each new school year, teachers need to spend some time helping students master the basics of using a computer. Today, explore some resources that offer step-by-step guidance in completing basic computer operations. Jan's Illustrated Computer Literacy 101 (http://www.jegsworks.com/Lessons/), and InPics (http://inpics.net/).

August 14 Free Assistive Technology

Visit the One Stop for Free Assistive Technology (http://www.onlineconferencingsystems.com/at.htm) to access over 200 free assistive technology products. Consider how these resources may be useful to some students and families.

August 15 42Explore: Thematic Pathfinders for All Ages

42Explore (http://42explore.com/) organizes high-quality Web links under 200 themes. In addition, each theme offers basic and advanced readings as well as a variety of links to projects. This web project provides "four to eXplore" for each topic. On each page you'll find definitions, activities, the 4 good starting points, and many more links and resources for the thematic topic.

August 16 Assessing the Need for Assistive Technology

IEP teams are required to consider whether or not a student needs assistive technology in order to benefit from a free appropriate public education. Several tools are available to help formalize the assessment of an assistive technology need. Today, explore three assessment tools: Matching Person and Technology (http://members.aol.com/impt97/mpt.html), Functional Evaluation of Assistive Technology(http://www.psycho-educational.com/featcompletekit.html), and Compass Assessment Software (http://www.infogrip.com/product_view.asp?RecordNumber=1001&sbcolor=006600&optiontxt=Search).

August 17 Guidelines for Creating Accessible Digital Media

As the new school year is about to begin, it is important to reaffirm our commitment to accessible instruction. Today, spend some time reviewing Guidelines for Creating Accessible Digital Media (http://ncam.wgbh.org/publications/adm/).

August 18 MagPie 2

Developers of multimedia materials need to consider the accessibility needs of individuals with disabilities. MAGpie 2 (http://ncam.wgbh.org/webaccess/magpie/) is a free development tool for creating closed captions and audio (video) descriptions. Authors can add captions and audio descriptions to QuickTime, Real, Windows Media Player, or Flash presentations. Is there anyone you work with that might need to know about this tool?

90 Days of Summer: August 19 - 25

August 19 Visions of Technology Integration

Michael Milone has created a list of factors that should be present when technology is effectively integrated into the curriculum. Read his short article, How to Know if Your Technology is Integrated (http://reta.nmsu.edu/vrc/school/how_to_know.html) and consider whether or not you have experienced a situation where many of the factors were present.

August 20 Big6

The Big6 is a common instructional method for teaching students about the process of conducting research. Explore the Big6 Matrix (http://www.janetsinfo.com/big6info.htm) to understand the key components of the model and access resources for helping students gain expertise in mastering the subtasks involved in the entire research and writing process.

August 21 SparkNotes

Teachers and students often need study guide supports to fully comprehend literature. Visit SparkNotes (http://www.sparknotes.com) and locate study materials for a book you plan to read. How should students and parents be encouraged to use this resource?

August 22 Best Social Studies Sites

Explore Web sites that will assist you in supporting students in accessing the social studies curriculum: EDSITEment (http://edsitement.neh.gov/tab_lesson.asp?subjectArea=3), History/Social Studies for K-12 Teachers (http://k-12historysocialstudies.com/boals.html), the Best of History Web Sites (http://www.besthistorysites.net/).

August 23 Best Science Sites

Explore Web sites that will assist you in supporting students in accessing the science curriculum: Ten Cool Sites (http://apps.exploratorium.edu/10cool/index.php), Great Sites for Kids - Science (http://www.kidsites.com/sites-edu/science.htm), and Internet Resources for Use in Science Classes (http://www.internet4classrooms.com/science.htm).

August 24 Build a Web Page

A variety of Web sites offer teachers the opportunity to build a free Web page. Review the following resources and consider building a lesson/unit you can use with students during the new school year: Filamentality (http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/fil/), TrackStar (http://trackstar.4teachers.org/), Class Home Page Builder (http://teacher.scholastic.com/tools/).

August 25 Using Technology to Support Diverse Learners

As you prepare for the new school year, your classes are likely to be filled with learners with diverse learning needs. Today, explore ways principles of universal design for learning can be utilized with technology to make the curriculum more accessible and engaging (http://www.wested.org/cs/tdl/print/docs/tdl/home.htm).

90 Days of Summer: August 26 -31

August 26 National Center on Accessing the General Curriculum

The National Center on Accessing the General Curriculum was a federally funded project to explore the use of innovative teaching practices and technologies to enhance access to the general curriculum for students with disabilities. Today, browse their publications (http://www.cast.org/publications/ncac/) to read information that will be helpful to you as you design learning experiences this new school year.

August 27 Teaching Inspiration

Visit the following quote collection that has been organized around the theme of rethinking the purpose and function of education in the 21st century (http://www.leading-learning.co.nz/famous-quotes.html). Revisit this page whenever you are in need of a new dose of teaching inspiration!

August 28 Thinking About Homework

The Schwab Learning Foundation has created a free booklet that can be downloaded from their web site, 25 Top Tips for Handling Homework (http://www.schwablearning.org/articles.asp?r=858). Download the booklet and read it over. Is this something you will share with parents this fall? Any ideas on how you might modify your homework practices to take the hassle out of homework?

August 29 Learn About Progress Monitoring

Progress Monitoring is an important educational innovation that seeks to use student performance data for informing decisions about instruction. Learn more by visiting the National Center on Student Progress Monitoring (http://www.studentprogress.org/) and the Research Institute on Progress Monitoring (http://www.progressmonitoring.net/).

August 30 Assistive Technology Conferences

Early in the school year is a good time to ask your administrators for support to travel to a national conference. Here are a few conferences that will provide a significant investment in your professional development: Closing the Gap, October 16-20, Minneapolis, (http://www.closingthegap.com), Technology, Learning, and Reading Difficulties, January 24-26, San Francisco (http://www.trld.org), Assistive Technology Industry Association Conference, January 30 - February 2, Orlando (http://www.atia.org), and California State University, Northridge Conference, March 10-15, Los Angeles (http://www.csun.edu/cod/).

August 31 Online Comics

As summer draws to a close, it is a good time to take a look at the lighter side of life. Visit UComics (http://www.ucomics.com/), one of the largest free online archive of comic strips. Locate your favorite comic strips and enjoy!

The End

Summer is over! If you have faithfully spent time with our 90 Days of Summer feature, you daily investment of 10-20 minutes has resulted in 15-30 hours of professional development! Best wishes for the new school year as you utilize your new knowledge and skills!