

Avon set up a camera so Gay Avenue students could watch from their classroom while the chicks hatched at the end of May.



"To understand their world we must be willing to immerse ourselves in that world. We must embrace the new digital reality. If we can't relate, if we don't get it, we won't be able to make school relevant to the current and future needs of the digital generation."

- Ian Jukes

## Cheep, Cheep, Cheep

24 chicken eggs, one incubator, and hundreds of primary aged students all clamoring for a view of the soon to be hatching eggs makes for a logistical nightmare if you're a teacher and administrator trying to teach the life cycle. How do you make this more mobile and available to your students in the classroom...call Avon!

## Webcam Setup

For years now there has been the desire to video stream the eggs Gay Avenue has on hand this time of year. Being able to video the eggs hatching would allow all students a chance to see the eggs hatch in real time and would cut down on time out of class for a visit to the incubator by the office. Avon tried numerous setups to make this happen and

finally found an in-network solution. The webcam was placed in the incubator with the eggs so anyone that watched could see the hatching up close! Dawn Easley's Kindergarten class said "it was like being in there with the chicks." After the eggs hatched the cam was moved to the box for a few days before the chicks were picked up to go to their new homes.

## It Became An Incentive

"My kids started asking to watch it, so it became an incentive...if we quietly did our work, I would turn it on." says Kindergarten teacher, Emily Brown. "They especially loved the day they got to watch as a chicken was hatching!!" It's important for students to see the life cycle in action and makes it for a real and memorable experience. With the streaming, teachers did not have to plan time out of class to see the eggs; they were able to

maintain class time and easily pull it up in their class, thus helping with classroom management. PreK teacher Amanda Moore said her students loved it and "were quieter when we were watching the chicks than they have been all year."

## World Wide Chickens?

Avon is working hard on making next year even better. He'd really like to see the stream available outside of the network, one drawback of this years experiment was it could only be viewed if the viewer was on campus and on the GISD network. Luckily Gay Avenue does this yearly, so we won't have to wait long to see just how far the GPS chicks will go!

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## Alex's Lemonade Stand Recap

Even with soggy grass, a humid gym, and the threat of more rain, Mother Nature couldn't stop Broadway Elementary's Carnival and Field Day festivities. This was good news for the students and for Alex's Lemonade Stand.

Held in the gym this year, our students, staff, parents and community members came out to purchase bottles of water with lemonade drink packets to support childhood cancer research. And boy did they surpass our expectations! We had set an original goal of \$150, but early in the morning our first day we were already beyond that. Our total, with online donations included, ended up being an astounding \$614!

While the money was great and it was thrilling to send that check to Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation, it was much more than that. Mrs. Vicky Bright's third grade class came together, cheered everyone on, assisted with the stand, and made posters and signs to advertise. They learned that this world is not just about them and that they can make a huge difference with a little effort.



With our school-wide kick off video conference, all of Broadway was inspired as well. And, to be honest, I doubt there was a dry-eye between the teachers in the room when the conference began. We had parents comment about their child coming home and telling them about Alex, the little girl with cancer, and how they wanted to do a lemonade stand too. It's wonderful to see technology being used in this way; not only educational but bringing all ages of people together for one goal. In this video conference were over ten schools attending, including a high school from Taiwan and a school for the deaf and blind in Montana.

The video conference began with a video about the namesake of the foundation, Alex Scott, who passed away at 8 years old from neuroblastoma. We learned about Alex's life, her trials throughout treatment, and her tenacity to keep going. We also were introduced to why Alex wanted to start a lemonade stand shortly after a stem-cell transplant; she wanted to raise money so her doctors can make a cure for childhood cancer so no child has to suffer.



Mrs. Vicky Bright's 3rd grade class holding signs indicating the total raised through the stand and online donations.



Alex's mother joined the conference to tell us more about her inspiring daughter and to read a book the family wrote with Alex's help. The book, "Alex and the Amazing Lemonade Stand" is available in the Gay Avenue and Broadway libraries and a copy was given to the poster contest winner.

Not only did we hold our stand but we also had two contests that students entered. The first was the Make a Difference Commercial contest in which Mrs. Bright's class made a 45 second video to show off how they can make a difference in their community. The class chose the backpack program; filling the backpack with food and supplies for those students who are less fortunate. The video was uploaded to YouTube and the one with the most "likes" won. The other contest students competed in was the poster contest. Four classes at Broadway made posters and hung them in the



halls. This was not only advertising for our stand but also gave our students an opportunity to show off their creative side. Judging was difficult but we

eventually found our "winner".



Katie Menjivar, from Mrs. Richardson's class, had everything we were looking for on the poster; a catchy slogan with very pretty colors and drawings. Her poster won her a bag of Lemonade Stand goodies including a pencil, do-rag, bracelets, temporary tattoos and a lemon shaped pin. She also got her very own copy of Alex's book. Her poster entry was submitted to the national contest and she did great

representing Gladewater ISD! We were so proud of all our posters because they really showed the spirit and heart of these students.

We wrapped up the two weeks of stands all over the U.S. with a closing video conference. With the video conference provider, Magpi, a total of twelve schools participated in the virtual lemonade stand project. As part of this two week program, each participating school held their own lemonade stands to help raise funds for pediatric cancer.



Schools can hold either one big lemonade stand day or a series of lemonade stand events throughout the two weeks. We were able to communicate and interact with one another through a project blog, student-created videos, and the video conferences. The total amount raised was over \$14,000!

This was an exciting project for not only the students but for the teachers, parents and the technology department. It was exhilarating to setup a school-wide video conference as well as the class-only wrap-up. It was exciting to see the students interact with a class from another country and support a cause that they hopefully have no direct need for. Plans are already forming and new ideas being scribbled down for next year as we try and break our goal next May. If this is something your class, campus or group would like to participate in, let Melanie know so we can try to make next year bigger and better! Thank you to Broadway Elementary administration, staff, and students for helping make a difference!



## Summertime Tips

Before you head to the beach this summer, we have a list of things to do with your technology items so they stay in working order ready for next school year. Following these simple things will save you some headaches in late August.

1. If you are going somewhere and leaving your laptop behind, be sure to charge it to 50% then shut down. By doing so, you can help save the battery life. If you either leave it at home or if you take it with you on vacation, remember to keep it in a secure location. If you do travel with it, use the provided laptop case or one similar.
2. Backup, backup, backup. We all keep a lot of documents on our computers. The way to keep those safe and secure is to do a good backup before you leave for the summer. You can find information on how to create a burn folder [here](#).
3. When sitting on the beach, keep your cool lemonade and other drinks away from your laptop. Liquids wreak havoc on technology items but when you add sugar to the mix it's even worse! If you **MUST** have a drink nearby, use a lid and extra precautions to make sure you won't have a soggy sticky mess in your computer.
4. If you have an iPad, keep it safe and secure in your cover. iPads are not very happy when they are dropped and some cases on the campuses don't cover the corners well. We've noticed when they are dropped or fall, they seem to always hit an exposed corner and shatter that screen.
5. Protect your technology items during our severe weather. This goes for your personal items too. If there's a thunderstorm coming your way or lightening before the storm; unplug, unplug, unplug! Even with surge protectors it's best to unplug your computer as an extra precaution.



# YEAR IN REVIEW

2013

The technology department has been hard at work for you this year. Here is a little breakdown of what we've done this year:

We started the year off shorthanded but luckily snagged a technician, John, for the High School. A few things were changed internally so John is not only at the high school but he's also STC at Broadway and Weldon. Andrew took over STC duties at the middle school, Admin, and the transportation, nutrition, custodial and maintenance departments. We believe this little switch-up has been to the benefit of the campuses and departments.

78 data projectors were installed throughout the campuses. 40 of these were ultra-short throw projectors. This type of projector not only causes less shadows when working on the SmartBoards but it lessens the risk of tripping and injury to students, teachers and technology items by having fewer cords running along the floor. Also by mounting those projectors, teachers have freed up space in their classroom because they could get rid of extra tables holding the projector.

We went GOOGLE! We are pleased the transition was pretty smooth on your side and we've heard wonderful things about how happy people are that the district moved. On the back-end, Avon worked tirelessly to make sure that move was as easy as possible on you. We're working on implementing more of the Apps in the future that will help collaboration between staff, administration and students.

New wireless access points were installed in most classrooms at the middle school. This will allow more mobility throughout the school. This also helps with the laptop carts and will mean that all students will be able to get on the laptop and research on the internet with fewer dropped connections.

Thanks to the help of Gay Avenue, their fundraising efforts, and PTO, we were able to purchase iPad Minis and Griffin cases for the classrooms. The response has been great so far and we're always seeing them being used, by students and teachers alike.

Video conferences are still always popular. Gay Avenue, Broadway and Weldon all got in on the fun with 48 conferences this year alone! We did get some bad news that our favorite provider would no longer be doing video conferences next year, but have no fear...we're finding new ones and compiling a list over the summer so we can still bring you conference opportunities!

And if you're a numbers person, the department has closed out over 1700 work orders since teachers came back for the 2013-14 school year. This is an average of 9 every day!

## Looking Ahead to 2014-15

Bye bye Tyler SIS. TxEIS (pronounced Texas) will be taking the place of Tyler SIS next year for grade book, attendance and all our student information. This will also mean no more EDP for the business office side. No worries, we'll get you trained on TxEIS!

More Google-y Goodness is coming. We'll really jump into sharing and collaboration with Google including Drive and Calendar. To help with collaboration between students and teachers, students will be getting email addresses and personal logins. This is still in the planning process as to see what would work best and to what grade levels this would effect but we're excited by the possibilities for our students.

# Calendar

A quick view of upcoming important dates

## June & July

6

Early Release for students  
Last Day of School  
HS Graduation

9

Technology Lesson Forms due  
by 4pm.

Enjoy your  
summer!

## August

18

Inservice week begins

20

TechPalooza 2014!

25

First Day of School

Make the year  
great!

## Next Issue:

### Who knows!

We've got plenty gearing up for the 2014-15 school year, so take a look at our October 2014 newsletter to see what's in store!



We've all been in boring trainings. You're stuck in a session, twiddling your thumbs wondering when you can get back into your classroom to get it ready for the incoming students.

Well, no more! Say hello to TechPalooza 2014!

TechPalooza is your fun-filled technology training day during the inservice week for the 2014-15 school year. You have the freedom to choose what session to attend (training on TxEIS is required) and what you want to learn. There will be numerous trainings offered throughout the day, so the only thing you have to worry about is how to narrow down your list of classes you want to go to!

We've asked for presenters and are pleased with the wide array of responses we received. There will be sessions ranging from the technology tools used in the classroom to online goodies to make your teaching life easier. There will be something for everyone.

TechPalooza will be held all day at the high school on Wednesday, August 20th. We're in the

processes of finalizing the schedule but know it will be a rockin' technology day!

A huge thanks to the following presenters (as of now): Representing Gay Avenue is Tess Nichols, Dawn Easley, Kerry Hradecky and Emily Brown. Phyllis Thompson is from Broadway. Weldon has Stephaney Wallace and Blake Newman. From GMS will be Vanessa Johnson, Candy Keller and Jamie Cook. And last but not least, the High School is being represented by Michelle Ingram, Ann Grimes, Renee Steele (TWS), Nekeshia Lewis, Holly Dunklin and Kevin Clark. We also will have presenters from Region 7 joining in the fun.

If you're interested in presenting and haven't filled out the Google Form sent by Glenda please let us know soon. Every submission is considered and we'd be thrilled to have more teachers step-up and show off their tech skills. If you use a cool website, found some great apps to use in the classroom, or want to show off your awesome ideas, let us know!

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"My report is about how important it is to save paper, electricity, and other resources. I'll send it to you telepathically."

If you have any ideas for articles or anything you'd like to see in future Technology Department newsletters, please email Melanie at [patem@gladewaterisd.com](mailto:patem@gladewaterisd.com). She reads each submission and looks forward to your feedback and suggestions.