TECH TALK

NOTES: I had a lot of great feedback from you all about the newsletter and the Tech PD survey. Please take a look below for some of the changes that you've asked for and for the upcoming Tech PD dates. Lastly, here's a little motivation from last month's ITLMS meeting. Thanks! TLB

LEARN: We've been learning new technology vocabulary and strengthening our mouse skills. A lot of our students are having a difficult time using a mouse. We are entering a new generation of kids that only know how to use a touch screen! K-2 students worked on mouse skills using connect the dot games that incorporated math skills. 3-5 students worked on identifying technology vocabulary using a picture find game. Students also practiced critical thinking and mouse skills using Sugar, Sugar. (It's lots of fun for adults, too!) Fifth grade continued their vocabulary work in Smart Notebook. I have bundled the links I used here if you would like to access them in the classroom. Hopefully I will have my website up and running soon so students and teachers will be able to access things we have done in the lab easily.

PLAN: If your grade level has something that you are working on and would like support in the lab, please let me know. The following is planned for the next week:
- K-Logging on and off, practicing letter sounds with Letterella
- 1st-Reviewing letter sounds and blends using Letterella and Orson's Farm
- 2nd- Phonics practice using Orson's Farm
- 3rd- Identifying keys and rebuilding a keyboard using Keyboard Challenge, continued practice typing
- 4th-Logging into Edmodo, completing their profile, and accessing folders/assignments
- 5th-Creating a SMART notebook interactive file demonstrating the water cycle

All grade levels are working on building their computer lab and technology vocabulary. If you would like a list of words to add to your word wall, let me know.

NEW! Tech Request Form: I have added a link on the staff resources page for you to let me know about tech issues. Since I am teaching all classes, every quarter it is difficult to get to you during the day. However, if you let me know on the form the severity of the problem, I can try to arrange coverage so I can help you ASAP. Please fill in all parts of the form and that will also help in speeding up the repair process.

Tech PD: I have started to schedule dates based on the responses from the survey. These meetings will take place in the computer lab from 3:30-4:30ish unless otherwise noted. Oct. 3-Website Construction using WEEBLY; Oct. 8 Website Construction using PBWORKS; Nov. 7-Edmodo Please respond here, letting me know which of these you are planning to attend.

FUN: YouTube EDU "you have access to a broad set of educational videos that range from academic lectures to inspirational speeches and everything in between"
Kid President some of you are familiar with this little guy and may have already seen this video, but for those of you who haven't here is his Pep Talk for Teachers and Students

UPDATE:
- When shutting down your computers, please run any updates that appear by choosing "Run Updates and Shutdown." If this is on your laptop, please leave it plugged in while it updates.
- **Please check your filters on your projectors.** For most of you, this is located under the projection lens. There is also one on the back of the projector under one of the cords. It is a small square and it slides out like a dryer filter. You can use canned air or a small brush to carefully clean out all of the dust. I have some canned air in the lab if you need it.
- **Desktop computers also need to be dusted and cleaned off.** We have many machines that are breaking down because there is so much dust in them. Again, I have canned air if you need it as well as screen wipes for your monitors.
- Keep your fingers crossed, we are hoping to get a pair of ear buds for each student through the PTA. This will help tremendously with germs, head lice, etc. I will let you know when I get more information.