



THE PEANUT COMPUTER GALLERY COMPUTERS 101

Saint Catherine School
Manchester, NH

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Issue 2

SFB.

The Quarterly Digital News

A Welcoming Return

Welcome to Mrs. Morin's second edition of the Peanut Computer Gallery newsletter. It is hard to believe that we have passed the half-way mark of the 2007-2008 school year. It is amazing how quickly the time goes by. In this edition of our newsletter you will find articles on:

- **Computers 101 Headlines**
- **Our Design of Instruction**
- **Central Projects Unit**
- **Memory Reminders**
- **Class Calendar**



Computers 101 Headlines



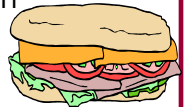
6th Grade Typing Contest: It has been an exciting typing contest between the four computer groups in the sixth grade. As each group improves their typing speed and accuracy, and as each group's average increases, it has become a close race. 6P group 1 is in the lead with 6P group 2 at their tails. Nevertheless, 6M group 1 (4th place) and group 2 (3rd place) are not far behind. With four months to go and with a little more practice, the lead can quickly change. I encourage each student to practice at home by downloading the program (with permission from mom or dad) and installing it on their computer. The program can be downloaded from the [Peanut Computer Gallery](#) Web site under [Favorite Links](#) page and click on [TypingMaster](#) icon.

5th Grade Network: The imaginations of our fifth grade students were busy at work as each student designed his and her *Intranet*. The gallery of their creative work is displayed outside of our computer lab wall with



each individual *Intranet* surrounding the **World Wide Web** globe.

Fabulous 4th Grade Recipes: It has been subs and sandwiches galore as the fourth grade completes their recipe creation in Microsoft Word. Even grandma would be quite impressed reading each unique recipe on how to make a sub or sandwich; including a detailed list of ingredients and tools, complete instructions, and colorful pictures.



Our Design of Instruction

The students have been busy learning all the wonderful features of *Windows XP* and Microsoft applications while working on their computer projects and labs. Here are some of the things each grade has been learning this past quarter:

- **Pre-K and Kindergarten:** Continuation of mouse techniques (left button, double clicking, and maneuvering) and identifying letters on the keyboard by using interactive learning games. Each class displayed their artistic abilities just in time for the Christmas holiday while painting Christmas trees using the paint tools in Microsoft paint. The Pre-K has been learning how to log on and off the computer using their "pk" login account.
- **1st and 2nd:** Each grade enhanced their drawing and coloring skills using the tools in Microsoft paint. Using a combination of an online *Word Magnet* program and Microsoft Word application, the 1st grade worked on constructing sentences to given pictures, changing font size, and color. The 2nd grade learned how to change the background display on their computer and have begun to learn how to insert, move, and resize ClipArt in Microsoft Word.
- **3rd and 4th:** Acquired the knowledge on how to format a title, manipulate the text position, insert a table, use a numbered list, and

download, insert, resize, and move a ClipArt within Microsoft Word application. As the 3rd graders complete their biography, they will learn how to insert a picture of themselves off loaded from a digital camera.

- **5th:** The students displayed their understanding of the network as they constructed their own *Intranet* blueprint using the drawing tools in Microsoft Word. Searching the Internet using various search engines and keyword techniques, the students also gained some experience on finding information to questions in the internet-scavenger hunt challenge. In this project, the students learned how to make a web site address a live link within a word document.
- **6th:** After working diligently in the Excel project where the students learned about worksheets, cell addressing, formatting, merging and expansion, and inserting formulas, we have begun to focus on how to set up an Ice Cream business plan in Word. Each student has mastered the design of their title page, the beginnings of a Table of Content, inserting new pages, and adding page numbers. Furthermore, there are many more features that we will be working on while designing a business plan in the upcoming month.

Memory Reminders

Reminder to Parent & Students

Please take a moment to look through the Peanut Computer Gallery web page located on www.saintcatherines.org, click on the school, and then click on [Peanut Computer Gallery Web Page](#) at the bottom of the second column. The curriculum, **homework assignments**, the quarterly newsletters, and much more are available on the web page.

Reminder to Students:

Homework Assignment #2 Due Dates:

4th Grade: 4/28 (Q4)

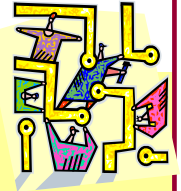
5th Grade: 2/5 (5B), 2/6 (5H) (Q3)

6th Grade: 3/6, 3/13 (6P)

3/7, 3/14 (6M) (Q3)



Central Projects Unit



Third Grade: are finishing up on their "Introducing Me" biography. When completed, these creative stories of themselves will be displayed on the wall outside the computer lab. Next month, the students will learn some basic features in Microsoft Excel when they become inventory managers of a computer store.

Fourth Grade: are entering their New Hampshire curriculum fair reports in Microsoft Word. Concepts including creating titles, formatting paragraphs, page borders, downloading pictures from Google searches, and inserting pictures into their report are being applied. In the latter half of Q3, the students will be working on an Internet project that will focus on the usage of search engines, web browsers, and hyperlinks.

Fifth Grade: have begun to design a TV commercial using Microsoft PowerPoint application about their assigned Peanut Character. They will become familiar with terms such as *slide*, *object*, *presentation*, *animation*, and *transition* as they use the tools and features in PowerPoint. In addition, their public speaking skills will be applied when each student presents their commercial to the class. **Homework assignment:** Peanut PowerPoint Commercial

Sixth Grade: will continue to work on their Ice Cream Business plan. Each student will learn how to use headers, format paragraphs, and insert a data graph of their Ice Cream business startup expenses. They will obtain this information from their completed Microsoft Excel project. In the upcoming months, the students will expand their knowledge in PowerPoint as they design a TV ad selling the products of their Ice Cream stand. **Homework assignment:** Business PowerPoint Commercial

Each grade received or will receive a homework sheet that describes the assignment and what they need to prepare for the project. A copy of the homework is also available on the class's web page.

Class Calendar: No School

2/18/08 – President's Day



2/25-2/29/08 – Winter Vacation



3/21/08 – Easter Holiday

