



THE PEANUT COMPUTER GALLERY COMPUTERS 101

Saint Catherine School
Manchester, NH

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S.C.B.

The Quarterly Digital News

Spring Time Greetings

Would you believe that spring has finally arrived? The days are getting warmer as the sun is staying out longer, melting the last of the snow. The third quarter has come and gone as quickly as the first two. In the third edition of our newsletter you will find articles on:

- Front-Page News
- Destination of Students' Learning
- Word, PowerPoint, & Excel Tasks
- Forget-Me-Nots
- Class Calendar



Front-Page-News



Our 1st Grade Artists: The creative minds of our first graders were busy at work when they designed their colorful shamrocks that were displayed for St. Patrick's Day in March. Each student utilized the various painting tools in Microsoft paint. To further enhance their artistic skills, more creative designs will come into play just in time for Mother's day. Sorry mom, I can't tell because it's a secret.

2nd Grade Challenge: The speedy fingers on the key boards are proving that our second graders are always up for a challenge. Using the program TypingMaster, four teams are competing against each other to see who can find the letters on the keyboard the fastest. The fastest three times from each team is recorded. The purple team is in the lead, with the brown, green, and red closing in. TypingMaster program can be downloaded from the [Peanut Computer Gallery](#) Web site under [Favorite Links](#) and click on [TypingMaster](#) icon.



3rd Grade World Travelers: Our third graders have been traveling all around the world including Italy, England, Canada, France, Japan, Korea, and out west to California without having to leave the school grounds. With help of the Internet and the click of the mouse, the students have learned how to search for and download many pictures of their assigned country for their curriculum fair brochures.



Destination of Students' Learning

As we start winding down the school year, the students have been wrapping up on some projects and beginning the final lessons that will take us to the end. Here is a highlight of what our computer whizzes have accomplished:

- **Pre-K and Kindergarten:** Each class has mastered several mouse techniques (left button, double clicking, and maneuvering) and their little fingers are finding the letters on the keyboard. Exploration of shapes through interactive learning programs and by drawing them in Microsoft Paint has captivated their interests. The Pre-K class is putting their artistic talents to work as they color, on the computer, transportation vehicles for their curriculum fair. The Kindergarten creative minds were at work when they constructed colorful circle designs using the shape tool in Microsoft Paint. In addition, I want to thank all the parents who volunteer every Friday to help out in the computer lab. It has been a great help!
- **1st and 2nd:** The 1st graders have been busy beavers learning how to change the background display on their computer. In addition, they have been introduced to some features of Microsoft Word including how to open a new document; insert, move, and resize a WordArt; and how to add a page border. The 2nd graders were also busy learning features of Microsoft Word. These include adding a page border, inserting a table, downloading ClipArt from Microsoft Office web site, and positioning them within the table. Both grades are

currently learning how to create, resize, color, and move text boxes within Word.

- **3rd and 4th:** Both grades were utilizing the computers to enhance their research skills using search engines such as Google and Yahoo; third grade researching their country for pictures, and fourth grade researching a New Hampshire animal for the curriculum fair. After mastering on saving an image from the Internet into "My Pictures" folder on the computer, further instructions were provided to show the students how to insert the saved image into a Word document. Practicing, resizing, and moving the images provide reinforcement of past lessons on ClipArt.
- **5th:** The students have been busy working in PowerPoint finishing up their commercial design. Each student became familiar with several PowerPoint terms and learned how to add, anchor, and float the toolbars. In addition, they experimented with custom animation including downloading and adding sound effects. The students were further challenged in their public speaking skills as they were given the floor to present their slideshow to their classmates.
- **6th:** Our entrepreneurs have completed their business plan. Through this assignment, the students learned how to create a title page, add a demo email hyperlink, and custom design various style formats including headers and paragraphs. They experimented with organizing data in a pie graph, downloading and inserting ClipArt, and inserting and updating a Table of Contents. In addition, the spell and grammar check tool was encouraged for the students to use to enhance their language arts skills.

Forget-Me-Nots

Don't forget that all homework and class assignments are provided on the [Peanut Computer Gallery Web Page](http://www.saintcatherines.org/School/computer_class/computers_101.htm) or www.saintcatherines.org/School/computer_class/computers_101.htm.

Assignment #2 Due Date:
4th Grade: 4/28 (Q4)

Project #3 Distribution Dates:
5th Grade: 4/8, 4/9 (gr.2)
4/15, 4/16 (gr.1) (Q4)

→ DON'T FORGET!

Word, PowerPoint, & Excel Tasks

Third Grade: have begun learning some basic features in Microsoft Excel starting with discussions on Excel terminology including workbook, worksheet, and cells. The students have been experimenting with operations on cells such as merging, expanding (columns and rows), formatting, entering text, and coloring. As our computer store managers become comfortable with entering the list of input and output devices in their spreadsheet, they will learn how to insert mathematical formulas to help them calculate, in currency, their total purchase.

Fourth Grade: have begun their Internet project focusing on the usage of search engines, web browsers, and hyperlinks while they research information about a saint of their choice. They will design a banner in Word about their saint using the information they found on the Internet. In addition, they will be introduced to features in the PowerPoint application when they work on a 3-slide presentation about their saint. **Homework assignment:** Saint PowerPoint Presentation

Fifth Grade: have started to investigate their clothing purchases from various (given) stores' by searching on each store's web site. This Microsoft Excel project will reinforce the Excel terminology they were introduced back in third grade and teach the students file management, adding additional worksheets, inserting mathematical formulas for their spending calculations, and formatting cells. It is interesting to observe how much our shoppers can buy with a \$2000 budget. **Class assignment:** Excel Shopping Spree

Sixth Grade: have begun to expand their knowledge in PowerPoint as they design a TV ad selling the products of their Ice Cream stand. Other PowerPoint features and tools will be demonstrated to the students as they adventure into the many custom animation highlights. Students will be focusing on entrance order of their slide objects in addition to adding sound effects in their presentation. **Homework assignment:** Business PowerPoint Commercial

Each grade received a homework sheet that describes the assignment or the project. A copy of the assignment is also available on the class's web page.

Class Calendar: No School

5/26/08 – Memorial Day

