

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 9-12

1 Lose it

A new Web site, www.loseitorloseit.com (Lose It or Lose It), is helping dieters follow their New Year's resolutions by making them put their money where their mouths are. The way it works is this: A dieter comes up with a weight loss goal, in pounds, then gives money to the site. If the dieter reaches the goal in 10 weeks, he or she gets the money back. If not, he or she loses the money. Look through the eEdition for other examples of inventive business ideas. In groups, come up with your own innovative idea for a business. Write up a short business plan, including what kind of business it would be, what your goals are and what you would need to get started. Share your plan with the class to see which group came up with the best one.

Learning Standard: Reading and writing fluently, speaking confidently, listening and interacting appropriately, viewing critically and representing creatively.

2 Salty

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg is pushing restaurants and food manufacturers to cut down on the amount of salt in their food. Bloomberg considers nutrition a public health issue. He wants salt levels in food cut by 25 percent. In groups, write a short report explaining how too much salt intake can affect the body negatively. Then come up with healthy options for breakfast, lunch and dinner using only food you find mentioned in the eEdition (in articles, photos, classifieds or ads). For each meal, write out a few sentences explaining why your group selected those foods.

Learning Standards: Gathering and synthesizing information from books and other sources of information; showing how common themes of science, mathematics and technology apply in real-world contexts.

3 Google it

Google has apologized to a group of Chinese authors concerned about copyrights. Google scanned the authors' books into its online library. The authors are now arguing that by digitizing their books without their permission, Google is infringing on their copyrights. In response, Google issued an apology and said it is working on figuring out a solution. In the eEdition or online, find an article about people or companies arguing over an intellectual property issue, such as a copyright or trademark. Write a summary of the article. Include your opinion on how the issue should be resolved.

Learning Standards: Researching and explaining how a particular public issue became a problem or issue of concern; composing coherent written essays that express a position on a public issue and justifying the position with reasoned arguments.

4 Watch it

A new study from researchers in Australia found that each hour a day spent watching TV is linked with an 18 percent greater risk of dying from heart disease. The problem is that for many people TV watching means sitting still for prolonged periods of time. Find an activity mentioned in the eEdition that's a healthy alternative to plopping down in front of the TV for hours. Design an eEdition or magazine advertisement geared toward kids, teens or adults that promotes the activity. Present your ad to the class and explain why it would be effective in reaching its intended audience.

Learning Standards: Using strategies to regulate the effects of variables on the communication process; designing a communication environment for maximum impact on the receiver.

5 Ocean to Ocean

Scientists studying Arctic terns found that the birds' migration is much longer than previously thought. It was known that the terns fly from the Arctic Ocean near the Earth's North Pole all the way down to the Antarctic Ocean near the South Pole. They live in the Antarctic region for a few months

Learning Standards: Asking questions that help students learn about the world; designing and conducting investigations using appropriate methodology and technology; learning from books and other sources of information.

before returning home. A team of scientists attached tiny tracking devices to some of the terns to learn more about them and discovered that, because the birds don't take the most direct route, they fly more than 43,000 miles round trip. The scientists think that wind patterns might have something to do with the birds' detours. Find another animal mentioned in today's eEdition. Design a page about the animal for an elementary school science textbook. Include a drawing, photo or diagram, information about the animal and its habitat, and three fun facts. Make sure it's comprehensible to young students.

A Teaching Tool
For Tomorrow