

# news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 9-12

## 1 Privacy

A school in Pennsylvania is in hot water for possibly looking into students' homes via webcam cameras in computers. To give all students equal computer access, Harriton High School gave out laptops to everyone. At the same time, it set up the laptops so that the school could turn on the computers' webcams and take photos. The school is saying that it only took photos if a laptop was reported lost or stolen. But one student says the school took photos of him even though his laptop was never reported missing. Find an article about computer or Internet privacy issues. It can involve a school, a business, a government, a person or a Web site (such as Facebook). Write an outline of the article. Then discuss what you found with the class.

Learning Standards: Demonstrating knowledge of changes in technologies and the effect those changes have; engaging peers in constructive conversation about matters of public concern by clarifying issues, considering opposing views, anticipating consequences and working toward making decisions.

## 2 Turkey

Police in the country of Turkey took more than 40 military officers into custody for questioning last week. The officers were suspected of planning a "coup," or overthrow of the government. It wouldn't have been the first time the Turkish military overthrew the government: It's happened four times since 1960. Find an example of an unstable government in the eEdition or online. What is the source of the instability? Was there a coup or change of leaders? A natural disaster? Something else? Write a summary of the situation.

Learning Standard: Writing fluently for multiple purposes to produce compositions, such as stories, poetry, personal narratives, editorials, research reports, persuasive essays, resumes and memos.

## 3 Oscar Search

On Sunday, March 7, the Oscar awards will be given out for the top movie achievements of the last year. Use the search and advanced search features of the eEdition to see how the Oscars are being covered this week. Search for "Best Picture," or "Best Actor" or "Best Actress." Finish by writing a prediction of who will win for Best Picture, Best Actor and Best Actress, based on your search findings. Design a chart or bar graph to show your search results.

Learning Standards: Using technology tools to enhance learning; understanding the operations and functions of technology systems; organizing data in charts, graphs and tables.

## 4 Seuss

Children's writer Dr. Seuss was born Theodor Seuss Geisel on March 2, 1904. Dr. Seuss' books, including "The Cat in the Hat," "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," "Green Eggs and Ham" and many others, use rhymes, repetition and rhythm to make reading fun and teach kids how to read. Pick a news story that's appropriate for younger kids. Alone or with a partner, write a short story or skit that conveys the information to kids in a fun, engaging way.

Learning Standards: Communicating information accurately and effectively and demonstrating expressive abilities by creating oral, written and visual texts that enlighten and engage an audience; recognizing and approximating authors' innovative techniques.

## 5 Dusty

A new study by two scientists at the University of Arizona shows that household dust is pretty gross. Dust is usually made up of a combination of skin, fur, dead insects, food, lint, dirt, lead, arsenic and even the pesticide DDT. In the eEdition, find another science article

that interests you. Create a detailed drawing, diagram, chart or graph that helps convey the information in the article. Show what you created to the class, and explain how it relates to the article. For additional challenge, repeat the activity on different days and record the information in chart or graph form. Write a paragraph discussing how charts and graphs offer readers things they can't get through words alone.

Learning Standards: Organizing data using tables, charts, graphs, spreadsheets and databases; acquiring information from multiple sources.

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