

CEI Newsletter

The Center for Education Innovation at Friends Academy of Dartmouth MA.

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Office Hours:

Dr. Lori Weider—Exec Director

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Make an appointment for support

Chris Perry

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Campbell School by appointment

Hathaway School on Thursday

Hayden McFadden on Monday

Lincoln School by appointment

Pacheco School on Wednesday

Swift School on Tuesday

Feel free to contact us and arrange for assistance with technology integration issues and training requests. We are here to support technology best practices in your classroom. You can also reach us and post a question/suggestion at:

<http://lweider.weebly.com/contact.html>

Kid Pix—Featured Software this Month

Kid Pix is a multimedia software program that is especially effective for use with primary level students. Teachers and students can use the program across all content areas to create pictures, animated slide presentations, retell stories, present concepts, describe a process, show a sequence of events, and summarize information.

Students can become very creative and use a variety of program tools such as a drawing paint bucket, lines and shape tools, clip art, rubber stamps, graphics, animation, text features and sound and narration tools. Some ideas for use include:

ELA:

- ABC slideshow
- Character study
- Beginning, middle and end of story
- Sequence story events
- Create a book cover
- Book review, main idea or retell
- Spelling word drawings
- Create a poem and illustration
- Class or student created story

Social Studies:

- Draw a map - classroom, neighborhood, or bedroom
- State or country studies

Science:

- Draw out science concepts like water cycle or parts of a flower

Math:

- Math story problems
- Draw and label shapes
- Stamp to create patterns
- Create picture graphs

Use Data To Improve Your Teaching

Nobody would want a doctor to treat them for a serious medical problem without gathering data or information on the problem first. In education, the teacher can only manage the conditions for optimal learning efficiently if he or she has the necessary data on students' specific learning needs. It is in the classroom that learning data is used effectively or not.

- Don't be afraid of data. The key is to break it down, digging into it to find meaning that you can use. Sometimes it's helpful to sit down with someone who can help you take the data apart and understand it.
- Consider student performance data from a variety of sources to reveal a pattern. The more data sources that suggest a particular need among students, the more confident teachers can be about moving forward with instructional changes to fulfill that need.
- Look for gaps or misconception in student learning? Assessments can help to determine this.
- Use data to communicate with other teachers across grade levels. Share those identified strengths and weaknesses with the teacher who will be working with those students in the next grade level.
- Consider using data every day... it doesn't have to be formal! You can use quick exit tickets and in-class spot checks. Sometimes the little things that can inform your instructional decisions and adjustments along the way.