

IRA members embrace Web 2.0 teaching tools

Technology has reshaped the way teachers teach in the 21st century classroom.

The market has exploded with digital tools designed to engage students who have been born into and grown up in the digital age.

How are IRA members using these technologies? We present here just a few examples of what's happening in some of their classrooms.

Weebly and wikis and more!

Take a look at Debbie Dermady's website (<http://ddermady1000.islandsschools.org.weebly.com/>) and you'll want to go back to fifth grade—especially her fifth-grade class at Guardino Elementary in Clayton, New York.

To the average “digital-born” 10-year-old, it must seem like heaven.

Many of her students' learning activities are done on her website, which is chock-full of Web 2.0 tools.

“I am so passionate about using technology in education!” enthuses Dermady, who also has the technological savvy to mine the full potential of digital media as an instructional resource.

While her site is a veritable treasure trove of the latest and best Web applications for education—too many to cover in full here—she points to two with which she's had great success.

Both address several New York State and the International Society for Technology in Education education standards.

Weebly for Education: Dermady uses the website building tool Weebly for Education to create and update her site, blog, manage students' accounts, accept homework assignments online, show schedules and rules, keep parents up to date, post the Common Core State Standards, provide teacher resources, involve her students in service projects, and much, much more.

The site houses an extensive collection of fun applications and also

Debbie Dermady's home page honors Read Across America.

links to the many resources of Newspaper in Education, which Dermady uses on a regular basis.

Wikis: Wikis are websites that allow users to blog and journal online using their own Web browser, and to add and update content on their sites.

Dermady's class has several wikis, including a Read Across America wiki, a poetry wiki with poet Kalli Dakos, a page where students can ask questions of student council officers, an “e-pal” exchange with students at Morse Pond School in Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and Voices from the Past, and a wiki where former Guardino students can talk with current students.

President of the New State Reading Association, Dermady is pleased to note that the group has just added a digital literacy committee.

She credits co-chairs Kay Gormley and Peter McDermott with teaching her and other NYSRA members a great deal about Web 2.0 tools over the last year.

An oral tradition goes digital

Noted storyteller Brett Dillingham has brought his craft to venues that include the Kennedy Center for

Performing Arts, the IRA Annual Convention, and classrooms in the small rural villages of his native Alaska.

He is more than a world-class storyteller. He is an educator who teaches storytelling as performance literacy: Students write and perform their own stories and poems to real audiences.

Last year, Dillingham collaborated with the Alaska State Museums and the Broadband Technology Opportunity Project to launch Storytellers Laureates, an educational program that has brought this ancient oral tradition into the age of technology.

This program enables children to write, perform, digitally enhance, and send stories about Alaska's history and cultural heritage into surrounding villages and communities through the Internet.

The students write stories about artifacts that they saw during a museum trip, and perform the stories while being digitally

recorded in front of a live audience. They create a digital version of their performance, integrating the artifacts, artwork, documents, and digital photos into their stories.

The result is “not unlike a Ken Burns documentary,” says Dillingham.

The students' digital stories are hosted on school district websites and eventually will be posted on the Alaska State Museum and Alaska State Libraries websites.

Dillingham is past president of the Alaska State Literacy Association and author of the children's book *Raven Day* (Wright Group, 2001) and the textbook *Performance Literacy Through Storytelling* (Maupin House, 2009).

A class of Blabberizers, Gloggers, and Fotobabblers

Just saying those words is fun! So imagine what a good time Brandi Leggett's third graders must have learning with these applications, which are among the many that Leggett uses in her classroom at Prairie Ridge Elementary School in Shawnee, Kansas.

In fact, the navigation bar on her website, www.usd232.org/bleggett, has an item called “21st Century Technology Projects in our Classroom.” The link connects to a host of projects that her students are do-

Leggett's class welcomes visitors to her website.

ing through nearly two dozen educational applications.

Another entry on the navigation bar is “Useful Links,” which goes to several games and skill-building tools for language arts and MAP skill strategies, as well as “web-quests.” These versatile tools can be used to support lessons in innovative ways.

For example, when Leggett’s students are working on point of view, they use Fotobabble and Blabberize to upload images and record their voices as if they are talking from a person or object’s point of view.

When her students are displaying their research on a project, they use Glogster to create an online poster called a glog.

“The kids love this and don’t find their research projects tedious anymore,” Leggett says. “Plus, it takes up less space, and is easier to share with parents because they can upload it through their computer.”

Teachers can sign up for an educator’s account with Glogster and then add their students, who will get usernames and passwords from Glogster.

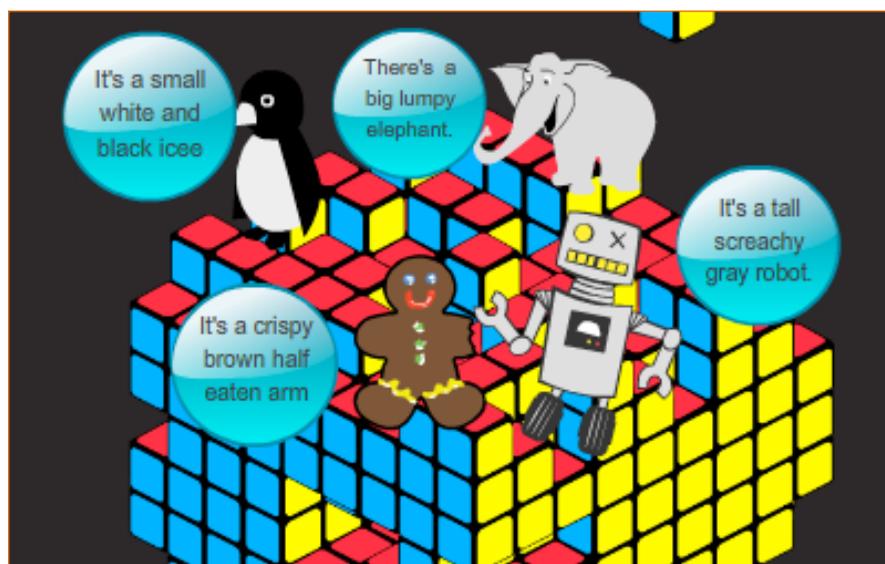
With Blabberize, students make a picture talk and tell a story. They upload an object, animal, person, or drawing, add a moving mouth, and record their narrative.

Fotobabble, meanwhile, helps students work on voice and creativity within their writing by adding their voice to still photos.

Another popular tool is Animoto, which students use to create videos using skills they have learned in reading, such as compare and contrast.

Globalization meets Web 2.0 technology

An interactive website called “Dr. V’s Teaching Café” has enabled Professor Anna Vigliotti’s Introduction to Diversity class at the State College of Florida to virtually visit their counterparts at the University College of Trivandrum in India.



Sample “glog” made by one of Leggett’s students using Glogster.

The students post blogs, take part in forums, access valuable links, and collaborate on matters pertaining to education with a group of students from India.

The Teaching Café integrates globalization, diversity, and the Web 2.0 technology.

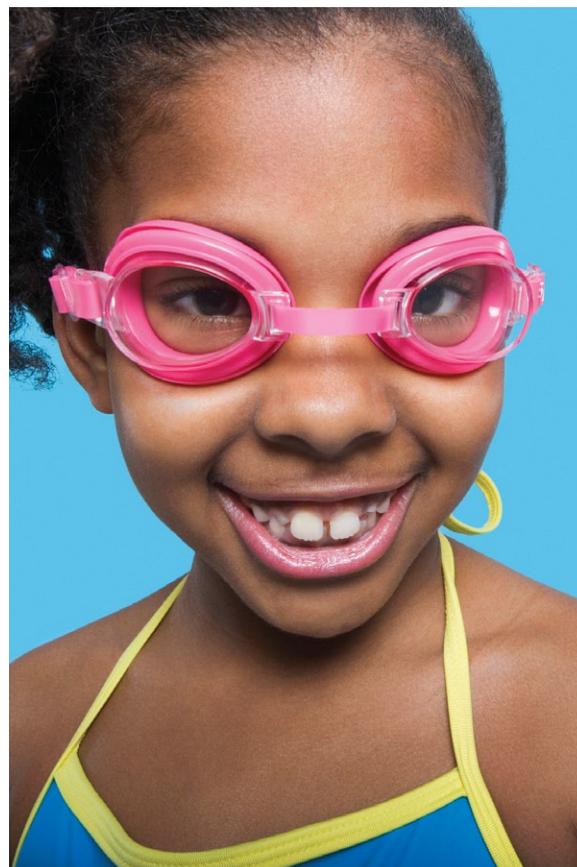
“My main goal when I started [the site] was to get acclimated to

the new technology,” Vigliotti said. “I also wanted my students to meet diverse cultures for friendship and networking for future careers. I really think they’ve achieved that.”

“People take this technology for granted, but really, it’s new,” Vigliotti said. “It provides instant interaction, and that is the beauty of it. It keeps the interest and momentum going.”

In addition to several discussion groups, lively blogs, videos, general education resources, and critical pedagogy links, the site has several “Teaching with Technology” links and online libraries.

In addition to India, Vigliotti is also collaborating with Ireland on several projects for the next semester. She invites “other interested teachers and students to join this global educational collaboration.” Learn more about her website at <http://teachingcafe.ning.com/>.



Dive Right In

Every Booksource collection arrives tailored to your classroom’s specific needs and ready for quick and easy distribution.

- Custom book lists and literature collections
- Clearly labeled, well-organized order delivery
- Ready-to-use leveled bookrooms
- Friendly, personal customer care
- Free shipping, labels, set sorting and book baskets

To download a free bookmark, visit www.booksource.com/lrt



Booksource has the largest selection of classroom literature. For more information on any product or service, call 1-800-444-0435 or visit www.booksource.com.

