



# SVRTC NEWSLETTER

## Winter 09-10



**MISSION:** The Southside Virginia Regional Technology Consortium will assist members with coordinating the acquisition and effective integration of viable up-to-date and emerging technologies, valuable training for K-12 students, staff and other citizens in our communities to enhance learning at all levels and encourage economic development in Southside Virginia.

### ***SPOTLIGHT ON DINWIDDIE COUNTY*** ***N-Computing Technology***

Dinwiddie County Public Schools (DCPS) needed more computers in the classrooms and additional computer labs. One new technology that has been incorporated is NComputing desktop virtualization, which allows one CPU to act as 10 or more computers. This technology has enabled Dinwiddie County schools to put far more



computers in classrooms and labs at only a fraction of the cost! At the time of initial implementation, NComputing did not have a school system that used these devices for online testing in Virginia as a reference. Dinwiddie County Public Schools used two of these labs for the Fall 2009 online SOL testing and they *exceeded all expectations!* DCPS believes that this innovative technology can help all schools with their technology needs and goals. If you have any questions, please email the

Technology Director, Timothy Ampy at [tampy@dcpsnet.org](mailto:tampy@dcpsnet.org).

Visit these sites for more information:  
<http://www.ncomputing.com/>  
<http://it.dcpsnet.org/projects/new-computer-labs/>

### **Patrick County Welcomes New Director of Technology**

It is our pleasure to announce that Mr. Darren Biggs became the new Technology Director of Patrick County Public Schools on October 12, 2009.

Darren brings over 16 years experience in the computer industry, and Patrick County is



proud to have him in the school system. He resides in Patrick County with his wife and children.

### ***Mecklenburg County: Communication and Collaboration Across the Globe***

Nine classes throughout Mecklenburg County have recently communicated with

students across the globe. Classes at Buckhorn Elementary, Chase City Elementary, Park View Middle, Bluestone High, Park View High, and the Alternative Education Center were part of a global initiative to bring students from all over the world together. Sheila Beck, Google Implementation Specialist, organized the project through *iEarn*, a non-profit, worldwide, collaborative organization that has 26,000 participating educators in 35 countries. Students created an array of Christmas items to send to classes in Russia, Arkansas, Ohio, Sweden, and Costa Rica. The teachers and students communicated with teachers and students in the other classes through a forum on the



*iEarn* webpage. Students sent banners, cards, video cards, and Christmas ornaments as a representation of what Christmas looks like in Mecklenburg County, Virginia. Each class received a care package in return with Christmas items from their pen-pal. The goal of the communication established in the project is to build a relationship with the partnering schools that will continue after the Christmas Card Project.

### **Virginia Society for Technology in Education (VSTE) Presentations by Mecklenburg and Nottoway**

Karen Osborne and Chrystal Harris from Mecklenburg presented at the annual VSTE conference in Roanoke, VA. These teachers were awarded a presentation spot

at the conference to share their ideas and projects using Google Docs. Mrs. Osborne, a Business teacher at Bluestone High School, has pioneered the way in using

Google Docs to teach Personal Finance. Through the use of Google



spreadsheets, Mrs. Osborne provided her students with the opportunity to build a personal budget complete with unexpected life events. Ms. Harris used Google to conduct a collaboration project with a class in OREGON! These teachers are blazing the trails and teaching our students 21st Century learning skills that will equip them for the “real-world”!

Michelle Wallace and Annah Bowen from Nottoway County also presented at VSTE. Ms. Wallace, Director of Grants, Staff Development, and Instruction and Mrs. Bowen, ITRT presented “Internet Safety for Teachers” which targeted the “do’s and don’ts” of social networking. Participants learned how to set privacy settings for Facebook, Twitter, and Skype and were able to actively participate in the session. The presentation also included the benefits of using social networking safely and professionally. It concluded with tips on finding the best educational resources through these increasingly popular sites.

### **2010 SVRTC Annual Awards Banquet**

Make plans to attend the banquet on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at Longwood University. Area educators, technology leaders, and school divisions in the Southside Virginia Regional Technology Consortium who excel in integrating technology into the classroom will be honored.