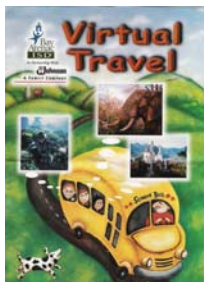


Plan now for Read Across America, March 1-3, 2005!

Take your students "across America" by taking part in the TWICE two-way video Read Across America activity. To celebrate the national NEA "Read Across America" event, TWICE is again organizing the opportunity for classrooms in the continental United States to connect with each other using two-way interactive video. Your students will be matched with another classroom in the United States, to read to each other and exchange information about respective schools and communities. The project is open to all K-12 students in public and private schools with access to ISDN (H.320) or IP (H.323) CODEC equipment. Registration for the TWICE event begins December 1, 2004.

Before participants can register this year, their building must complete an equipment verification process. Verification takes place **November 1-24, 2004**. Participants from verified buildings will receive a pin number to register. Participants will have access to many resource materials to help them plan for their event and their reading activities. All 2005 project information is posted at the TWICE website, www.twice.cc. For more information, visit the TWICE website, or contact Debbie Glasgow, RAA chairperson: dglasgow@mcesa.k12.mi.us.



Member Feature

Virtual Travel - a passport to learning adventure at Bay-Arenac ISD!

The 7 public school districts served by Bay-Arenac ISD's Virtual Travel program each have a Polycom unit, as does the ISD. Teachers can choose to view virtual field trips and videoconferences from the ISD or from their local district. Jeannie Wolicki-Nichols is "Virtual Travel Agent" for the program and works with district teachers to identify virtual trips and events to support teacher instruction. She also schedules trips and events for the teacher, and arranges the technical details. Bay-Arenac's

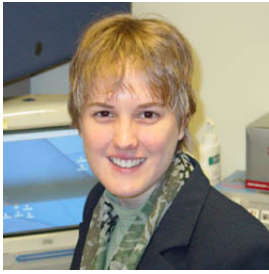
Virtual Travel program receives rave reviews from district teachers and students alike. For more information, contact Jeannie Wolicki-Nichols at virtualtravel@baisd.net.

Featured Content Provider



The **Gerald R. Ford Museum** offers two programs this fall. One, *Road to the Presidency: The 2004 Presidential Election* (grades 3-5) involves students in the electoral process. Students "register" to vote, consider the candidates and issues, and complete their own electoral college map. A second program, *The Pardon of Richard Nixon* (grades 11-12) uses primary source documents to involve students in the legal and historic perspectives of the pardon, the congressional and public response, and the media reaction.

The Gerald R. Ford Museum is part of the REMC Association's MCODEC Project, as are the **Michigan State University Museum** and the **Cranbrook Institute of Science**. This fall, two additional MCODEC sites will offer programming: the **Port Huron Museum/Thomas Edison Depot** and the **Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum**. Watch for more information on these new sites and plan a visit to our Michigan content providers!



From the President

It is with pleasure that we bring you the very first issue of the **TWICE Newsletter**, coming

to you twice a year! If you would like to get involved in TWICE, there are two great ways to do that.

First, you may be interested in serving on one of the committees. Visit the Contact page at www.twice.cc/contact.html to contact the chair of the committee that interests you. We'd love to have your participation, ideas, and assistance with the various activities of TWICE.

Second, you may have some great VC programming in your area. Use the TWICE listserv to share that programming with others. We can all learn from each other's successes. Together, we can make a difference in the education of our students!

- Janine Lim, jl原因@remc11.k1.2mi.us

VC Tips and Tricks

Improving your Presentation

Visuals can make or break a VC presentation. Here are some tips for creating and presenting visuals.

Creation

- Avoid colors like red, hot pink, green, or solid blocks of white or black. Good choices for paper are blue or black text on light backgrounds. The best choices for computer presentations are light text on dark backgrounds.
- Use large fonts 24 pt or higher. Computer presentations need thick and/or bold fonts.
- Use horizontal or landscape paper, or backgrounds using the 4x5 ratio for TV. Leave at least a 1.5 inch border or margin around the edge of the document.

Hint: Have your students watch the news to look for the color of text and backgrounds.

Presentation

- Change the visual or the focus often; avoid spending too much time at the document camera. The audience will feel distanced if they just see visuals and not people. Balance visuals with students and presenter on camera.
- Practice the presentation with the visuals. Have a backup plan if you are using a computer presentation - print copies to distribute or show.



Two-Way News And Views

- ▶ TWICE and Saginaw ISD are hosting **i-Safe America Training**, October 19th. i-Safe America (www.isafe.org) is a non profit organization dedicated to Internet safety for children. This Professional Development training is designed for teachers and law enforcers who educate children on Internet safety. Visit www.saginet.org for event and registration information.
- ▶ The **Keystone Conference** (Oct. 25-26) is the first nationally accessible, K-12 interactive videoconferencing conference event. Across the nation, educators, policy makers, and industry reps, will meet in person, and remotely via interactive video, to focus on best practice uses of this technology. For Michigan attendees, TWICE funded 50% of the remote conference fee for the first 10 TWICE members who registered. Visit the TWICE website to find a remote site near you that is hosting this ground-breaking event.
- ▶ TWICE members are invited to submit nominations for the annual **TWICE Awards**. Each year, TWICE honors both an individual and an organization that has made a significant contribution to the growth of distance learning in education. To see last year's honorees and obtain nomination forms, visit www.twice.cc/awards.html. Award nominations are due December 1, 2004.

Mark Your Calendars!

October 2004

19 *i-Safe Training*
25-26 *Keystone Conference*

November 2004

1-24 *RAA Verification process*

December 2004

1 *RAA registration opens*
1 *TWICE Award nominations due*