

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- **ATTIC is on the web!**
www.detroitk12.org/resources
- **ATTIC is open daily from 8:30 to 4:30 and on Tuesdays until 6:00 p.m. REM-TEC Lab is also open on Tuesday, 8:30-6:00.**
- **ATTIC lends devices and provides services to special needs students for free. Devices may be used for 90 days before being returned.**

ATTIC STAFF

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Technology Tips

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

FALL, 2006

A Special Welcome to Parents and Teachers!

Assistive technology must be considered in every special education student's IEP. But once that box is checked, where do you go from there? The simple answer is ATTIC.

ATTIC is Detroit Public Schools assistive technology training and information center. It serves all of eastern Wayne County, including Detroit, Hamtramck, Highland Park, Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods.

All parents and teachers of special needs students are welcome to come to ATTIC, located at 3700 Pulford, (near Mt. Elliott and Mack) in the former Harris School building. ATTIC is a lending library with a technical assistance lab, which includes devices and software at no cost.

Many autistic or cognitively-impaired students have difficulty communicating. Lacking that, students may have a difficult time in school, expressing what they know or need.

There are many communication devices and strategies to help

ATTIC staff are specialists at integrating technology into the curriculum, providing support to special learners. Call ATTIC at 866-3788 for a consultation.



ATTIC: Providing Assistive Technology Solutions.

Throughout the school year, many workshops are held at ATTIC that offer training on devices and software to use with students. Some of the upcoming

non-verbal students. ATTIC has a wide variety of such items. They range from simple to complex and are often easy to use and program.

ATTIC has a display of communication devices in their Media Lab, which teachers and parents are

workshops include *Using Software to Teach Written Expression* and *An Introduction to Assistive Technology for Teachers*.

We welcome suggestions for future workshops and are happy to plan workshops around the needs of a school or group. Call for upcoming workshop information or to plan your own group's individualized workshop.

Parents are always welcomed at any of our workshops, or to come and browse our devices. Please call for an appointment. We will show you around and discuss your child's specific need as it relates to technology. We welcome parent/school teams too. Our policy is to lend equipment to teachers to assure collaboration between home and school.

encouraged to browse. It is often useful to come to ATTIC as a team, which could include the speech pathologist, parent, teacher, student and others. We have staff to help make suggestions and to teach how to use the device. We can also help with programming.

Communication for Non-Verbal Kids

Inside Story Headline



Caption describing picture or graphic.

This story can fit 150-200 words.

One benefit of using your newsletter as a promotional tool is that you can reuse content from other marketing materials, such as press releases, market studies, and reports.

While your main goal of distributing a newsletter might be to sell your product or service, the key to a successful newsletter is making it useful to your readers.

A great way to add useful content to your newsletter is to develop and write your own articles, or include a calendar of upcoming events or a special offer that promotes a new product.

You can also research articles or find "filler" articles by accessing the World Wide Web. You can write about a variety of topics but try to keep your articles short.

Much of the content you put in your newsletter can also be

used for your Web site. Microsoft Publisher offers a simple way to convert your newsletter to a Web publication. So, when you're finished writing your newsletter, convert it to a Web site and post it.

"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."

Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 100-150 words.

The subject matter that appears in newsletters is virtually endless. You can include stories that focus on current technologies or innovations in your field.

You may also want to note business or economic trends, or make predictions for your customers or clients.

If the newsletter is distributed internally, you might comment upon new procedures or improvements to the business. Sales figures or earnings will show how your business is growing.

Some newsletters include a column that is updated every issue, for instance, an advice column, a book review, a letter from the president, or an edi-

torial. You can also profile new employees or top customers or vendors.

Caption describing picture or graphic.



Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 75-125 words.

Selecting pictures or graphics is an important part of adding content to your newsletter.

Think about your article and ask your-

self if the picture supports or enhances the message you're trying to convey. Avoid selecting images that appear to be out of context.

Microsoft Publisher includes thousands of clip art images from which you can choose and import into your newsletter. There are also several

tools you can use to draw shapes and symbols.

Once you have chosen an image, place it close to the article. Be sure to place the caption of the image near the image.

Inside Story Headline



Caption describing picture or graphic.

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Assistive Technology Training and Information Center

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(Parking off Mack, near Mt. Elliott)

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The staff at ATTIC comes from a broad base of special education experience, including classroom teaching, occupational and speech therapy. This year we are fortunate to add Chris Skoglund, a specialist in reading/language arts remediation and disabilities.

Reading disabilities affect the majority of special needs students and are a leading cause of special education placement. Chris comes to us with years of experience in her field, as well as a solid foundation in technology. We are pleased to have her on staff, ready to add her knowledge, providing assistive technology solutions for students.



ATTIC: Providing Assistive Technology Solutions

Workshop Announcements

Coming on January 26, 2007!!

If you've even wondered how to reach and teach those students who cannot manage to write, this workshop is for you!

Using Software to Teach Written Expression will offer three software solutions as well as numerous tips and strategies to develop writing skills in students. The workshop will look at Inspiration/Kidspiration, Write:OutLoud and Co:Writer as a package to overcome the messy one paragraph, incomplete and disjointed writing that many students produce.

During this workshop, learners will have the opportunity to hear about the software and then, in a hands-on session, be able to try it themselves.

There is a limited enrollment for this workshop. Call ATTIC for details.

Extreme Classroom MakeOver!

is the workshop for you, if you've ever wondered what simple, inexpensive ways you could spark up your classroom.

This workshop, given on Friday, December 8, 2006 will offer many low cost strategies and various devices, which may be borrowed on loan from ATTIC. It is designed to jumpstart you and your students into a new way of thinking and learning.

The workshop will consider the physical classroom, plus organizational strategies for reading, writing, math and scheduling. Learners will be offered hand-on opportunities to try high and low tech devices.

Look for a flyer coming to your school soon, or call ATTIC at 866-3788 for more information.

Workshops: Watch for Flyers!!!

Dec. 8 Extreme Classroom Makeover

Jan 11, 2007 Handwriting Workshop

Jan 22 & 29 Assistive Technology

Awareness Workshop

Jan 25 LEGO for Learning

Jan 26 Using Software to Teach Written Expression

Feb 5 & 12 Assistive Technology

Awareness Workshop

