



# SCK Distance Learning News!

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

NOVEMBER 2010

## DISTANCE LEARNING PROVIDES:

- Student projects
- Enrichment to Curriculum
- An alternative to Field Trips
- Professional Development

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## Monsters in Kansas Classrooms!

During the last two weeks in October, twelve classes from grades K-6 participated in the annual Monster Exchange Project. This project focuses on descriptive writing, following directions, and teamwork. Each class created a unique monster, wrote instruc-



El Dorado K-1

tions, then exchanged instructions with a partner-teacher. Partners then created a second monster based on the new instructions. The partner classes connected over IDL from Wisconsin, New York, Texas, and Canada.

For the connection, students began with where they were located in the U.S. Some classes shared maps and posters to tell

about their community and school. Then students compared monsters and discussed differences and similarities. Students made observations on how they could have written the directions differently to have different outcomes. Or they gained insight on how other students may interpret things differently.

After the monsters were discussed in detail, the students were able to have a question & answer time with their partner class. Students had the opportunity to ask any type of question. Some common questions were what was on the menu for lunch that day and what was the weather like. Younger classes discussed what type of play ground equipment each had, and what time



Canada Monster

they attended school. This gave the students the opportunity to learn about the partner class's school and community, while teaching them about their own.

Feedback from educators that participated in this event:

- *The students learned to work cooperatively and learned to read and write directions.*
- *The students enjoyed this and really got the point about writing clear directions.*
- *This was a fun way for the students to learn the importance of details.*

Thank you for participating and watch for more collaboration opportunities!



Comparing Monsters

# Programs for the Holidays



Mrs. Claus with CESA 7

Looking for  
an IDL  
program  
for the  
Holidays?  
There are  
many to  
choose  
from!

Looking for an IDL program for the Holidays? There are many to choose from!

Browse the list of programs available from many content providers.

## November

*Living in a New Land* by Muskingum Valley ESC—grades PreK-2, Cost: \$75

*Sail into Thanksgiving* by The Mariners' Museum—grades K-2, Cost: \$125

*A Visit to the More House for Thanksgiving* by NY State Historical & Farmers' Museum—grades 3-8, Cost: \$100

*Coming to America!* By Muskingum Valley ESC—grades 3-5, Cost: \$100

*Spending Time with a Pilgrim* by

East Central Ohio ESC—grades K-2, Cost: \$75

## December

*Holiday Traditions: A Civil War Christmas* by EarlyWorks Museum—grades K-5, Cost: \$125

*Christmas Tree Ship Series: Story Time* by Milwaukee Public Museum—grades K-3, Cost: \$115

*The Art of Storytelling* by EarlyWorks Museum—grades K-5, Cost: \$125

*A Visit with Mrs. Claus* by CESA 7—grades PreK-2, Cost: \$75

*Reindeer, Red Suits, and a Right Joll Old Elf...* by NY State Historical & Farmer's Museum—grades PreK-12, Cost: \$100

*Alaskan Sled Dogs with Santa* by Kigluait Educational Adventures, grades PreK-12, Cost: \$100

*Discovery Time with Mrs. Goose: Winter Wonderland* by The Service Center @ Clearwater—grades PreK-2, Cost: member \$50/non \$75

To find out more information on any of these programs, go to [www.cilc.org](http://www.cilc.org) and enter the title in the content provider program search engine.

## Collaborations

If you are looking for a classroom to classroom collaboration, see the Snowman Exchange project article (below). You can also create your own collaboration idea! For more on collaborations, go to:

<http://sckdln.pbworks.com/collaborations>.

## Snowman Project

For the month of December, teachers around the United States will be connecting with teachers in Kansas for this fun and highly interactive project. This is a collaboration between two classes sharing a common goal. This exchange is just like the Monster Exchange (featured on page 1) but with a Snowman theme. Each class will create a Snowman, write directions, exchange directions, and create a second Snowman. Then they will connect over videoconference to share the results.



To register for this project, go to: [sckdln.pbwork.com](http://sckdln.pbwork.com) and click on the Snowman Exchange link.

This project is a great way to celebrate the Winter Season!

## Read Around the Planet

Registration is now open for the Read Around the Planet event sponsored by TWICE (Two Way Interactive Connections in Education) and Polycom. This event is a collaboration between two classes to celebrate Reading.

To register, go to [sckdln.pbworks.com](http://sckdln.pbworks.com), click on the Read Around the Planet link and follow the list of instructions. You will be partnered with a class outside of Kansas and possibly another country.

This is a fun and engaging project with a Reading theme. Your students can present original work done in class or create a project just for this occasion. Like other collaborations, your students will also have the chance to learn about students in another state and gain new friends!

This project is free to participate in.

# KSDE Conference 2010

This year during the KSDE Annual Conference, KAIDE (Kansas Association for Interactive Distance Education) hosted several sessions focusing on Videoconferencing in the classroom. The theme for the conference was “Embracing Our Future” and what better way than through videoconferencing! The benefits of using this technology in your district is becoming increasingly obvious. You not only can share teachers, classes, and projects, but attend meetings and field trips without leaving the classroom.

Presenter Janine Lim (Instructional Technology Consultant for Berrien RESA in Michigan) showed ways to not only incorporate videoconferencing into your curriculum, but ways to find what you are looking for as well. There are many resources to use that are just a click away!

Ryan Schafer from Johnson NASA Space Center in Houston gave an overview of the programs that the NASA centers have to offer the K-12 classrooms. These programs are curriculum rich and available when you need them. The program topics vary depending on the NASA center and are always free!

Two sessions were presented by Paul Heironymus (Content Adviser, Northern Ohio Research & Technology Hub). Paul used videoconferencing technology as well as online tools to make the presentations highly interactive for the participants. During the sessions, the audience used text messages to participate in polls to decide what topic would be covered next. Paul also used a game-show format to involve the participants. Presenting over videoconference for Paul gave him the advantage of using other technologies to engage the audience in a fun way.

For the last session, the KAIDE officers joined together with IDL teachers, vendors, facilitators, and providers to create an IDL Panel. This panel was a chance for participants to ask questions about videoconferencing and have someone from the panel with the expertise to answer the question. This also showed how closely all of the IDL Networks in Kansas work together for a common goal of positively impacting students with videoconferencing in education.

Another example of the benefits of Videoconferencing technology—it allowed these presenters to present at the conference without all the time and cost associated with travel! More information can be found on the SCKDLN PBWorks page (look for KAIDE).



## Featured Provider:



This month's featured provider is **The Smithsonian American Art Museum** located in Washington D.C.

The Smithsonian American Art Museum is America's first federal art collection, dedicated to the enjoyment and understanding of American art. The museum celebrates the extraordinary creativity of our country's artists, whose works are windows on the American experience.

Visit the Smithsonian without leaving your classroom! The museum will engage your students with visual aides as well as interact for question and answer segments. All of the programs are aligned with National Standards in Visual Arts and include disciplines such as Fine Arts, Social Studies/History, and Problem Solving.

These educational programs are free of charge and available by request (you pick the date/time). Below is a list of available programs titles:

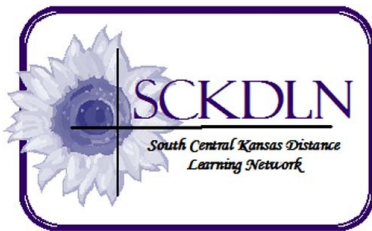
- A House Divided: Civil War
- Young America
- Lure of the West
- African American Artists
- Native America
- To See Is To Think: Visual Literacy
- Recognizing Women Artists
- America's Signs & Symbols



To view more programs, visit their website: <http://americanart.si.edu/education/video/>.

# South Central KS Distance Learning

Distance Learning allows school districts to provide student access to secondary courses that were not previously offered because of low enrollment, lack of qualified instructors or funding. In addition to the identified priority of serving secondary students, Distance Learning holds promises of curricular enhancements for students in every grade level. You can defy boundaries of the classroom and let the world in the door with Distance Learning. Bring the primary sources-real objects, activities, and scholars from the staff of history and art museums, research and science centers right into the classroom.



## **Network Information:**

For questions, or to submit an article please contact:

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## Odds and Ends

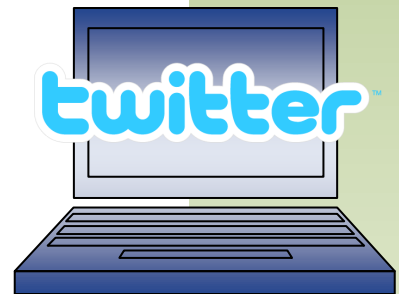
### **Mark Your Calendars!**

- December Event: Snowman Exchange Project—Registration is open!
- Register now for 2011 Read Around the Planet (Feb. 23-March 11)
- IDL Governing Board Meeting:  
Nov. 16, Location: SCKESC at 12:45pm
- IDL Scheduling Meeting:  
Nov. 10, Location: Wellington at 11:00am
- Thanksgiving Vacation Nov. 25-26

**Have a Wonderful Thanksgiving and Holiday Season!**

### **Tidbits of Information**

- Remember that you can view past SCKDLN Newsletters online at: [sckdln.pbwork.com](http://sckdln.pbwork.com) and click on the Newsletters link.
- Powering down equipment: When you have a IDL room that is in use daily, it is a good idea to power down the equipment over the weekends. Remember to power equipment on first thing Monday morning for a fresh start!
- Don't forget to visit the website for upcoming events and programs: <http://sckdln.pbworks.com> to find programs and collaborations on any subject!



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