



Connection Reflection

Conference Time . . . Please Plan to Join Us

Saturday, April 16, 2011
Maine South High School
1111 South Dee Road, Park Ridge, IL

*In this special edition of the **Connection Reflection** you will find information about the conference including the program as well as an overview of the incredible presenters with whom you will be able to interact. The conference committee has been working hard to provide a great morning of information and networking. It is an event you won't want to miss!*

Special Education—Technology: The Next Step



Dr. Henry Thiele

As the President of SET Connections, I would like to personally invite you to the Conference on April 16.

I am convinced this conference offers something for everyone from beginning to advanced computer user, from new to veteran special educators, from gadget neophytes to gadget gurus. And, the best part is that everyone is willing to share information, talk about concerns and solutions, and ENJOY the morning! Join us! You'll be happy you did.

Dr. Henry Thiele
President

8:00 to 9:00 AM
Registration, Continental Breakfast, and Networking

9:00 to 10:00 AM
Opening Session
About SET Connections
Introduction to Backchanneling
Google Apps for Special Ed—Dr. Henry Thiele
Technology Gadgets—Judith Epcke
QR Codes for Education—Judy Okazaki

Breakout Sessions
10:05—11:00 AM
Breakout 1

11:05—12:00 PM
Breakout 2

12:00 to 12:30 PM
Closing Session
Door Prizes, CPDU/CEU Forms, Evaluation

12:30 —1:30 PM
Lunch with the Speakers
Continue the day's conversations by signing up at Registration for your place at the lunch table!

New This Year Lunch with the SET Conference Presenters

Continue the conference conversations and join the speakers for lunch between 12:30 and 1:30 p.m.

Sign up and pay the \$10 lunch fee at registration on April 16 to reserve your place at the table and a box lunch.

8:00 - 9:00 AM Registration	Registration, Continental Breakfast & Networking		
9:00 - 10:00 AM Opening Session	About SET Connections Introduction to Backchanneling Google Apps for Special Education with <i>Dr. Henry Thiele</i> Technology Gadgets Demonstration with <i>Judith Epcke</i> QR Codes for Education with <i>Judy Okazaki</i>		
Breakout Sessions	Blue Room	Green Room	Red Room
10:05 - 11:00 AM Breakout 1	iOS for Everyone (iPod, iPod Touch, iPhone, iPad) <i>(K-8 Applications)</i> <i>Patrick Black</i> Are you looking at an iOS device? Not sure which one is right for you? We'll talk about the different devices and the pros and cons of each. We will discuss what apps are and how to purchase them. Universal access settings will be covered and we'll talk about which apps you might start with in the K-8 environment.	iPads – They're a Game Changer! <i>(High School Applications)</i> <i>Mary Ann Apple, Jacqui Pritchard, and Annie Kirschbaum</i> Join us on a brief journey that will touch on the following questions and topics: (1) Are you perplexed about the many app choices available for the iPad? (2) Where do you find reviews of educational apps? (3) A look at the story of one 9-12 Special Ed classroom. (4) How has the iPad impacted the way students learn? (5) Where do we go from here?	Keep It Clean! A Guide to PC Hard Drive Maintenance <i>Luke Allen</i> "My computer's not running like it used to!" How often does tech support hear that complaint? This session will demonstrate simple maintenance procedures using readily available freeware to keep hard drive and registry clutter to a minimum, eliminate spyware and streamline the start-up sequence on Windows® based PCs.
11:05 - 12:00 PM Breakout 2	Twitter—Best Tool for a Quick Dose of Professional Development <i>Jim Gubbins</i> Looking for quick, free, sustainable Professional Development? Look no further than the power of Twitter. This session will introduce attendees to the basics of Twitter, explain how to incorporate it into your Personal Learning Network (PLN) and leverage the power of a number of third party applications to cultivate the knowledge available through this micro-blogging platform.	Creating Content for eBooks (iPad, iPod, Nook, Kindle, Online e-Readers) Using ePub Format <i>Helen Lazzaro</i> Have an iPad, iPod or e-reader (Kindle, Nook)? Learn how to add content and create picture books or chapter books using ePub open standards. Create social stories, instructions, textbooks with text, images, audio, and video supported by iBook app. Find out more about digital book publishing for eBooks and eReaders.	
12:05 - 12:30 PM Closing Session	Door Prizes, CPDU/CEU Forms, Evaluation		
12:30 - 1:30 PM Lunch	Lunch with the Speakers Continue the day's conversations while you enjoy lunch.		

Expert Presenters Offer Cutting Edge Topics

Henry Thiele

Henry Thiele is the Director of Technology in Maine Township High School District 207. He brings diverse classroom and technology experience to SET Connections and serves as the organization's President. Prior to his position with District 207, Dr. Thiele served as a technology coordinator and science/music teacher. Dr. Thiele believes that personalization of instruction, assisted by technology, allows students, parents, community, and staff to improve their skills to become adaptable and productive in today's world and into the future.

Judith Epcke

Judith Epcke is the District Technology Integration Specialist at Northbrook School District 28. She is particularly interested in how districts are creating a 21st Century Learning Environment for students as well as in Web 2.0 tools and effective professional development. Ms. Epcke presents at a variety of conferences and is a co-chair for the 2011 Illinois Computing Educators (ICE) Conference.

Patrick Black

Patrick Black has been a special education teacher for the past 11 years and currently teaches students with significant cognitive disabilities in a self-contained classroom in Mt. Prospect, IL. He is a self-proclaimed "geek" who loves to share all things technology and works to integrate technology into his classroom to assist with communication, cognition, and socialization. As well as presenting locally, he has presented his ideas at the Assistive Technology Industry of America Conference in both Schaumburg and Orlando. Follow him at his blog, "Teaching All Students," which is about assistive technology and its use in education (<http://teachntech.wikispaces.com/>). He also presents the EdCeptional Podcast at EdReach.us (<http://edreach.us>).

Luke Allen

Luke Allen is a retired teacher with 33 years in the Middle School classroom who enjoys presenting at conferences nationwide as well as throughout the state. His sessions and workshops target those who may have a limited "techie" background but want to become more comfortable with the computer technology they are using. Luke encourages users to explore the technology, tinker under the hood and improve their overall comfort level. If they're more comfortable with technology, they're more likely to use it and in the long run everyone benefits.



Mary Ann Apple, Jacqui Pritchard, Annie Kirschbaum

Mary Ann Apple is a Software Specialist at New Trier High School who has been providing technology training and one-on-one assistance to students and staff for over 15 years.

Jacqui Pritchard, also at New Trier, is the Instructional Technology Coordinator whose team works with teachers to innovate and brainstorm technology integration ideas, and support students as they use many software and web-based tools for their technology-rich projects.

Annie Kirschbaum is a Special Education teacher at New Trier High School.

Jim Gubbins

Jim Gubbins is currently the District Technology Coordinator at Maine Township High School District 207 in Park Ridge, IL. Jim provides support and professional development for all things technology related for District 207's special education satellite schools. Jim is constantly scouring the internet for the latest Web 2.0 tools and helping educators find ways to successfully integrate these utilities into the existing curriculum.

Helen Lazzaro

Helen Lazzaro is the building technology facilitator in Elmhurst School District 205. Helen works with the Special Needs group to provide technology integrated projects for their use. She is most interested in finding ways to replace paper projects with innovative technology use. Check out Paper to Technology at: <http://2differentiate.pbworks.com>.

SET Connections

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Connecting
Special Education and
Technology

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Join us for a day of networking
and professional development

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Friday, May 6, 2011

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