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Enter your photos in the **Big Deal Book of Technology**  
**TAKE-IT-WITH-YOU** Contest

Enter The Big Deal Book of Technology TAKE-IT-WITH-YOU Contest

The Big Deal Book of Technology is a small book with BIG staying power! Our readers say that they keep their books close by as the go-to resource for the best curated mix of grant opportunities, newest apps, interactive web destinations and more. Now here's another way to put this go-everywhere book to good use: Enter the Take-It-With-You Contest by posting a photo of you, with a copy of the Big Deal Book of Technology in hand, on our timeline. (Provide a brief description of the locale and, of course, your name!) If you don't have a hard copy of the publication, you can download a copy (or just the cover) from <http://www.bigdealbook.com/>. Each month through October 31, 2013, we'll give away one \$50 gift card to Starbucks, Amazon.com or Barnes & Noble, to the photo capturing the most "likes" during the month posted. (Feel free to send a different photo each month). We'll announce each month's winner on this Facebook page. With summer right around the corner, there's no telling where the Big Deal Book of Technology may show up! We've already had a Big Deal Book of Technology sighting at the Taj Mahal in India! Whether you're two blocks from home or in Timbuktu, we want to see your photos with a Big Deal Book of Technology.

**paect**

PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION FOR EDUCATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY

[www.PAECT.ORG](http://www.PAECT.ORG)

PAECT IS A  
DYNAMIC PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION OFFERING LEADERSHIP AND  
NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES TO PROFESSIONALS THROUGHOUT THE  
COMMONWEALTH BY NURTURING THE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS, INFORMATION,  
RESOURCES, AND EMERGING DEVELOPMENTS IN CURRENT TECHNOLOGY ISSUES.

## BACK TO SCHOOL COMMUNICATION:

### HOW DO YOU COMMUNICATE WITH STUDENTS AND PARENTS DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR?

Maryann Molishus, 5th Grade Teacher

I use several methods to communicate with students and parents during the school year. Email seems to be the best way for messages to parents that are not urgent or serious in nature. Otherwise, a phone call is still best. I use our [class website](#) to share with parents and students. On our web site, we post homework, upcoming events, forms, links to online textbooks, recommended resources, and samples of projects. We have a classroom Moodle site, which we have used for discussions about specific projects. This is a great way to have conversations with students and to help them learn to communicate effectively and appropriately in an online setting. I keep an open mind when beginning the school year and try to learn what would best meet the needs of my students and their families. There are other tools I have used in the past when it has met our needs, such as [CoverItLive](#) and [Edmodo](#) and the blog feature on our school website. We still do send some paper messages home, but there are very few of those these days!

Blair Thallmayer, K-8 Technology Specialist

At Pan American Academy Charter School, we are given iPhones to communicate with students and families via telephone calls. Students and families are able to email us, but it's policy that we call them back instead of responding by email. As a school we use [PowerTeacher](#), both Student and Parent Portal, for all interim and report card information. As a school many teachers and staff send out paper copies of information to go home. For the fall of 2013, teachers will be using a new Parent Portal created by individual teacher web pages, where all assignments, materials, announcements and so forth will be posted weekly for students and families. This new Parent Portal will be uniform for all teachers, giving students and families access in a format for all to have consistency.



Cont. PG 2

## UPDATES FROM AROUND THE PAECT REGIONS

### SC PAECT UPDATE

Registration is now open for edcamp Harrisburg, being held on Saturday, November 2, 2013. SCPAECT is a cosponsor of the event. Visit <http://edcampharrisburg.org> to learn more. For additional regional activities and events, click through to <http://www.paect.org/south-central-region> or the Facebook page as well as watch for announcements in future eBlasts. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/220833717932347/>



### NW PAECT / UPDATE

The NW Regional Leadership Team had two meetings this summer and plans are well underway for the 2013-2014 school year. Information about all events will be available at <http://npaect.org>.

#### NPAECT officers are:

**Past President:** Ann Clark-Corry School District  
**President:** Connie Sitterley-retired (PENNCREST School District)  
**President-elect:** Nick Paolini-IU5  
**Secretary/Treasurer:** Ron Bennett-retired (Wattsburg School District)  
**Members-at-large:** Howard Richards-Millcreek School District,  
Jill Linton-IU5, Brad Dutchcot-PENNCREST School District,  
Joy Bon-PENNCREST School District.

The theme for meetings and events sponsored by NPAECT this year will be Digital Media: Connect, Communicate and Collaborate.

The first meeting will be an informal get-together in Erie. During the meeting, we will share ways that Digital Media can be used to make connections. The time and place for the event will be announced.

The 7th annual Connect, Communicate, Collaborate Educational Technology Conference (3CsETC) will be held on Saturday, October 5. Multiple instructional sessions and sharing times will be held throughout the day. Act 48 credits are available. Registration links will be posted by the end of August. If you are interested in presenting a session at the conference, please submit a proposal at <http://3csetc.org>.

The Flipped Classroom event that is to be held November 16th and sponsored by SWPAECT will also be advertised to PAECT members in NW Region.

NPAECT is sponsoring a \$500 grant for PAECT members in the IU 4, 5 and 6 region. The grant application can be found on our website (<http://npaect.org>). Grant money can be used to purchase resources, technology-based or not, for a specified project that integrates technology into instruction, in order to improve teaching in any curricular area. Deadline for submission is November 1 and the winning application will be announced on November 12th at our dinner meeting.

### NEWSLETTER STAFF

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our regional directors.

## NC PAECT UPDATE



**JASON HEISER**  
NC Regional Director

The North Central region is moving forward in its efforts to connect members from the region and around the state. Over the last 6 months, the region appointed a local board consisting of 7 members and started work on some of its first events. Since its formation, the local board planned and hosted its first regional event as well as sponsored a professional development training in July; future events are also being planned.

July marked the first month for the organization to meet members and bring in new membership. On July 15th, the region sponsored a training of 10 professionals on mobile technology in the Selinsgrove School District. The professionals were exploring ways to integrate Kindles in the classroom. As part of the sponsorship, the professionals in attendance had a chance

to hear about the benefits of PAECT and what the local region is doing, now and in the future, for the local membership as it advances technology and connects teachers to one another. Each participant got a stylus to aid them in using their Kindle and had a chance to see some great professional development.

On July 28, the NC region hosted and co-sponsored its first ever "PAECT at Knoebels event." To get the event off the ground, Brandon Lutz, director of SW region, and Christy Savakinas, director of NW region, co-sponsored the event. This event was meant to connect members of the PAECT from all over the state and enjoy a nice day of fun at one of PA's premier amusement parks. The region had 38 people signed up to attend the event. PAECT members in attendance received a gift, which included a PAECT Tumblr, 2 GB pen drive, stylus, pen, lanyard, and a book of ride tickets to get members and their families started on rides.

Each person in attendance received a free lunch of hot dogs, hamburgers, fruit, potato salad, slaw, drink, and dessert. Attendees also had an opportunity to win prizes by completing the Knoebels Family scavenger hunt. The hunt included 10 questions about park attractions both known and unknown. "Hunters" could earn a prize by completing 7 questions or a prize for each family member by doing all 10. The hunt gave first time park attendees a chance to see the park in its entirety and those who have been there before a chance to discover some unknown attractions.



**Figure 2: Scavenger Hunt**

and looks forward to doing events for membership in the future.

Participants could win a variety of prizes from gifts for the kids to tech swag for adults to additional ride tickets to the first 5 families who completed all 10 hunt questions. The region board is happy to have gotten its first event under its belt



**Figure 4: Scavenger hunt gifts**

Lastly, as an outreach, NC region members will be receiving emails from the regional board on a monthly basis looking for ideas and opportunities to connect with its membership. The emails will provide opportunities for members to attend local meetings and give them more frequent updates on region happenings as well as giving those wanting to be more involved a chance to come to local meetings. This email will start in September and will be a separate piece from the newsletters and blasts which are currently sent to members from the PAECT. We look forward to meeting and connecting more members. Watch your email for more details.

I would like to thank the NC region board for all its work in the last 6 months, and the NW and SW regions for their sponsorship of our first major event! Without your help and support, it might have never happened.



**Figure 1: Member Gift Package**



**Figure 3: Scavenger hunt winner showing prize**



## BACK TO SCHOOL COMMUNICATION: CONT.

**Scott Snyder**, High School English/Language Arts Teacher

I open the year with a letter home to the parent of every student. I offer contact options through email and a [Google Voice](#) number. Also in my letter, I offer the parents an option to sign up for a service called [Remind 101](#). I have a group for each class and send messages about homework and projects on an as needed basis. Kids can sign up too. The service is free and optional, so parents can choose to be involved or not. Best of all, I never see the parents' (or the kids') cell phone numbers. I also use a service called [YouCanBook.me](#) that integrates with Google Calendar when it is time to schedule parent-teacher conferences.

**Tom Murray**, Director of Technology and Cyber Education

In Quakertown, communication with students and families is multifaceted. At the building level, these communications are more personal: notes from teachers, classroom newsletters, email distribution lists, building newsletters, building email announcements, etc. Various tools are used, and newsletter archives are posted on teachers' websites for future reference. At the district level, a variety of tools are used as well. [Blackboard Connect](#) allows for us to call all stakeholders in mass for school cancellations, district announcements, etc. Our award winning [website](#) is up-to-date and features all of the needed material for families. [QCommunique](#) is a weekly district newsletter that goes to over 7,000 people and highlights the various activities at our buildings and the great work of our teachers and students. We also have a [district mobile app](#) that gives parents all of our resources on their mobile devices, both iOS and Android.





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## ASK PETE



**FEBRUARY 9-12**  
HERSHEY LODGE AND CONVENTION CENTER  
HERSHEY, PENNSYLVANIA

# 2014

**Pennsylvania Educational Technology Expo and Conference**

### What is the PETE&C RFP process?

RFP, or Request For Proposals, is the process through which the programming committee solicits, reviews and selects conference sessions for PETE& C. The process is currently underway for PETE&C 2014. The submission deadline for both preconference (for Exhibitors only) and conference proposals is October 13, 2013.

To submit, first come up with a great idea! Then, go to the PETE&C website, click on the [Presentation Submission](#) link or the [Preconference Presentation Application](#) link to begin your submission process. You'll have to submit some personal information before providing a detailed description of your idea. That information is later used by the programming committee to review and select session for the conference.

The programming committee evaluates proposals based on thoroughness of the application, educational relevance and currency of the topic.

### When does registration for PETE&C 2014 open?

October 1, 2013. Information can be found on the [Registration](#) page of the PETE&C website. Early Bird registration closes December 31, 2013, with regular registration continuing through the conference. Any special offers will also be listed on the website.

### How will hotel registration / lodging be handled this year?

Hotel registration will be handled much the same as in past years, on a first-come, first-served basis, so if you want the best pick of rooms, check for updates on the PETE&C website. Hotel registration should open on October 1, 2013.



Do you have an idea for an article? Have a blog or wiki you think we should feature? Know a teacher or administrator we should feature? Share those ideas [here](#) or go to <http://tinyurl.com/9axd7qk>. Answer the question that best matches your suggestion, and the newsletter team will consider your suggestion for a future publication!

## GRANTS, GRANTS, & MORE GRANTS

With the beginning of the 2013-14 school year upon us, with various budget constraints, and with the ever growing digital tools and resources available to enhance learning, the idea of searching for grants has become quite popular. Here are some grant opportunities that may be of help.



Find Funding Fast for K-12 Schools

<http://grantwrangler.com>

Grant Wrangler is a collection of grant opportunities with categories including STEM, Arts and Humanities, Health and Physical Education, Technology, Flipped Classroom, and more.



<http://k12grants.org>

K12 Grants offers assistance in grant writing as well as listings of various grant opportunities.



<https://www.grantgopher.com>

Grant Gopher shares grant opportunities for nonprofits.



<http://www.donorschoose.org>

With Donors Choose, classroom teachers post their project ideas and requests on this charity website.

Donors choose which projects to fund.



<http://www.adoptaclassroom.org>

Adopt a Classroom allows classroom teachers to register their classrooms for financial support by others.



<http://www.technologygrantnews.com>

Technology Grant News shares a listing of K-16 grant opportunities, with an emphasis on educational technology grants.



<http://www.teacherscount.org/teacher/grants.shtml>

Teachers count provides a list of grant opportunities for the classroom as well as for professional development.



<http://www.digitalwish.com/dw/digitalwish/teachers>

Digital Wish allows teachers to create classroom technology wishlists, explaining how the technology will support students.



<http://www.fundingfactory.com>

Funding Factory turns your recycled ink and printer cartridges, old cell phones and electronics into money for your school or classroom.



<http://www.grantwatch.com>

Grant watch does what it says it does: it find grants in a wide variety of areas for nonprofits.



<http://www.paect.org/big-deal-book>

As a member of PAECT, you have access to the Big Deal Book! Each issue contains many grant opportunities.





**NEW YORK**  
**October 18, 2013**  
**Westchester Marriott**  
**Tarrytown, NY**

## A Closer Look at the Agenda for Tech Forum New York



Wondering what we'll be covering at Tech Forum on October 18? Our breakout sessions are a key component of this information-packed day. Geared especially to administrators and education technology leaders, these sessions offer an in-depth look at some of the hottest topics affecting the K-12 ed tech community.

Here's a quick look at the session lineup for October 18:

### **MORNING BREAKOUTS:**

- What Should We Buy? Advice on Picking the Technologies That are Right for YOU
- Creativity and Engagement in the Elementary Grades
- The Flipped Classroom: What's Next?
- Communication and Community-Building with Help from Technology

### **AFTERNOON BREAKOUTS:**

- Professional Learning: One Size Doesn't Fit All
- Walking the Walk: Transforming Learning in the Secondary Grades
- The Ins and Outs of iAuthoring
- Listen to the Students: The Ultimate Smackdown

### **ROUNDTABLES:**

### **Special Offer for PAECT Members!**

*Tech & Learning* is pleased to welcome back PAECT as a Tech Forum Association Partner! Register today for only \$195 per person. That's a \$120 savings. Space is very limited so register early to guarantee your spot.

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER**

Enter source code: NY13PA

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### **Keynote Speaker**



**Jon Bergmann**  
Author, Educator  
and Co-Founder,  
Flipped Learning  
Network

- The Maker Movement: 3D Printers and More
- How Do We Measure Progress on 21st Century Skills?
- Global Projects and Exchanges
- Everything Twitter
- and more to be added soon!

To view an overview of the day, [click here](#).

## Who Should Attend Tech Forum?

Tech Forum brings together some of the brightest minds and forward-thinking leaders involved in education technology. Each event is carefully designed for **district- and building-level administrators, technology directors, technology coordinators, IT managers, librarians and media specialists, board of education members, mentor teachers and teacher trainers** and anyone involved in the planning, decision-making and/or purchasing of technology for schools and districts.

## Bring a Team, Save a Ton

One of the most beneficial ways to experience Tech Forum is to bring a team. Not only does it save you money, it also allows you to tap into the full range of session options and continue the learning when you return to your district. [Click here to view the group rates](#).

## View the Livestream Archive

Want to get a taste for Tech Forum? At each event we do a live broadcast of select sessions via Livestream. All of the sessions are [archived online](#) so you may view them at your leisure after the event. Take a look at last year's Tech Forum New York Livestreamed sessions:

- [Tech Tools for Admins](#)
- [Tech and the Common Core](#)

## Sponsors

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## Event Location

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# TECH FORUM

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**October 18, 2013**  
**Westchester Marriott**  
**Tarrytown, NY**

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## EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH:



Ever try to digest the vast amount of educational research that exists out there? With all of the research being done, it's hard to stay on top of everything. The Great Lakes Center for Education Research & Practice reviews this research and shares it, via their website, to assist individuals and organizations interested in educational policy and reform. Check out their work at <http://greatlakescenter.org/>



PAECT is a non-profit that depends on the contributions of its membership. Please consider donating a small portion of your time at PETE & C to one of the many projects being supported by PAECT. You can find volunteer opportunities by visiting [www.PAECT.org](http://www.PAECT.org).