

Kerpoof Scholastics News

April 2008



Welcome to the sixth Kerpoof Scholastics Newsletter.

Our goal is to provide information about Kerpoof's free resources for educators. If you have colleagues who you think would be interested in receiving this newsletter, please feel free to forward it to them. If you have received a forwarded copy, you can sign up for your own free subscription.

We want [Kerpoof Scholastics](http://www.kerpoof.com) to be a great resource for you. Please feel free to contact me with comments or suggestions. You can call me at 720-220-7824 or e-mail me at caryn.jones@kerpoof.com.

Sincerely,
Caryn Jones
Director of Education Services
Kerpoof
www.kerpoof.com

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Congratulations, Renny!

Renny Fong, a PK-5 computer/technology teacher at Public School 130 Manhattan, submitted an idea to Kerpoof and has won a \$25 gift card for Target. Here's Renny's idea (we liked it so much that we wrote a lesson plan based on it for this month):

"One of the great features I found in, Making a Movie, is the rotational function. With Super Doodle as an added feature in Movie Mode, students can now draw shapes and rotate them and learn about rotation in geometry. It's a great visualization tool and helps them to see how shapes look when they are rotated 45, 90, 180, 270, 360, degrees, etc. Thanks so much!"

You can still submit your tips, tricks or ideas to Kerpoof. If we put your idea in Kerpoof

Scholastics News you'll receive a \$25 gift card to Target.

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Summer contest on Kerpoof

Create a Kerpoof lesson plan over the summer and win a \$200 gift card to Target! We provide two new lesson plans created by Kerpoof staff each month, but we want to see what YOU are doing. If your lesson plan is selected, it will be published on Kerpoof Scholastics either in its entirety or in part.



Assignment: Send us a lesson plan you've created that uses Kerpoof.

Deadline: All entries must be submitted by July 1.

Submissions: All entries should be e-mailed to caryn.jones@kerpoof.com.

Winners: Kerpoof will choose the top two submissions and send the creators a \$200 gift card to Target. Think of how many back-to-school supplies that could buy!

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Changes to the login/password system

Teachers like you have sent us comments and suggestions about our login and password correct procedures. We've listened to your concerns and made a few changes that we hope will make life easier for you.

There is now an easy link to reset forgotten passwords. In the login dialogue box there's a "Forgot your password?" link. Users can enter their nickname and answer their secret questions, then reset their password.

We also changed the information we're asking users for. We do not ask for birthday anymore. We originally used it because it makes a good password recovery question, but in response to some concerns about privacy, we're now asking students to create two secret questions and answers instead.

There's a catch to this change. If users signed up before this change was made, their second secret question (and it's accompanying answer) were randomly selected. These users should login and click "My Account" from the activities page to update their secret questions.

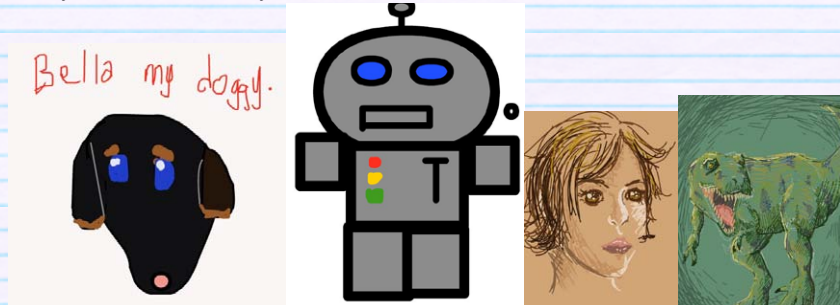
If they have forgotten their password and can't login, send an e-mail to contact.us@kerpoof.com, giving us their username and the answer to their first secret question. We will manually reset those accounts and email back a temporary password.

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Check out the Super Doodle drawings!

If you haven't had a chance so far, check out the fun and amazing things users are drawing using Kerpoof's new freehand drawing tool, Super Doodle. Go to the Kerpoof home page, click Play Kerpoof, and look at the Shared Gallery.

Some users are drawing cool geometric patterns. Others are making country flags. We've gotten dogs and dinosaurs, self-portraits and much, much more! Don't forget to log in so that you can vote for your favorites!



New lesson plans available at Kerpoof

There are two new lesson plans available at Kerpoof Scholastics. Take a look and be sure to check back each month for new lesson plans.

Polar Ecosystems and Habitats

Celebrate Earth Day by looking at two of the most fascinating areas on Earth with a WebQuest that asks middle school students to research, then compare/contrast the two Polar Regions.

Movie Math Madness: Crazy Angles

Use the Kerpoof Movie Maker to explore the world of rotation and angles with grades 3-5. Watch a short video where Wally the Penguin demonstrates his rotational capabilities, then set students loose in the lab to make their own movies that include rotations listed on a worksheet (which we provide).

Lesson plan coming in May

- Write your own advertisement

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Tips and Tricks

Use Super Doodle for writing practice

Let pre-K and kindergarten students practice their letters in Super Doodle. It'll be a fun and different way to work on their mouse skills and remember the shapes of their letters. They can make their pen tool really fat to make good strong letters. They can even choose their favorite color to "write" in.

Remember to Log Out

Get your students into the habit of logging out from any online accounts when they use a shared computer (like a school computer). They should logout either before leaving a site or before leaving the computer, unless they are logging out of an account on the computer that no one else can use. Most Web sites (including Kerpoof, Google, and Amazon) use "cookies" to remember visitors that have logged in. If you don't log out of your account, someone who sits down at the computer after you may still have access to your account.

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Idea Center

Celebrate Earth Day several ways

Earth Day is coming up on April 22 and we've got several scenes to help you celebrate. Start with the [Frog-Friendly Backyard scene](#). The Association of Zoos and Aquariums has declared 2008 the Year of the Frog. Go to their Web site [<http://www.aza.org/helpfrogs/>] for a list of eight ways to help save our amphibian friends, then use our Kerpoof scene to help plan out a frog friendly backyard for your house.

You can also explore the natural world of butterflies in the [Butterfly Pavilion scene](#). Follow their lifecycle from caterpillar to butterfly. Talk about how butterflies, moths, birds and other animals help pollinate flowers and trees.

There are also several other natural habitat scenes like the [Northwest Trek scene](#) and the Folkmanis Puppet [Forest](#), [Treetop](#) or [Mountain Meadow](#) scenes. You can use these to talk about food chains and habitats.

Plan a film festival for your school

Get the whole school involved! Plan a film festival where each grade level has a different



curriculum-related theme. Each student should create a short (one to two minutes) educational film reflecting that theme. Each class votes on the one they want to send to the film festival. Show the top films at an assembly or over lunch. Have students vote for their favorites and give out awards.

Get students involved in "marketing" the films from their classes to get an idea of how the movie business works. This could be a great end of year activity for the whole school.

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Email Marketing by

