

# Kerpoof Scholastics News

## February 2009



### Important News from our Former CEO

For those of you reading closely, and noticed the word "Former" in the above headline: no - I haven't left Kerpoof! However, I am very pleased to be able to share with you that Kerpoof became part of The Walt Disney Company last summer, specifically part of Disney Online, a unit of the Disney Interactive Media Group (DIMG). DIMG develops and publishes Disney.com, the No. 1 ranked kids' entertainment and family community destination on the World Wide Web, and many other sites. The Disney press release was issued late last week and you can read it here: [DIMG Press Release](#).

Some of the technology from Kerpoof is already available at Disney.com (as well as Kerpoof!), and the press release was timed to highlight this rapid integration and availability of the technology. There are now pages on Disney.com that allow fans to Make-a-Picture with Mickey and Friends and many other popular characters, and many other activities will follow. As I am quoted saying in the press release, we are tremendously excited about this opportunity to bring the creative tools we continue to develop to a vast audience.

At the same time, we are continuing to actively develop and support Kerpoof.com, as you have probably seen over the last several months. In particular, over the last two weeks, we made some very substantial changes to the Kerpoof website so that it can expand to support more activities and also be 'skinned' to reflect seasonal events - I hope you visited the site last week when it was showing off its Valentine's theme. If not, a screen shot has been included below. (We also know that some of our recent changes have introduced some problems that were reported to us by educators. We very much appreciated your bug reports, and have already fixed many of the reported problems, while we actively work on the rest.)

There have also been changes on Kerpoof to bring the site into alignment with various Disney policies - including the updates to the Kerpoof registration system, Terms of Use and Privacy Policy. We realize that changes to the site can create confusion and other difficulties in classroom settings, and appreciate your patience during this transition. One thing that has not changed is our commitment to delivering a useful set of tools to educators, and I personally continue to seek out opportunities to directly interact with educators (such as the FETC and Richland One Technology Fair events described below). Again, as I am quoted in the press release, I credit the success that Kerpoof has achieved to "its unwavering commitment to changing the way kids interact with computers."

Sincerely,  
Krista Marks,  
General Manager - Kerpoof Studios  
Disney Interactive Media Group

Our Mission for Educators Remains the Same

At Kerpoof Scholastics, 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, click [here](#).

We want Kerpoof Scholastics to be a great resource for you, and I greatly value your feedback. Please feel free to contact me directly at [educators@kerpoof.com](mailto:educators@kerpoof.com).

Carrie Fross, Editor  
[www.kerpoof.com](http://www.kerpoof.com)

-

In this issue:

Happenings at Kerpoof

*New Kerpoof Site Layout*

*Valentine's Day at Kerpoof*

*New Features*

*BizWorld + Kerpoof = BizMovie!*

*Educators' Advisory Board*

*Follow-up on FETC*

*Follow-up on Richland One Technology Fair Kick-Off Event - a huge success!*

*New Lesson Plan: Fairy Tales with a Twist!*

Idea Center

*In-Class Activity: Presidential Portrait Contest*

*Lesson Plan Seed: Langston Hughes Poetry Illustration*

Tips and Tricks

*Digital Etiquette*

[Gallery of Greats and Valentine Scenes](#)

Happenings at Kerpoof

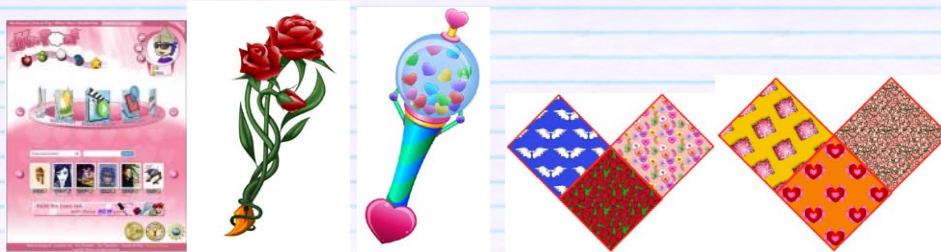
*New Kerpoof Site Layout*

We recently launched a new layout of Kerpoof, retiring the old home page and making a single, scalable interface to Kerpoof activities. This will make it easier (1) for us to launch more activities, and (2) for kids to access those activities.

As Krista mentioned in her letter above, some of the changes to the Kerpoof site have been made to bring it in line with Disney policies and practices for things like registration, the Terms of Use, and the Privacy Policy. One recent change created a lot of questions from educators asking about Kerpoof's requests for a parent's email address. We have added questions and answers on this to our Teacher FAQ. As an educator, the most important thing for you to know about the registration system is that a separate system is available to educators through Kerpoof Teacher Accounts - which will allow you to create accounts for an entire class of students at one time and the students will not be prompted for their parent's email address. Kerpoof Teacher Accounts are FREE and come with many other features - click here to learn more or register for your own Kerpoof Teacher Account.

*Valentine's Day at Kerpoof*

We hope you used our new, limited-time-only Valentine's Day creativity tools and accessories! We began offering fun avatar accessories like angel wings and heart headbands. In addition, we created a variety of special pens, fills and textures for you in the Kerpoof store. Here are images of the home page take over and the rose pen, the heart pen and the heart patterns that you and your students could use:



Next, we'll be rolling out some limited-time-only St. Patrick's Day themed tools in March for you-- so stay tuned!

#### *New Features*

Our newest creativity tool, Doodle Pad, gives the pre-school set an easy, hands-on way to draw and color while honing their fine motor and mouse skills. Click [here](#) for Doodle Pad. Also, you now have expanded options for viewing submissions in the Gallery. You can view the featured content, see just your own creations, or display the highest rated, most added-to-lists-of-favorites or most recent art.

#### *BizWorld + Kerpoof = BizMovie!*

[The BizWorld Foundation](#) has been collaborating with Kerpoof to develop a curriculum which uses Kerpoof's movie maker to teach business, entrepreneurship, and computer animated movie production. This curriculum will use real world simulation to reinforce academic standards and core 21st Century Skills. "BizMovie", the latest program from The BizWorld Foundation, is based on similar concepts as BizWorld with the addition of technology use and entrepreneurial role playing. This combination of important technology skills in a business context is geared towards 3rd - 8th grade students. Pilot classes will begin in the next few weeks, followed by the formal launch in August 2009. A Sneak Peek Lesson Plan is available now on [Kerpoof Scholastics](#).

#### *Educators' Advisory Board*

I am pleased to announce that a number of you took me up on my call for educators to join our Educators' Advisory Board, and I thank you. I'll be relying on the Board members for candid feedback on using Kerpoof and on the resources we offer in Kerpoof Scholastics. If you haven't already joined us and you'd like to, just e-mail [carrie.fross@kerpoof.com](mailto:carrie.fross@kerpoof.com).

#### *Follow-up on FETC*

Krista and Carrie had an extremely rich experience in Orlando at the FETC conference and made many valuable contacts there. We both spoke to avid users and met many newcomers to Kerpoof as well. The top inquiries were:

- 1) Can we narrate movies?
- 2) Can we export art and movies?

These items have been taken back to the production teams and rolled into future feature planning. At FETC, we made contact with hundreds of teachers and administrators and look forward to helping our new friends in Florida use Kerpoof in their classrooms!

#### *Follow-up on Richland One Technology Fair Kick-Off Event - a huge success!*

Krista Marks was honored to give the keynote address at the Richland One's kick-off the event. She was also able to visit several local schools giving demos of Kerpoof and sharing her experience as an engineer and entrepreneur. Ida Thompson, Director of Instructional Technology Services for Richland County School District One, had this to say about Kerpoof and Krista's visit: "Active engagement by students in their learning is essential to ensure preparation for the 21st century. Students need opportunities to think, create and share. Innovate tools like Kerpoof facilitate this student-centered approach to learning."

*New Lesson Plan - BizMovie Sneak Peek-- See above!*

*New Lesson Plan - Fairy Tales with a Twist!*

We have received an excellent lesson plan submission from an educator who uses Kerpoof in her classroom. Fairy Tales with a Twist gives 3rd-6th graders the chance to creatively retell a fairy tale while practicing their writing and collaboration skills as well. Students manipulate point of view, setting and plot and then evaluate their own work and reward the work of others. Click [here](#) for the lesson plan resources.

### Idea Center

#### *In-Class Activity: Presidential Portrait Contest*

Many famous US presidents were born in February, including George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. That is why we celebrate Presidents' Day. If you have been learning about those presidents or the holiday, try the following activity.

- (1) Have students look at a number of presidential portraits.
- (2) Next, have them create a portrait in Super Doodle (Make a Drawing).  
Add a mini-lesson in direct democracy by having the class vote on the winner (One student, One vote).
- (3) Make a variety of categories in which to award prizes  
(Most realistic, Strangest interpretation, Best abstract art imitation)

Online references for presidential portraits:

- [American Presidents: Portrait Gallery](#)
- [National Portrait Gallery](#)
- [NPR Story on Presidential Portraits](#)

#### *Lesson Plan Seed: Langston Hughes Poetry Illustration*

February is Black History Month. You could use this event introduce students to the life of African-American poet Langston Hughes. Hughes was an influential part of the Harlem Renaissance in the 1920s and 1930s.

Activity: Have students read and comment on a few of Hughes' poems (like "My People" and "Dream Variations") What emotions do they express? Next, have students create a drawing, picture or short movie depicting a single scene or emotion from the poem. Have them use banners, labels or speech bubbles to explain their creation.

Links to poems:

- [My People](#) (scroll down)
- [Dream Variations](#)

For those classes that watched the inauguration of President Barak Obama, the activity above can be followed by a discussion of the significance of his election and what the nation felt as he was sworn in.

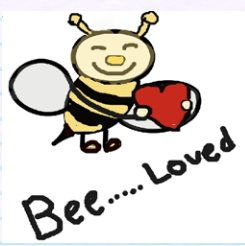
### Tips and Tricks

#### *Digital Etiquette*

Teaching kids about appropriate behavior is one of educators' on-going challenges. When kids are online, the challenges multiply. If you are interested in using Kerpoof's message board as a way to introduce and instruct your students about online etiquette, check out this informative [blog](#).

As this is such a crucial issue, future lesson plans on Kerpoof will give you more ideas and activities to use in class.

### Gallery of Greats and Valentine Scenes



©Disney-- All Rights Reserved

Disney Online, Kerpoof Studios

Email Marketing by

