

Kerpoof Scholastics News

January 2008



A Special Introduction from our CEO

We say this in every newsletter, but with the start of the new year, I want to personally emphasize that we want Kerpoof to be a great resource for you, and that includes all of the materials we provide, starting with this newsletter. While our primary mission is to combine creativity with technology, at Kerpoof we care deeply about education and are committed to supplying activities that are enriching and well-suited to educational purposes. We are also committed to making quality resources available to educators free of charge.

I want to encourage you to contact us at any time with comments or suggestions, which you can do by sending email to educators@kerpoof.com. We respond to every email that comes in, and email from educators is always very helpful for us in understanding your needs and concerns. I would also like to encourage you to share Kerpoof with your colleagues. We would love to have our free resources reach every school, but that will only happen if teachers spread the word for us, since we are not seeking to sell or market any products to school.

The final thing I would like to share with you is that the editing of our newsletter is changing hands this month. For several years now, we have been lucky to have Caryn Jones in the role of Director of Education, and she has been the main force behind the creation of this newsletter and many other educational resources. Caryn is transitioning to a full-time teaching role in the Denver area and while she will be sorely missed, we are thrilled for her as teaching has always been her passion. Caryn will be a fantastic teacher, bringing her enthusiasm, professionalism and breadth of knowledge to every class.

It is my great pleasure to introduce you to Carrie Fross who will be taking over from Caryn. Carrie has a Ph.D. from Brown and eighteen years of college-level teaching in Spanish language and literature. Her recent book, *Mexico from Mestizo to Multicultural: National Identity and Recent Representations of the Conquest*, was published by Vanderbilt University Press. Carrie will be editing our newsletter and contributing other educational content to Kerpoof. Given her background, we are looking forward to offering some great multicultural content on Kerpoof this year.

Happy New Year,
Krista Marks, CEO

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Happenings at Kerpoof

Kerpoof to Attend the FETC in Orlando, FL Jan. 21-24

We are excited to tell you that Kerpoof will be exhibiting at the FETC conference to be held in Orlando this month. Please come by and see us at Booth #250! We'll have monitors up for you to use our site or to show friends and colleagues what Kerpoof is all about. We'll also be available to answer any questions you may have, share ideas, and just get to know you better!

About FETC

FETC is the education technology conference that informs educators and administrators on how to effectively integrate technologies across the curriculum-from kindergarten to college-while introducing them to the latest hardware, software and strategies on student technology use.

Familiar Face at the Richland County School District One Technology Fair

Krista Marks, CEO of Kerpoof, will be the featured guest at the kick-off to [South Carolina's Richland County School District One Technology Fair](#). Krista, a graduate of USC, will join Mayor Bob Coble at Dreher High School in Columbia, SC as they recognize the school technology STARS from the district. The kick-off event is scheduled for February 3rd at 6pm. Please come by if you are in the area!

Calling all Educators! Kerpoof to convene an Educator's Advisory Board

We'd like to invite you to join our Educator's Advisory Board. As we roll out new tools, new content and new lesson plans this year, you'll be the first to preview and comment upon those changes. We are hoping to leverage your knowledge and expertise through direct contact and to make Kerpoof as helpful and user-friendly as possible for you in your classrooms! If you are interested in joining the new board, please send us an email (carrie.fross@kerpoof.com or educators@kerpoof.com).

Post-Vacation Sanity Savers

The days after vacation are always hard to plan for. The kids will be all wound up, but you need them to focus on their work. We've got a way you can save your sanity and keep the students on-task. Use Kerpoof! Kerpoof is so fun that the kids will think they're playing, and you can guide their play so that they're working as well. See our newest lesson plan and tips and tricks below to keep your students using technology, writing and researching every day! Now you just have to book the computer lab and you're all set!

New lesson plan available on Kerpoof Scholastics

There is one new lesson plan available at Kerpoof Scholastics this month. [Take a look at it and the other lesson plans we have available.](#)

Making Resolutions

Our newest lesson plan combines seasonally appropriate content with important decision-making skills which are valuable to all ages.

Use this lesson plan to reinforce goal setting and goal attainment while also taking part in the tradition of making New Year's resolutions. *Making Resolutions* not only walks students through the process of setting goals, it also instructs them in planning the steps they'll need to take to achieve those goals. We have included a collaborative component wherein students work in pairs to encourage each other along the road to achievement, as well.

Winter Celebrations

Celebrate Winter with Kerpoof's winter and holiday scenes in Make a Picture. Click on the images below to see the gamut of scenes available: fantastic winterscapes, classic scenes from the Nutcracker

Ballet, and realistic Arctic and Antarctic topography.



Our Polar Paradise storyline under Make a Movie provides fun, seasonal movie-making options and students can use the Thank You section under Make a Card to acknowledge and show appreciation for holiday gifts they have received. Check them out!



Tips and Tricks

Encouraging on-line safety

Kerpoof is committed to providing the most stringent safety filters for our users. In addition, there are steps your students can take to ensure that they stay safe on Kerpoof--and anywhere else on-line.

*Talk to your students about ways to be themselves without divulging their real identities on-line.

*Ask them which is safer: using your real name or initials, using your city name or your school name.

*Give them some examples and ask which could be used to 'find' them: JSmith, JStrumanelementary, JS933Sommerville.

In addition, explain to your students that if we see a full name, an e-mail address, Web site or street address, we will not approve the scene or username to be shared in our gallery. That's for their safety.

SAFETY FIRST!



Idea Center

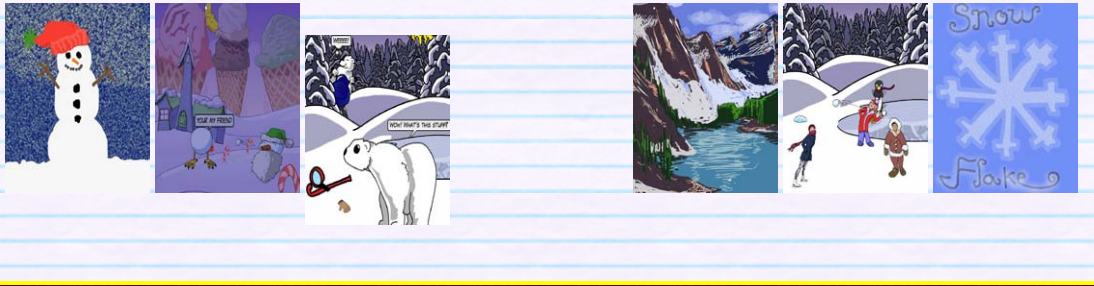
Round Robin Story

In the computer lab, create groups of 3-5 students based on where they are sitting. Have each student start a story at their computer (suggested topics: amazing holiday travels, winter adventures). After a few minutes, have each student move down one computer and continue working on the story their classmate began. Give them a few minutes to work, then have them move again. Continue until the students end up back at their original computer where they can finish their story.



Kerpoof Gallery of Greats

Here are some examples of the high quality winter scenes our users have shared on Kerpoof. Click on the thumbnails to see the scenes and drawings full size or to watch these creative movies.



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