

Kerpoof Scholastics News

May 2008



Welcome to the seventh 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 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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Kerpoof recognized at major industry symposium

Kerpoof has been invited to attend and participate in The [Joan Ganz Cooney Center's](#) inaugural symposium, *Logging into the Playground: How Digital Media Are Shaping Children's Learning*, in New York City on May 9. The symposium is by invitation-only and will bring together leaders in research, industry, policy, philanthropy and education to discuss how we can enhance learning through digital media. Kerpoof is one of six companies and non-profits that will be presenting in the technology forum "Presentation of Digital Media Best Practices."

Kerpoof is honored be participating in this auspicious event. Our goals of providing a rich learning environment and using digital media for more than mindless entertainment are

closely aligned with The Joan Ganz Cooney Center's goals. The Joan Ganz Cooney Center is part of the Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit arm of *Sesame Street*, with a focus on digital media for the middle childhood years (6-11).

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Helping educators administer groups

Once again, your e-mails, questions, comments and suggestions have spoken. We've heard how useful it would be for you to have more control over your classroom groups, so we are working on a set of tools to let you administer your class more fully. As of last week, we rolled out some changes to allow educators to setup groups but to limit their use outside of school.

Now, users of Kerpoof either have to have their parent's permission to use Kerpoof groups or only use groups that are setup and monitored by a teacher. By default, any groups you have setup will not be marked as a monitored group, and for now you will need to [email us](#) with the group names that you want us to mark as monitored so that all your students can use them.

You'll eventually be able to delete inappropriate messages, change the group password and more. We're developing these tools now and hope to launch them in time for back-to-school in the fall. Look for information on this new feature in the August newsletter.

In the meantime, however, you can e-mail contact.us@kerpoof.com with any administrative requests about your groups. In particular, you may want to disable access over the summer; if so just send us an e-mail.

We want to make sure that the new group administration tools will include the features you need most. Please take a moment to tell us what you need using this [short survey](#).

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Summer contests on Kerpoof

We have two contests running this summer, one just for educators and a drawing contest for everyone (including adults!).

For educators

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.



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 at 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!

For everyone

Send us your best drawing! We're also holding a contest for the best drawings made using Kerpoof's Super Doodle tool.

Deadline: All entries must be submitted by June 1.

Submissions: Submissions are easy, just click the "Enter contest" option when saving your drawing.

Winners: Winners will receive an electronic drawing pad to make their Super Doodle drawing even easier! We will give away Wacom drawing tablets to winners in four categories: Under age 7, age 8-12, age 13-16 and 17 and up. You can learn more at www.kerpoof.com/contest.

HELP US HELP YOU!



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Kerpoof Scholastics takes the summer off. Most of you will be taking time off this summer and Kerpoof Scholastics will too! While Kerpoof and the [Kerpoof Scholastics Web site](#) will remain available (of course) all summer, there will not be a new issue of the *Kerpoof Scholastics Newsletter* until the beginning of August.

Enjoy your time off. If you have a chance in between travel, planning for next year and sitting by the pool, send us a lesson plan as part of our summer contest (see details above). Winners will be announced in the Back-to-School issue in August.



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Kerpoof at education conferences
Kerpoof is looking forward to getting out and meeting you! Summer is a great time to attend conferences and learn about new technologies and other educational opportunities.



We are happy to be attending a couple conferences this summer, including:

- [TIE Colorado](#) - June 24-27
- [National Education Computing Conference](#) - June 29-July 2

If you're attending any of these conferences, stop by and see us. We'd love to meet you.

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Announcing the Grand Opening of the Kerpoof Store

Just in time for summer you can finally get a look at what you've been saving Kerpoof Koins for all this time. The Kerpoof Store is now open for business. In the Kerpoof Store, users can "buy" cool new scenes like Crag Rock and the Pirates of Awesome; great avatar accessories; special characters and more using the Kerpoof Koins they earn from creating things on Kerpoof and getting stars.

While some of the avatar accessories and other effects are available to all users, many of them are only available to users who join our new membership program. Memberships cost \$4.39 per month, \$24.79 for six months or \$44.79 for a full year. Membership allows users to personalize their experience on Kerpoof more than ever before.



The ability to create groups and to join un-moderated groups is also now linked to membership. Users only have to pay us once to get permanent access, but this is a very good way to for us to guarantee that parents understand these features. Group access continues to be FREE for schools. Please write us at contact.us@kerpoof.com if you want us to create or unlock a group for you. We typically respond on the same business day.

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New lesson plans available at Kerpoof

There is one new lesson plan available at [Kerpoof Scholastics](#) this month. Take a look and be sure to check back again in August as we continue to roll out new lesson plans each

month.

Create your own advertisement

This is a great end-of-school activity that helps students be aware of advertising and learn to write persuasively. They'll learn a little about how to create an advertisement and then make their own ad lobbying their parents for a specific activity over summer vacation (a trip to the zoo, the beach, the mountains, the aquarium, etc.).

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Tips and Tricks

Use Kerpoof when you're planning for back-to-school

When you start planning your bulletin boards and decorations for the fall, don't forget about Kerpoof. Put objects you want to enlarge and print out in your backpack, then bring them into the blank background provided for the "Create a Card" activity. Make them the size you need, add text, whatever you want. Then just print, trim and presto, FREE classroom decorations in more than fifty themes. Have fun!

Getting back to a scene you've saved

We have heard that some of our users are having trouble figuring out how to get back to a scene they've already saved. Here's a simple step-by-step way to find your saved scenes. First, log into Kerpoof. Once you are logged in, there are two places to find your scenes. You can see them at the bottom of the cockpit page (the page where you choose your activity) in the "My Gallery" tab. Or you can open your My Stuff page by clicking on your avatar. Your gallery will appear just below your avatar and the group tools. Use the yellow arrows to scroll through the scenes you've saved until you find the one you're looking for.

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Idea Center

Showing your appreciation

Did you have a great speaker come in? Are there parents or other volunteers who have made a difference in your classroom this year? Did a local business sponsor Field Day or a class project? Let your students show their appreciation Kerpoof-style. Spend an hour in Kerpoof making thank you cards using the "Make a Card" activity. Remind students that they should use proper spelling and punctuation!

Explore your country...or your world!

If you've been working on a geography unit, have students use Kerpoof's "Make a Drawing" activity to liven up their presentations. They can draw the flag of the state or country they've studied. They can draw a national symbol or state bird. They can even add text to their drawing to explain the symbols or colors on the flag or the significance of the symbol they've drawn.

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