



Intellectual Capital: How we come to “know”

My 14 year old daughter thinks she “knows” things. It seems every time I try to explain something to her or remind her of a commitment, she says, “I know. I know.” Similarly, as

What do we, as professionals in an education environment, need to know about technology to be successful?

a child, my dad and I did some fishing and I was almost always successful. I thought I “knew” how to fish. I was shocked when I

grew up and discovered that I couldn’t find a trout to save my life. My dad knew where to fish and what bait to use. I had just followed his instruction.

This idea of how one comes to really “know” things has made me think more deeply about the continuum of knowing technology. What do we, as professionals in an education environment, need to know about technology to be successful? How do we become more agile and adaptable; moving more effortlessly with the constant changes in technology?

Becoming a successful technology user is similar to our expectations that students become critical thinkers. Our goal with technology staff development is to encourage thought about technology as a system and how that system works outside of specific tools and products. While teaching step-by-step instructions is often necessary in the short-term it must not be the primary focus. With step-by-step, users survive as long as the technology variables do not change. Of course, we all know that technology changes all the time and that we really need to problem solve and adapt. To really “know” anything to the point that one is able to think about it and apply the knowledge outside of a defined box requires what some might see as a struggle. “Struggle” often involves research, critical thought, experimentation, and time. Contrast this with the notion of knowing because one can follow steps.

Tony Wagner writes about seven work survival skills in his book, *The Global Achievement Gap*. These skills all relate to knowing and the 21st Century Workplace.

Survival Skill #1: critical thinking and problem solving: work is moving from specialty jobs to cross-functional teams. There are problems and challenges that teams must work to solve – the solution is not prescribed; no one is telling you exactly what to

do. Technology in the workplace is a great example of why being skilled at critical thought and problem solving are important. The rapid change in technology requires “knowing” and thinking about the technological tool, what it can do, and how to make it help you accomplish the end goal. The ability to use technology in this way is fun and exciting; opening up many possibilities for you and students.

Survival Skill #2: collaboration across networks and leading by influence: The internet, with digital video and social networks, has opened up a whole world of diverse team members and experts. Computers are used for more than researching and typing. Your BPS teacher computer is becoming a life-line to information beyond your classroom. In a few months we will be officially unveiling a collaborative online environment which will serve a space for curriculum, resources, and discussion about teaching and learning. Our sphere of influence has moved from our isolated classrooms, to our buildings, and now to our district and beyond.

Survival Skill #3: agility and adaptability: All professions are facing continuous changes in tools and processes. Survival as a professional in the 21st Century requires flexibility, adaptability, and lifelong learning. We are a technological society and technology will continue to advance and change. The key is to become more agile and adaptable. Agility when it comes to technology is built upon use and experimentation. One can’t become agile by learning a “technological recipe.”

Survival Skill #4: initiative and entrepreneurialism: Self-direction and the ability to find creative solutions to challenging problems are valuable skills. I had the great pleasure of working with students on several technology-integrated products this year. At one point I remember thinking, “Oh my, I don’t think I am up for this today.” That thought lasted about 3 minutes. Once student teams had their computers and project rubrics, they were completely focused and determined; it was inspiring.

Survival Skill #5: effective oral and written communication: Writing in the world of technology has taken a whole new twist. Electronic communication, whether email, websites, or via a social network, is used professionally and personally - whatever you post it is very public. I was struck

by the “publicness” of my e-communications when local newspapers started following my Twitter posts. **Survival Skill #6:** accessing and analyzing information: As workers and citizens, we have access to an astronomical amount of information and data. The idea of memorizing isolated facts is an outdated skill stemming from years past when print resources and experts were scarce. Value today is in the ability to synthesize, evaluate, and connect information. There are many implications, particularly research and reading, that relate to online information access.

Survival Skill #7: curiosity and imagination: In his book, *A Whole New Mind*, Daniel Pink wrote, “It is no longer enough to create a product that’s reasonably priced and adequately functional. It must also be beautiful, unique, and meaningful.” This year at BPS we have an incredible opportunity to purchase new computers and to upgrade some of our productivity software. With this opportunity we will recondition computers to provide more student access. My hope is that we can help staff and students leverage technology in a way that sparks imagination and curiosity about world!

*Tanna Kincaid
Technology Director*

Help Desk Summer Hours

Monday, June 1 through Friday July 31, the Help Desk will be open from 7:30am-4 pm, Mon.-Thurs. and 7:30am-noon on Fridays. We will be closed Friday, July 3.

Since there are fewer phone calls during the summer, Help Desk staff will sometimes forward the phone to a cell phone so they can work in their buildings. If you need to bring your computer by the Technology Office, please call first to ensure someone will be available. Online requests and emails will be checked periodically throughout the day.

Our regular hours will resume Monday, August 3. Regular hours are Mon.-Weds. 7:30am-4:30 pm, Thursdays 7:30am-4 pm, and Fridays 7:30am-3:30 pm.

Credit Courses

Latte Sessions - Held at Hughes, 3:30-5:00 p.m. Staff can register in the Staff Tracker to attend any of these free sessions for credit!

- √ **Applying for Latte Grad Credit** - May 19
- √ **Reflecting, Assembling, and Applying for Latte Graduate Credit** - May 19
- √ **BPS Project Showcase: Webbased/Standards Organized Curriculum Resources** - June 25

√ **Excellent teachers needed!**

Supervision of Student Teachers prepares you to be an effective cooperating teacher and enables you to meet the ND requirements for student teacher placement. The course will be held at BSC on Thursday, May 28 from 8:30 am-4:00 pm. There will be a combination of face-to-face and online instruction (15 hours total). Graduate credit is available for \$60. Contact Lori Gibson at 224-2481 or email Lori.Gibson@dsu.nodak.edu to register ASAP.

√ **Wind Energy SCIENCE** - August 6 - 7 (8 am-4 pm) at BSC.

This course will appeal to middle/high school science and technical education teachers who are interested in renewable energy, physics, engineering and design. NO knowledge of wind energy is required to attend the course. In this two day course, participants, will learn the basic principles behind wind energy and how to introduce students to wind energy concepts using standards-based activities in an engaging, hands-on manner: A tour of a local wind farm is included.

Teachers can receive credit through UND Continuing Education Program for an additional fee of \$50. The Dakota Resource Council and the ND Department of Commerce are sponsoring this course. For directions, agenda & speaker information, call (651) 325 8149 or visit <http://www.kidwind.org>.

√ **Habitats of North Dakota** - A Visual Arts Approach, August 19-20.

This workshop is for teachers, environmental educators, or anyone that works with youth. It will be held at ND Game & Fish Dept. headquarters, 100 N. Bismarck Expressway, with field trips to the OWLS site.

Teachers completing this course will have a basis for teaching ecological concepts and environmental stewardship to their students through the visual arts using the new Habitats of North Dakota curriculum. Participants will experiment with different visual arts media including clay, watermedia, pastel, and colored pencil. No art experience is required; supplies provided.

Instructors for the workshop are Sherry Niesar, a wildlife educator with ND Game & Fish for more than 20 years, and Paul Noot, who teaches visual arts at BHS, Sleepy Hollow Summer Arts program and Theo Art School.

The cost is \$30 for registration and graduate credit is available through the UND for an additional \$50. Registration deadline is August 15th. For more information or registration materials, contact Sherry Niesar with BAGA, 223-5986, or email baga@midconetwork.com.

Job Opportunitites

Application deadline: May 13

Elementary General Music/Instrumental Music

Application deadline: May 25

Social Worker (2 positions) - Bachelor's degree in Social Work and current ND Social Work license.

Elementary Counselor - Grimsrud/Saxvik - Must meet minimum ND Department of Public Instruction requirements.

Application deadline: May 26

Custodian II - Solheim Elementary School - Step 5 - full-time (day shift).

For a detailed job description and to apply, go to bismarckschools.org and click on the "Job Opportunities."

BPS Foundation

The BPS Foundation awarded \$4,455 in teacher mini-grants this school year. Twelve teachers were awarded funds for projects that will enhance the curriculum at their schools. In the latest round, Andrea Sagsveen, Moses, and Mike Walz, CHS, received mini-grants. The next grant deadline is October 1. Applications and criteria are available on the BPS Web site under the Alumni-BPS Foundation link.

Save the date!

The Apple Dash Run/Walk 4 Education will be Sunday, September 13 at 4 pm at Hughes Field.

Neighbor's Network

Program: is in need of a couch and also lawn mower. Contact Brenda Bergen at 527-4626 or 223-8095.

Calendar Call

- May 14 **Retirement Party**
Carmen Woodmansee,
3-5 p.m., Hughes
- May 18 **Speech/Lang. Pathologists**
3:45 p.m. Hughes #2
- May 19 **Retirement Reception**
Shannon Fornes,
3:45-4:45 p.m.,
Wachter Library
- May 20 **Secondary School Admins.**
7:30 a.m. Hughes #3
Elementary Principals
9:00 a.m. Hughes #1
- May 20 **Retirement Open House**
Marilyn Johnson,
3:30-6:30 p.m., Will-Moore
Retirement Party
Steve Fix & Kathy Sailer,
3:30-4:30 p.m., Facility &
Transportation
Retirement Tea
Cynthy Clausnitzer, Sandy Enget, Rudy Steidl, Carmen Woodmansee, 3:45-5 p.m.,
Horizon
- May 21 **Retirement Party**
Jerry Zimprich, 3:30-5 p.m.,
Hughes #1-2
Retirement Potluck
Jay Johnson, 5-9 p.m.,
Mandan Warming House

Grad-Level Research

This information pertains to BPS staff who are enrolled in a degree/accredited graduate program of study. If you are considering a research project that surveys BPS students or staff or requires student data, you must receive prior approval. Information regarding academic research is available at: <http://www.bismarckschools.org> (click on Employees and then Academic Research – on the left navigation).

TNT conference online

registration: go to www.bismarckstate.edu/ceti/tnt for early bird registration on or before May 15th. If you have questions, contact Karen Selensky at BSC, 224-5688 or www.bismarckstate.edu/ceti.

Congrats!

Two Bismarck Public School teachers have been honored as Teachers of the Year by the Bismarck-Mandan Chamber of Commerce. The elementary award went to Jo Lynde, grades K and 2 at Northridge; the secondary award was given to Brad Lick, a science teacher at Bismarck High. Congratulations to both of our stellar winners!

