# Sparks from Special Education

## Assistive Technology News

### Special points of interest:

- Read about our favorite FREE and low-cost apps
- Find out how to sign up for FREE App notification
- Looking for a Grant?
- Looking for training in AT?

Send us your ideas/helpful resources for our next edition to:

Hollie Wagner, LCISD

hwagner@lcisd.k12.mi.us

## Introduction to the AT Committee and our newsletter...

*Student using object choice board*

The purpose of a newsletter is to provide educators (both general and special education) in Lapeer County information on the latest assistive technology devices, strategies, or evaluation techniques to use with students at risk or with disabilities.

We will provide information on obtaining free ipad apps, highlight apps that we like, and even share tech tips to help you as an educator work more efficiently.

We also encourage our readers to share information so we may spread the knowledge among your peers.  Any tips/tidbits can be

emailed to Hollie Wagner at LCISD main office (810) 245-3962

hwagner@lcisd.k12.mi.us.

The LCISD Assistive Technology Committee is comprised of educators for local and intermediate school districts, and represents a wide range of different disciplines,  including:

Speech Pathologist

Occupational Therapist

School Psychologist

Teacher Consultants VI/ASD/DHH

Physical Therapists

School Social Worker

And more...

The AT Committee meets monthly to share new tools and strategies in AT, as well as discuss / brainstorm specific students and their AT needs.   The committee will also assist an IEP team with determining appropriate technology for a student.

## I Tunes U -  Michigan's MI Learning

Did you know that REMC Association of Michigan offers free podcasts on using technology?  Link:

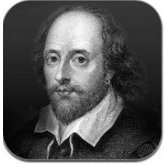https://itunes.apple.com/us/itunes-u/remc-connected-educator-series/id500174611?mt=10

Examples include:  25 tutorials for using google in the classroom, Apps for writing, wikis, UDL, skyping, etc.

MACUL has started Michigan's MI Learning site on Itunes U to provide free curriculum and lessons for Michi-

gan educators.  You can already find lesson plans linked to Michigan core content and technology standards, among many other useful videos.

# Favorite Apps of the Month

## FREE APPS

The complete works of Shakespeare for Ipad with search, summary and scene breakdowns.

Khan Academy APP

## Low Cost APP

**Write My Name**
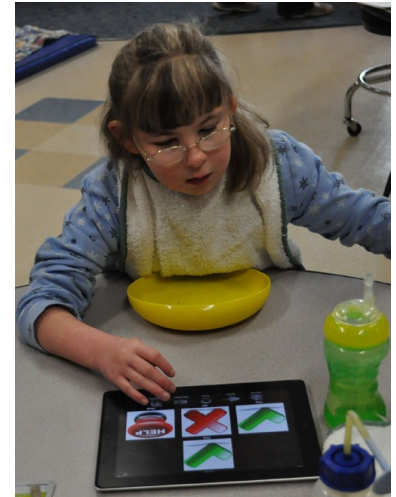By NCSOFT
Open iTunes to buy and

$3.99 by Injini

Trace upper/lowercase letters, 100+ common words, and add your own words with a picture for a customized word bank.

Choiceworks
By Bee Visual
$4.99

**My nighttime schedule**

We LOVE this app!!!!

*Using an IPAD for choice and communication.*

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*"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us. "*

*-Ralph Waldo Emerson*

# Websites of Interest -  Math Help

Webmath.com is a math-help web site that generates answers to specific math questions and problems, as entered by a user, at any particular moment. The math answers are generated and displayed real-time, at the moment a web user types in their math problem and clicks "solve." In addition to the answers, Webmath also shows the student how to arrive at the answer.   From basic addition to calculus.

The Math Dude In the world of virtual reality, anything can happen.  Watch The Math Dude, the award winning video series that helps middle and high school students improve their Algebra skills. Each program helps students understand different parts of algebra instruction.

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/itv/MathDude/index.shtm

Wolframalpha is a computational knowledge engine.

Wolfram|Alpha introduces a fundamentally new way to get knowledge and answers—not by searching the web, but by doing dynamic computations based on a vast collection of built-in data, algorithms, and methods

www.wolframalpha.com

# Other Useful information

If you have a student using a switch, attached is a list of switch activated apps.

http://www.janefarrall.com/html/resources/Switch%20Accessible%20Apps%20for%20iPad.pdf
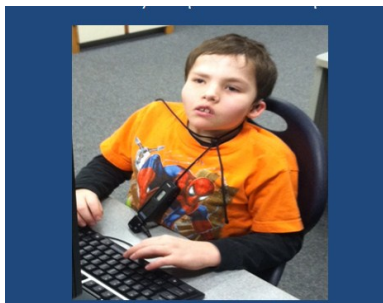
Technology in Special Education

http://techinspecialed.com

 Michigan's Integrated Technology Supports

http://mits.cenmi.org

*Various switches*

## Assistive Technology Software/Tool Highlight



*Personal FM system patched into computer.*

*Co-Writer Software by Don Johnston*

*Helps Students with:*

- Illegible handwriting
- Very poor phonetic or inventive spelling
- Difficulty translating thoughts into writing
- A physical disability makes typing difficult

Co:Writer is the pencil, your applications are the paper. Co:Writer works in conjunction with any application you write in like MS Word, Online, Blogs, Email, etc. As you type, Co:Writer interprets spelling and grammar mistakes and offers word suggestions in real time.

Co:Writer's Linguistic Word Prediction technology is the only option for students with significant spelling and grammar challenges.

A university edition is also available.

Cost: $290 per license

Supports Mac and Windows

http://www.donjohnston.com/products/cowriter/index.html

## Professional Development Opportunities

AAC Professional Learning Community

Oakland Schools

January 15, 2013

4-6:00pm   FREE

Go deeper in the area of Augmentative/Alternative Communication

Tools for Success:  Make and Take

Oakland Schools
February 7, 2013
8:30-3:30pm  $55

This presentation will show a wide variety of applications that can be used with Adaptivation's lite tech devices in the classroom setting. Ideas will incorporate the use of communication aids, switches,

environmental controls and other assistive devices.

Online PD MITS Free
AT Feature Match
February 7, 2013 10-11am

AT is not really about the Stuff. It's about knowing the student, what's required, and what the desired end result is. This presentation will show you how to get where you
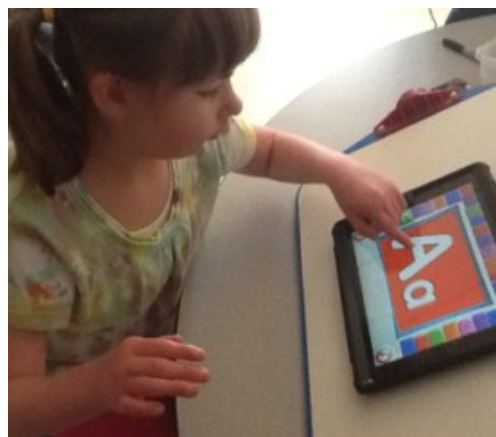
need to go.

iPad Reader Apps
February 7, 2013 3-4pm

A look at a variety of iPad reader apps and what they can and cannot do.

Registration required for both MITS free online workshops.

Mits.cenmi.org

## Sign up for notification of FREE APPS



*Practicing letter formation with IPAD app*

Apps Gone Free

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/apps-gone-free-best-daily/id470693788?mt=8

Mark Coppin

mark.coppin@annecenter.org; email him and asked to be added to his email list

*Smartpen used to record lectures for students who struggle with note taking. LiveScribe Pen is one type of smart pen.*

## Grant Opportunities for Educators/Students

Supplement Your Stretched Budget **GetEdFunding** is **CDW-G**'s new website to help educators and institutions find the funds they need to supplement already stretched budgets. GetEdFunding is a *free* and fresh resource, which hosts a collection of more than 1,000 grants and other funding opportunities culled from federal, state, regional and community sources and available to public and private, preK–12 educators, schools and districts, higher education institutions and nonprofit organizations that work with them.

Www.getfunding.org

Use Math to Drive Curiosity **Raytheon Company** is calling for submissions to its 2012–2013 **MathMovesU Middle School Grant and Scholarship Program.** To participate, sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students nationwide are invited to illustrate the importance of math in the mission to Mars and in space exploration in general .

**Deadline:** February 8, 2013 for applications

For more information:

http://www.mathmovesu.com/#/middle-school-scholarship