



CREST
Community for Rural Education Stewardship and Technology

ISLAND INSTITUTE



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Issue: # 3

February/2008

Hello CREST Participants,

Welcome to the third edition of the CREST e-newsletter! In this edition, you will find some exciting news about CREST schools, profiles on three CREST projects, and a list of new upcoming opportunities. Don't forget to check the calendar at the end of the newsletter to find very important dates, deadlines, and assignments for the 2008 Summer Institute.

Also, please remember that **Career Exploration Day is March 21st**, so mark your calendars! This year, students will have the opportunity to visit boat builders, architects, staff at a radio station, engineers, and many other exciting professionals who use technology in their careers. Registration information will be distributed soon.

The CREST Leadership Team is about to start our second round of site visits, so we hope to see all of you soon. Remember, if you have any support needs, just email Ruth, Hope, or Shey. Keep up the good work!

Thanks,
The CREST Leadership Team

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Lubec Consolidated School, Islesboro Central School, and Greely High School for their recognition of excellence in "America's Best High Schools," a national ranking of United States high schools by U.S. News and World Report. For information about the ranking system, see

<http://www.usnews.com/articles/education/high-schools/2007/11/29/americas-best-high-schools.html>

FEATURED SCHOOLS

Washington Academy

The CREST team from Washington Academy (WA) in East Machias is working on several projects that focus on local trail networks. Students are making a movie that details a local Rails-to-Trails initiative and collaborating with a local ATV club to produce a tourist map and a map for prioritizing trail-work needs. The team is also using GIS to map the restoration of the Machias River, documenting progress by linking before-and-after photos of various points on the river where restoration has occurred.

The school has also been examining ways to incorporate GPS and GIS technology in science classes. They have preliminary plans to integrate GIS and ethnography with projects documenting local

petroglyphs, and mapping and researching the historic Hannah Weston Trail.

After returning from Christmas break, WA held a multi-day Arts Festival. At the festival, CREST staff assisted WA students in a GIS and Ethnography training that generated much interest in the GIS and I-Movie technologies.



Searsport District High School

The CREST team at Searsport District High School got off to a busy start this school year! Students filmed interviews at two community events held early in the fall: *Fling Into Fall* and *Stockton Harbor Days*.

In videography, students studied story-boarding and created movies on a wide range of topics.

Science students are practicing using GIS by mapping the trails around the school and by collecting water-quality information. They hope to use GIS for research purposes in the near future; investigating water temperature of clam flats or conducting drift studies.

For the website component of their project, students have created a new website for the school radio station and are developing a CREST page on the school website that they will be able to manage and regularly update.

At the end of January, Searsport held a Technology Day for teachers to share the many ways in which they are incorporating technology in the classroom. Teachers presented the CREST project as an example of the ways that GIS, web design and ethnography can aid learning.



Islesboro Central School

The Islesboro Central School team has been working on a variety of

projects this semester, including orchard research, an island-based ABC book, a unit that identifies economic sectors of Maine, and a project using video to document the school's ongoing visioning process and to help promote the educational experience at Islesboro Central School.

During the 2007-2008 school year, the Islesboro CREST team has been working across disciplines to gather information for the school's Orchard Project, a component of the horticulture program led by John Pincince that is aimed at fostering local and sustainable agriculture on Islesboro. CREST students are mapping apple orchards throughout the island and interviewing residents to gather further information about the orchards' histories. The ABC book project, begun in the 2006-2007 school year, is a multi-grade collaboration to identify places around the island that represent different letters of the alphabet.

Kindergarten and first-grade students chose places to represent each letter, and high-school students mapped, photographed and took video at each site. The results are now being compiled into a book for publishing.

Students in Vicki Conover's economics class began a new unit that studies the economic sectors of Maine. Students chose different sectors of Maine's economy, such as fishing, agriculture, and technology, to research, and must present their findings by creating thematic maps and web pages.

Finally, Islesboro Central School is completing a school-visioning process that is aimed at refining school goals. Students, working with art teacher Shar Piper, are using digital video to document this visioning process and other ongoing school projects and activities. They will create a short, promotional video to attract new students to this unique, magnet school.



TECH CORNER

If you want the background of your webpage to be blue, you're going to run into a problem! Remember that blue is the default color for links, so any linked text is going to be difficult to read (or possibly seem to disappear entirely) when against a blue background. It is possible to change the color of the links, however, using css, or style sheets. To change the link color, put the following in the **<head>** section of your code with the hex code of your desired link color in place of the hex code shown here (*note: **a:link** refers to unvisited links, which usually defaults to blue; **a:visited** refers to visited links, which usually defaults*

to purple):
<style type="text/css">

a:link {

color: #88aa55;

}

a:visited {

color: #88aa55;

}

</style>

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

March 27-30, 2008: National Science Teachers Association
Conference, Boston, MA

<http://www.nsta.org/conferences/2008bos/>

May 8, 2008: Maine Association for Supervision and Curriculum
Development (ASCD)

Annual Conference, Waterville ME

www.maineascd.org

CHECK OUT THE EDUTOPIA SITE (www.edutopia.org) FOR A
WEALTH OF INFORMATION ON EDUCATIONAL GRANTS!

CREST CALENDAR

March 21, 2008 ~ **Career Exploration Day**

May 14, 2008 ~ **Year-End Progress Reports Due**

July 14 - 18, 2008 ~ **Summer Institute Week I**

To be held at the Schoodic Education & Research Center, Winter
Harbor.

- Fort O'Brien
- St. George
- Vinalhaven
- Deer Isle - Stonington - Middle School

July 21 - 25, 2008 ~ **Summer Institute Week II**

To be held at the Schoodic Education & Research Center, Winter
Harbor.

- Lubec Consolidated School
- North Haven
- Islesboro

- Washington Academy
- Searsport
- Greely
- Georges Valley
- Deer Isles - Stonington - High School

Sincerely,

The CREST Team
Island Institute



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