



Dorie Nemeth of the Philadelphia School District peddles over *Passo Gavia in the Italian Alps* without ever leaving the convention center, as VCycling founder Buzz Gardner explains the system's benefits. Gardner, a competitive cyclist, retired early from corporate America to found VCycling, which has as its mission the reduction of child obesity.

Special Focus Playgrounds Swing With Dancing, Music, Art and Fun

TRACY COZZENS

MIDI, iMovie and Dance, Dance Revolution: These are just a few of the technologies that can be an integral part of art, music and physical education.

These resources, and many more, will be on display at this year's Special Focus Playgrounds, held in Bridge Hall. The "explore-as-you-go" environment allows you to try a wide range of technologies that can enhance the classroom, conveniently brought together in one place. In a single visit, you can compose music with a MIDI keyboard, create your own animation, or jump and jive with the Dance, Dance Revolution video game to your heart's content.

The four playgrounds offered this year focus on art, music, physical education and health, and assistive technology. Each playground has five stations that demonstrate technology.

The success of 2004's AT Playground spurred the expansion into new curriculum areas.

"NECC as a whole covers so many aspects of integrating technology into the classroom — infrastructure, training, strategies for virtually every grade level," explained Anita McAnear, NECC National Program Chair. "But certain curricular areas aren't as well

represented as, say, mathematics, science and language arts. The playgrounds are a way to highlight how technology can support art, PE, music and assistive technology."

Carol Teitelman, event coordinator and Southeast Regional Program Chair, called the expanded playgrounds "a way to illuminate the use of technology in areas that have not been as visible in past conferences."

"The program committee chose art, music and physical education because of the wonderful solutions that are available in these areas," she said. "So many new tools make it possible for classroom teachers to differentiate instruction in specialty areas with which they may not be that comfortable."

The playgrounds are for all education including specialists. Software, hardware and activities for grades PK-12 will be demonstrated. K-20 educator specialists at each station will guide the hands-on activities.

"The playgrounds offer a chance to play!" Teitelman said. "People will be able to stroll through the playground, stop and ask questions of someone who really uses the program, and then give it a quick try."

Two of the areas were
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Rave Reviews for Student Films

J.V. BOLKAN AND AMY MILLER

Celebrating the power of student voices when amplified by video technology, the Student Film Festival held last night at the Marriott was a fantastic showcase. The event, a collaboration of public broadcaster WHYY and ISTE, featured 14 of the best shorts and super-short public service announcements (PSA) for educational technology funding.

Apple Computer helped bring student representatives from three teams to the screening. These students were made available after the screening for a lively interactive question and answer session.

Demonstrating a blending of artistic vision, technological prowess, and youthful passion, the films range

from funny to shocking, sometimes in the matter of a few frames. The first film of the evening was a delightful look at the effects of overloading students with homework.



William Ford-Conway

Gallery Exhibits Showcase Educator Accomplishments

DAVIS N. SMITH

Hewlett-Packard educational grant recipients and ISTE Institute participants showcased their achievements during a pair of Gallery Walks at the conference. On Sunday afternoon, the current ISTE Institute cohort of educators from across North America unfurled their displays in the Howe/Lescage rooms of the Loews Hotel.

The ISTE Institute combines face-to-face opening and closing sessions with an online program of intensive instruction in the National Educational Technology Standards, said Marilyn Schlieff, ISTE Institute project coordinator. The program models evidence-based and data-driven decision making and provides mentors from

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Student filmmakers in attendance at the NECC 2005 Student Voices Student Film Festival.

Student filmmakers in attendance included William Ford-Conway who was in 7th grade

when he created his charming and ambitious animation, voice-over, live-action film *Dogs Rule!*

Never Take Freedom For Granted. Carly Wolff and Laura Caccavo produced *If This Is the Will of God ... Who Needs God?* A group of five high school students from Kentucky, Regina Durkan, Randi Robey, Erik Gonzalez, Jordan Schneider and Mike Simpson contributed to *Teen Suicide* and the PSA *Technology: Empowering Kentucky's Youth*.

In an immense auditorium temporarily transformed into an elegant old-style movie theater, attendees were greeted with a red carpet entryway lined with cheering volunteers and paparazzi. Inside, refreshments and popcorn were offered. The hundreds of appreciative cinephiles applauded wildly at the end of each of the screened films.

NECC NOTES

Keynotes Streaming Online

Missed the keynote Monday night? Find it posted at www.iste.org/necc/ under Program/Webcast Sessions. Also find a list of the sessions that are being Webcast. All Webcast sessions will be archived by KidzOnline through June 27, 2006.

Lost & Found

Missing something? Check the Conference Info Booth between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. to see if someone turned it in.

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