



**cable in the  
classroom**  
Kids. Cable. Learning.

**Connections**  
April-May 2009

*Connections* is a publication brought to you by Time Warner Cable, Kansas City.

*Working with your community and for your community—bringing schools the most up to date information in educational programming & technology.*



## Connecting STEM Concepts to Students' Everyday Lives

### Breathing Life Into STEM

**Connecting science, technology, engineering, and math subjects to students' lives makes the lessons real and the learning stick.**

*Before Andrew Givens started teaching physics last year at Floyd County High School in Virginia, the class had a reputation for being easy. Because it wasn't a graduation requirement, students didn't apply themselves. And there weren't any resources to make the class better. "I wanted it to be a lab course, but without equipment, how could I get the students to apply physics concepts?" Givens wondered. Then it dawned on him. Kids love paper airplanes, so why not use them to teach the scientific method, Newton's Laws of Motion, aerodynamics, and associated forces? With that, "Physics of Paper Airplanes" was launched. ...*

To read complete articles and the monthly CIC program schedule, check out each issue of *Cable in the Classroom* and *Threshold* magazines online at [www.ciconline.org](http://www.ciconline.org).

### Subscriptions

You can also [subscribe to the print edition](#) of *Cable in the Classroom Magazine*, delivered monthly, 11 times per year (11 issues) for \$28.95 per year.

## New Resources for Professional Development on Your Timetable

### A Do-It-Yourself Tech Upgrade

**Want to get more technology into your classroom? Take time this summer to teach yourself about these six key tools.**

*Summer's right around the corner, and while your mind might fast-forward to mornings where you can sleep in, beach days, and fat paperbacks, there's probably still a little part of you already thinking ahead to September. It's always soothing to imagine a fresh start, and this year you visualize arriving for the first day of school with a new cache of technology tools to help transform the learning in your classroom. This knowledge is a little more unusual than what you would probably find in your school's formal professional development workshops, so you plan to do what more and more teachers are doing - actively seek out the information on your own by connecting with peers, perusing websites, and simply going to TeacherTube. ...*



## Have a Media Smart Summer

**Summer vacation is the perfect time for students to become independent thinkers about the media.**

*As students are engaged in media activities during their time away from school, they can enhance their critical-thinking skills. These activities can be monitored by asking students to return their results at the start of the school year or just used to encourage them to become active media consumers. Consider linking to Cable in the Classroom's "Media Smart for Parents" website from your school's or media center's website to help parents learn how to augment media literacy in the home. Use the complete article as a reproducible handout to share with teachers, parents and caregivers.*



**Questions, comments or information to share?  
Contact:**

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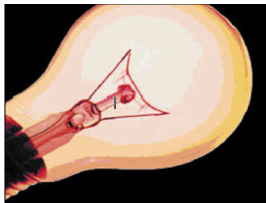
*Cable in the Classroom and Time Warner Cable—Working together to improve teaching and learning*

## Newsletter Announcement—*Connections* Changes to Online Only

In consideration of the environment and other factors, TWCKC will no longer provide a mailed paper version of this *Connections* newsletter. Beginning with the next issue, it will only be available at our web site at [www.twckc.com/newsletter](http://www.twckc.com/newsletter), or via e-mail upon request.

In order to receive the newsletter electronically, we recommend you provide a personal e-mail address, since many school systems block the transmission due to size or attachment restrictions. This will also lesson our administration costs with fewer address changes due to faculty transfers.

As always, we encourage you to access the CIC web site for resource information, as we continue our commitment to sharing local news, resources and educational opportunities for teachers and students through *Connections*. Please contact our office, (bottom front) with any questions or comments. To update your e-mail address, send to [kc.publicaffairs@twcable.com](mailto:kc.publicaffairs@twcable.com) with subject line "Connections".



### Thomas Edison Electrical Safety Awards Announced

Thank you to all who entered this year's video production contest. The winners are:

#### Middle School/Upper Elementary (2-minute video)

**First Place: \$1,000.00**

##### **Richardson Elementary, Lee's Summit**

Teachers: Sarah Eckert & Toni Travalent  
Students: Emily Mallette, Morgan Mallette, Abbey Mallette, and Courtney Conner

**Second Place**—\$450.00 to Richardson Elementary  
Toni Travalant, teacher

**Third Place**—\$350.00 to St. Paul's Episcopal Day School  
Julia Willets, teacher

#### High School (30-second PSA on electrical safety)

**First Place: \$1,000.00**

##### **Blue Valley District BTVV, Overland Park, KS**

Teacher: Bruce McRoberts  
Students: John Steinmetz and Kyle Disney

**Second Place**—\$450.00 to Smithville High School  
Scott Vitek, Teacher

**Third Place**—\$350.00 to Blue Valley District, BTVV  
Bruce McRoberts, teacher

**Entries in both divisions will be featured soon on KC OnDemand, TWCKC channel 113.**

**NAMLE** NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR  
MEDIA LITERACY EDUCATION

**Bridging Literacies:** 

**Critical Connections in a Digital World**

August 1-4, 2009 • Detroit, MI

### Media Literacy Conference

Are you teaching media literacy?  
Do you want to learn more about it?

Share your experiences and connect with others at the National Association for Media Literacy Education's national conference. Hundreds of educators, media librarians, youth leaders, administrators, academics, and others will share ideas, research, and educational approaches.

The conference will take place August 1-4 in the birthplace of Motown—Detroit, Mich.

Learn more at [www.namle.net](http://www.namle.net) and start making your plans now.

**FREE RESOURCES** are a terrible thing to waste—please take full advantage of all that is available from CIC and the 40 networks providing programming and lesson plans for a wide variety of subjects.

**REMEMBER:** Time Warner Cable is also available to provide free presentations on Cable in the Classroom resources at your next in-service training. Presentations for parents on Media Smart Families (concerning Internet safety, media literacy and parental controls) are also available. Call Joyce Peters, 816-222-5710.