

technotes

>>> Texas Computer Education Association Digital News

innovative educational technology

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UPCOMING EVENTS

"Lunch and Learn: Surviving and Thriving at Convention 2012" webinar
- Feb. 1 (free to anyone)

Area 14 "Leading with the iPad" workshop - Feb. 15

"Lunch and Learn: Text-to-Speech Tools" webinar
- Feb. 15 (free to members)

"Making the Most of Your TCEA Membership" webinar - Feb. 20 (free to anyone)

"Fueling Your Passion, Sharing the Knowledge" webinar - Feb. 21 (free to members)

"iDevices: Selecting Great Apps" webinar - Feb. 21

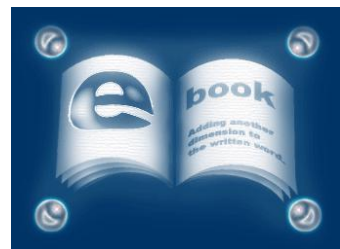
"Lunch and Learn: Growing Your PLN" webinar - Feb. 22 (free to members)

"Google SketchUp Pro for the Classroom" webinar - Feb. 22

Free Children and Teen eBooks for Kindle Reader

There are some wonderful free ebooks for children and teenage readers available if you have either a Kindle, the Kindle app for **PC** or **Mac**, or an **iOS device** running the free Kindle app. Below are just a few:

- **Farm Girl** - Set in the Dust Bowl of the American West, this is the true account of a child coming of age on a 1920's Nebraska farm.
- **Jimmy the Racing Frog** - Jimmy wanted to be a race car driver from the time he was a tiny egg in the pond. As a full-grown frog, he discovered that living your dreams is sometimes about learning to take what life gives you and use your experience to do something great.
- **Burly and Grum and the Secret City** - Burlington Bear, Grum the goblin, and Max are best friends. Burly and Grum show Max a secret city in the the middle of the forest, but hunters are tracking them down.
- **The Takers: Book One of the Oz Chronicles** - The first volume in The Oz Chronicles recalls both Stephen King's The Stand and L. Frank Baum's The Wizard of Oz. When 13-year-old Osmond "Oz" Griffith wakes from an illness on the floor of his closet, he discovers the world overrun by man-eating monsters, the Takers, and it's largely his fault.
- **Busy Bees 123** - Teach your child to count with the Busy Bees. There are lots of colorful things to count on every page as the Busy Bees lead you through the numbers 1-10.
- **Cougar Cub Tales: I'm Just Like You** - It is a timeless story that deals with the everyday issue of intolerance, especially regarding physical difference and disability. It is written in a wonderful nonsensical rhyme.
- **The Mouse and the Christmas Cake** - This is a poem about a mouse who builds a house in a decoration castle on top of a Christmas cake.
- **The Wicked Passage** - Eighth-grader Blake Wyatt was three when his father died, and the responsibilities of going to school and being the "man of the house" overwhelm him. His world changes forever when a mysterious substitute teacher unveils the Wyatt family legacy, a beautiful jeweled book, the Chronicle of the



"Cool Tools and Trends: Bookmarking 2.0/3.0" webinar - Feb. 23

"Legislative Update" webinar - Feb. 27 (free to members)

"iDevices: Reading and Writing in the iWorld" webinar - Feb. 28

QUICK LINKS - KEYBOARDING

The BBC offers the fun-filled **Dance Mat Typing** for elementary students. Four levels and 12 stages provide basic keyboarding practice.

Glencoe's Online Keyboarding is an online typing tutor for kids or adults that is divided into 16 individual typing lessons ranging from home keys and space bar to symbols. Each lesson on this free typing program includes a demonstration movie, typing exercises, a drill, and a printable lesson report to show completion of the lesson.

PowerTyping.com includes a words-per-minute goal that can be set for each lesson, and most lessons include a radio player at the bottom to encourage a rhythmic pattern while typing. The site also includes a series of five typing games to make learning to type more exciting for children.

Practice typing full words and sentences with **Keybr.com**. You have the choice to practice typing random words/non-words, to practice custom text, or to practice the text from any

Rellium.

- **The Golden Acorn** - When Jack Brenin finds a golden acorn lying in the grass, little does he know that it is the beginning of a thrilling and magical adventure.
- **The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Hungry Pig** - This is a silly twist on the classic story of The Three Little Pigs where the three little wolves decide to build their homes out of dessert. The big, bad, hungry pig wants to destroy their homes, but the smart little wolf has a plan for him.
- **Flanagan, Underage Detective** - His name is Juan Anguera. He's a fourteen-year-old student living in the turbulent environment of suburban Barcelona. But everybody calls him Flanagan, and he's an amateur detective.

For other free ebooks, check out [these for children](#) and [these for teen](#) readers.

You Can Attend TCEA 2012, Too, Virtually!

Join educators from across the nation online this year through the Virtual Conference extension. Several presentations from the featured presenters and keynotes will be live streamed. Additionally, the live stream will include engagement from attendees online and at the convention to add networking opportunities and enhance your experience. Registration is \$75 to attend all live-streamed sessions. Click [here](#) for full details.

Tots and Technology Conference Presenter Deadline Is February 17

This content-specific conference is dedicated to Pre-K through 5th grade educators. Teachers, administrators, and technology enthusiasts are invited to attend a high-energy, exciting professional development event from a leader in innovative educational technology. **Submit your presentation** for consideration and share your knowledge with your peers. Presenters receive complimentary registration to this fun-filled event.

The Tots and Technology Conference will be held June 10-12, 2012 at the Galveston Convention Center in Galveston, TX. **Registration** is now open!

Continue the Learning After Convention

After TCEA 2012, you'll be filled with amazing ideas, wonderful new teaching strategies, and awe-inspiring technology resources. Now you need to reflect on what you've learned and decide how best to share your knowledge with others in your district.

website or blog. Keybr.com shows the student's speed, errors, as well as the particular keys which are the weakest.

Whitley County School System offers their **Sixth Grade Keyboarding Unit** online. It includes 20 lessons. They also have a **Second Grade Keyboarding Unit**.

Typing Test Online measures words per minute, net typing speed, and typing errors. This is a great way to measure progress and improvement. You may choose the length of the test from one to three minutes. You may also select what language you wish to use in typing.



Join us on Feb. 21 at 4:00 p.m. for "Fueling Your Passion, Sharing the Knowledge" as we discuss strategies for self-reflection, building on new knowledge, and applying new learning to your practice. During this **free-to-members webinar**,

we will guide you through the best of the conference and provide you with access to resources and content that you may have missed. Best practices for sharing and distributing content to your colleagues back at your districts will be shared. A portal of content will also be available for you to access.

Results of the Board of Directors Meeting

The TCEA board of directors met in regular session January 20-21 and took the following actions:

- Approved revisions to all of the SIG bylaws. These will go to SIG members for approval in the next few months.
- Selected an auditing firm for 2012-2013
- Approved the 2012-2013 budget
- Created the Jeri Hodges Leadership Scholarship in recognition of her contributions to the educational technology community
- Appointed Luann Hughes of Temple ISD to fill the Area 12 director position and Debbie Boyer of Canyon ISD to fill the Area 16 position effective April 1, 2012

