



ISTE's 2009 Storytelling Corps: Celebrate the History Makers of Education Technology and MORE!

NECC 2009 in Washington D.C. will mark thirty years of ISTE history. Please join us in creating a worldwide, time-traveled collection of the many images and storytelling memories detailing the hero journey of our successes, challenges, and celebrations of education technology making a difference for our kids. This visual history is being collected as a world-wide resource bank to remind, inspire and finally be available for the new ISTE's 2009 Storytelling Corps 2009 dedicated to gathering the human history of education technology thus far.



I am deeply committed to the art of digital storytelling—not as the latest technical fad but as a way of nourishing our own inner lives while also deeply connecting with others. Storytellers are extremely powerful. They have the personal power to guide, motivate, inspire, and influence. I believe that at the end of the day who we are as a people are the stories we tell ourselves.

We are the first generation to be written on from the outside bombarded by a constant avalanche of media messages – 80% of which are considered negative. It is time for each of us to reclaim our personal roles as “StoryKeepers” enabling us to build our own collective “story fields” of influence in the world. The power of ancient storytelling is being rediscovered and revived at a time in our world when we are being challenged to redefine who we are and connections with others and our ability to make meaning of a fast-paced, chaotic world.

The magical power of releasing our own personal storytelling into local and global communities is its ability to create understandings, build positive relationships, and leverage shared values between people of different communities or cultures. Our world could use a LOT more of us capable of doing that! So join us in anyway you feel inspired to participate!

How Can You Get Involved?

Without all of us, education technology could not have expanded to have the impact it has already made! With each of you, we wouldn't be able to continue the essential work ahead. The following events and projects have been designed to create collaborative opportunities for everyone to participate in building an intentional “story field” of influence to sustain our successes while celebrating a mosaic of stories along the way.

Before NECC 2008 and 2009

Join us in collecting the myriad of images telling the journey of efforts, successes, challenges, and celebrations of education technology serving our kids. So dig into your image archives, and post them on [Flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com) using “ISTE30” as the tag. An Exhibition will be displayed at NECC 2009. We're looking for novel, forgotten, and telling images of students,

conferences, products, telling t-shirts, and the many, many experiences and heroes along the way!

At NECC 2008

Why not consider participating in NECC 2008 Birds –of-a-Feather Session for Storytelling?

This summer's Birds-of-a-Feather session at NECC (Monday 4:45 PM Rm 103B) will be organizing the future ISTE SIG group for digital storytelling. This group will be actively launching an ISTE Storytelling Corps as their first community service project for engaging and leading others in becoming StoryKeepers™ for NECC's 2009 Exhibition of how technology has made a difference for our world-wide kids over the last thirty years.

Join us in shaping the logistics and timelines; developing the story prompts to craft storytelling rather than digital stories; identifying resources including vendor support; gathering examples of 2-4 minute videos, enhanced podcasts and other digital storytelling modes to be posted at TeacherTube.com.

Storytelling coaches wanted! There are many, many experienced storytellers out there who have discovered their own expertise of helping others tell their own stories – we need you! Would you be willing to volunteer to meet other educators or students in Skype, Elluminate and/or in Second Life to coach authors shaping their chosen stories into exemplar narratives? All volunteers can sign up with Bernajean@DigiTales.us. Also check out more details for shaping stories that need to be told at <http://digitalstorytelling.iste.wikispaces.net>

How is digital storytelling uniquely different from digital stories? (See attached article)

While digital stories are a great medium, ISTE's Storytelling Corps will be asking educators and students in using the digital storytelling format of embedding Take Six Elements. In digital storytelling, as you weave your own voice narration, images and music together to unfold a sensory experience, you also strive to find the essence of meaning or value this experience has made for your life. This expectation for a "lesson learned" to wrap up the story makes digital storytelling unique from digital stories, photo essays, and slide shows. Finding the wisdom in the stories we tell is a spiritual practice that has practical influence on our lives and the many lives we touch - thus the art of storytelling begins!

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After NECC 2008

Now the fun begins . . .

1. Share the "storytelling prompt" found at ISTE's Digital Storytelling wiki to inspire others to create their story of how technology has made a difference for kids » <http://digitalstorytelling.iste.wikispaces.net>
2. View some examples of these type of stories at www.DigiTales.us » StoryKeepers Gallery » ItzaWrap. Notice how landing the story on a single student gives the whole experience a very personal meaning – telling a story we would want for all our kids.
3. Enlist and help colleagues in collecting and posting their selected images to Flickr.com using the tag » ISTE30.
4. Browse the Flickr.com image resource bank to inspire a story that needs to be told or just the right image that you didn't take but would help to tell your own story even better. Be sure to give credit!

5. Contribute your expertise, ideas, resources and stories behind the stories to an ISTE Storytelling wiki » <http://digitalstorytelling.iste.wikispaces.net>
6. Consider gathering a small group together from schools, special projects, or across districts to host your own storytelling camps crafting their stories over time - maybe having a very geeky adventure party helping each other through the steps and learning along the way!
7. Volunteer to coach others or request critical friend feedback yourself. We expect many volunteers to offer their support to authors via Skype and other tools to explore and reflect on these stories using a critical friend approach. There are many experience digital storytellers who will be helping those around them find and craft their stories. Shaping good stories into GREAT ones especially embedding the Take Six: Elements of Good Storytelling into narratives is where the magic happens. (See attached article from Tech4Learning for description of Take Six Elements
8. Consider joining the StoryKeepers Group for ShaheraZade in Second Life for notices of events with other avatars gathering under the stars to share examples, reflect on their own stories and help each other with storytelling skills. If you haven't entered Second Life yet, this may be the time to make friends and experience another way of learning. Bernajean's Persian Palace is located on ISTE Island 2 to create a magical place for digital storytellers. We will be gathering under starry skies many nights.

Come inworld anytime. Once inworld you can "friend" CharZeee Kitaj aka Bernajean Porter or teleport directly to ShaheraZade using » <http://slurl.secondlife.com/ISTEIsland2/77/19/31>
9. What a minute . . . what ideas do YOU have to increase our "story field" of influence sharing memories, challenges, and successes along the way? So many heroes – so little time!!!