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# NEWSLETTER

Argonner Elementary School  
 Sportfield Elementary School  
 Hanau Middle School  
 Hanau High School

## Hanau High School Shows Much Inspired to Write

Eleven students at Hanau High School will be anxiously awaiting September when their personal copies of Showcase 98, the DoDDS-Europe K-12 creative literary and art anthology, arrive for distribution. Not everyone might agree on what makes a good piece of writing or an object a work of art, but most would admit that attitudes and the approach to the creative process are strong determiners in ensuring student success. "Not only was this a record year for acceptances, it was also a record year for submissions," stated Peggy Lynn, Hanau High School's media specialist and coordinator for the first round of the submissions process.

Publications were later judged at the Hessen district followed by a selection process involving schools Europe wide. Asked why he believes HHS was so well represented in student publications, Gene Eller, ninth grade English teacher

*"Computers have really enhanced the knowledge and skills of students who were originally afraid ...."*

replied, "There are so many programs, such as Inspiration, that help students organize their thoughts and then reorganize their ideas through the various templates. Not all students think in sequential order or are able to easily follow outlines, and the various symbols help them to create diagrams to clarify their thoughts and ideas.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## US Ambassador Welcomes Hanau High School Students

*by Bobby King*

On May 4 six students from Hanau High School were instrumental in helping US Ambassador John Kornblum inaugurate the American Embassy's new web page for a selected audience of German students, politicians, reporters, and interested citizens. At the Amerika Haus in Frankfurt, Germany, Leticia Douglas, Stephanie Cooper, Jerry Jones, Alejandra Renjifo-Mundo, Jason Adrian, and Joel King demonstrated the wide scope of the web page, designed to provide information about America in both the German and English languages in areas as diverse as policy and government, travel and geography, history, and even student exchanges and study in the US.

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## New Administrator Conquers Technology

*by Ora C. Flippen-Casper*

Arriving to Argonner ES in August of last school year was certainly a challenge. Attending my first "HIT" meeting was another challenging endeavor. By the way, where I come from, "HIT" had a different connotation so I really wasn't sure what I was getting into.

Having heard all about the Hanau Model School Project it was interesting for me to learn all that I could. I must admit, this first meeting was actually

*One only has to walk into the classrooms to observe students in action or observe the completed projects*

overwhelming for me. It was apparent to me that the Hanau Model Schools had something that no other schools had. I figured it out. Acronyms. There were so many acronyms used that I had no idea what everyone was talking about; HIT, TERC, CAETI, TAP, PTI, CTIPs, NSF, etc.

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## Visit with the Ambassador

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In addition to demonstrating the information available and how to get to it, the students were also asked to critique

the web page and point our errors and to make suggestions for improvement. The students did an outstanding job, according to the Amerika Haus director, and would certainly be invited back if such an event were to held again. What were the student's biggest impressions,

other than the change to speak informally with the Ambassador and to demonstrate their knowledge of the Internet? "The computers were amazingly fast. I couldn't believe how quickly I could get on the net!" said Leticia Douglas, a senior.

## Good Planning, Positive Implementation: Great Success

by Bob Sennett

The Hanau School's partnership with TERC and the National Science Foundation's "Model Schools" project can be declared *a great success!* The project's goals of: infusing technology into the curriculum of our students so that it is seen as a tool used in learning rather than the end product of learning; and the promotion of exemplary teaching practices in all classrooms through ongoing professional development have all been achieved.

Three things that I feel have contributed to this success are (1) The initial decision to establish the HIT as the decision making body giving the project direction and broad support. (2) Placing high end computers with a common "Tool Kit" of software in all teachers' classrooms regardless of grade level, speciality, or subject area sent the strong signal that we were all equal partners in this project as well as a shared experience. (3) The emphasis on professional development in both the formal and informal settings has produced a culture of shared learning experiences among community members and educators alike. It has also become accepted as standard practice across the four Hanau schools, which is not the norm in other school systems.

The past three years has changed all those involved with the Model School's Project in positive ways, which have enriched the education of our students and ourselves alike. That is the mark of true success, for things will never be the same as they were before the project.

*Bob Sennett is the Hanau American Middle School Principal.*

## Building Bridges

by Zahra Hashimi

During this school year 1997/1998 I have had the good fortune to experience and celebrate technology integration first hand in a number of settings and in a number of roles. In the Fall I held the position of Teacher, Preschool Disabled. From this vantage point I was a co-pilot with our preschoolers as well as at times a wide-eyed student as they courageously ventured into the world of

CD ROMs such as Edmark's Sammy's Science House and Asa Mercer's "Grandma and Me" as well as surfed the Internet to such favorite sites as Thomas the Tank Engine and Whale Watching off the Coast of Washington State. Did our preschoolers find a need for a specialized computer mouse? No way - not our 3 and 4 year old students. At times I paused and thought, indeed Bill Gates would also be proud of our accomplishments thus far.

As a parent of five Argonner ES students I marveled at the engaging conversations I heard at home and en

route in our car related to the Internet, CD ROMS, Excel and much more. Indeed I knew technology had taken hold one October evening when we received a surprise phone call from a cousin. We learned that cousin Ali had been deployed with his Virginia reserve Unit to Bosnia. Jawade our 5th grader's first question on the phone was, "Do you have an e-mail address?" Next one of our third grade twins, Jamal chimed in, "Oh, I know what his e-mail address must be, "www.ali.com."

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# Hanau High Hops on Technology Train in the Media/Information Center

*Peggy Lynn, Information Specialist  
Hanau American High School*

Since 1995/96 all of the Hanau schools have been part of the NSF grant to infuse technology into the curriculum and the community. The high school has begun to utilize technology in exciting ways throughout its curriculum since it arrived in the building in February of 1997.

Media Skills, a course that trains students in information processing and management within a media information center, has been wonderfully effected by the infusion of technology. Students are required to complete a project relating in anyway to library media and at Hanau High surpassed my expectations. Four projects in particular deserve note. Three students took an old library orientation presentation (mimeographed - now that's old!) and put it on PowerPoint with many wonderful revisions. Another student decided to create a survey to determine how the media center was being utilized. The survey document itself was imaginatively designed using Word 6.0 Graphics. Yet another student tapped into a Newsletter Wizard found in our Microsoft Office Word 6.0 to devise a book review template as part of a developing project to increase circulation of our leisure reading collection. The last project involved the newest technology in the school, the NT Lab and Office 97. Two students have been working on augmenting the Media Information Center's WEB page, downloading materials from Internet and utilizing the scanner to include pictures in the document.

The impact on the media center has been terrific as students come in daily for support with various projects. Many, many students are now adept at accessing the Internet, available in every classroom. CD-ROM and Internet searches segue into Power Point and HyperStudio presentations. Their ability to locate information has been a skill achieved at a considerably rapid rate; however, more instruction will be necessary in helping students with evaluating the validity of Internet sources. Word processing skills have flourished with term papers and journal writing accessing wizard programs. The inclusion the latter part of this year of Inspiration has been successful with the Learning Strategies classes and should be in general use next school year. When various classes are ready to present their projects, they now come to the media center to view them on the big screen monitor which is connected to a CPU via the Scan Converter, a nifty devise that converts TV's into computer monitors

Not only have teachers and students been in the know with technology but also parents and community members have been welcomed to Families and Technology Workshops during the course of the school year. Now parents have the opportunity to learn along with their students.

## VIEWS

by Kevin McGillivray

The recent Community Day activities and the visit in the last couple of weeks from TERC, Patch High School and DoDEA has given me a chance to really view, through their eyes, the depth of "Technology Integration" in the Hanau Schools. The view is an exciting one! Every teacher in the Hanau School Complex is using technology and most have successfully integrated it into their classrooms and curriculum. Technology has truly become a new tool for classroom use.

On several occasions, I have remarked to the TERC ladies, Liz McNamara and Judy Wasser, that they have that unique "Grandmother view" of our project - they see it periodically throughout the year and say, "My how you've grown!". We in Hanau watch the it grow little by little and often don't attach the significance to the small steps that the occasional visitor sees. But, the growth of our "baby" is fantastic in every sense of the word. TERC CEO, Barbara Sampson recently wrote about her visit to Hanau in the "TERC Times." She said, "It is hard to imagine a more positive transformation in such a short time... so much has happened so fast in Hanau, even enthusiasts have trouble believing it."

The view that the Hanau Model School Partnership is unique in DoDEA, is now being shared by people outside the Hanau community. The research papers from TERC, the presentations at National and International Education conferences, the visitors we have had this year, have all helped to carry the message that our schools are moving forward in giant steps. The Hanau Model School Partnership is truly becoming "A Model for the Future!"

*Kevin McGillivray is the Education Technologist for Hanau Model Schools Partnership*

# Working and Learning on the Internet

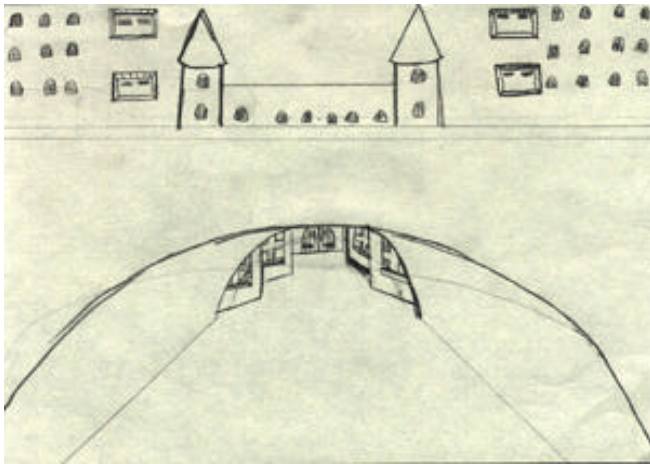
## *DoodleOpolis*

by Ruth Callahan

After a lesson on attaching graphics in e-mail transmissions, sixth graders at Hanau Middle School attached themselves to a global community of peers taking an Online Class called, "DoodleOpolis: Adventures in Urban Architecture."

"We're a Creative Thinking class of 20 at Hanau, Germany, just across the road from what used to be The Holy Roman Empire. The Holy Roman Empire covered most of Europe at one time but it stopped just across Bahn (highway) 8 & 40, a four-lane which dead-ends in Frankfurt, the closest big city."

They affixed our "bulletin heading" to the introduction and into the cosmos -- studying visual and drawing techniques architectural terms and styles, saving



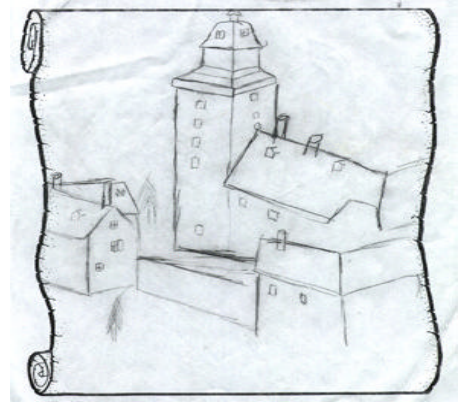
The arch in the foreground narrows the focal point in this German scene.

impressions of their environment in "Doodle Books," as well as taking "virtual field trips," real field trips, simulating city planning in "SimCity 2000," and doing lots and lots of measuring, creative writing and perspective drawing.

"The OnlineClass programs are moderated, interactive which made our initial forage into 'the Web' a great experience."

The teacher guide provided structure and various activities to choose from and our class was joined to others in the USA and around the world via e-mail connections. Our unique situation in Germany, with a wealth of architectural styles to examine, made us proud to contribute. We also were helpers.

One morning, students in South Africa asked a question Shaq, our American basketball player. Kids whipped off his history statistics and told the kids in the class in New London that Shaq attended the 7th, 8th and 9th grade in Fulda. Fulda was a school near here."



Virtual Field Trip, a medieval castle at Steinau.

"So, it wasn't just a drawing program. Although, we did plenty of that, too. One of the most exciting features for these kids was the publishing capabilities. They sent Kid Pix drawings and SimCity journalism writings to the OnlineClass managers and we could see them on the web site the next day."

"I highly recommend the OnlineClass offerings. They're relatively inexpensive and rich in materials." We doodled our way into the Internet and got results!" Visit the OnlineClass home page at

<http://www.onlineclass.com/default.htm>.

For Hanau links, check results links in "DoodleOpolis."

*Ruth Callahan is the Hanau American Middle School Talent Pool sponsor.*

# Upcoming Events

- June 21- 25 National Educators Computer Conference, San Diego, CA: *Enriching Curriculum Packages with Technology: Help for Technology Specialists and Staff Development and Technology: Learning Across the School*
- August 17 –21 Electronic Portfolios and Multimedia Techniques, Workshop, Hanau High School: *Teachers will learn to use multimedia technology tools to help students build and maintain portfolios throughout the school year. Teachers will learn to use scanner and digital cameras to include pictures of students and samples of student work in portfolios. Teachers will learn to use multimedia technology tools to help students build and maintain portfolios throughout the school year. Much, much, more.*

## Conquering Technology

(Continued from page 1)

The school year is now coming to an end. Now, I feel I have a handle on things. I am somewhat knowledgeable of what the Hanau Model Schools Project is all about. Argonner Elementary has excellent teachers who are utilizing technology throughout their curriculum. From Pre-school to Kindergarten to fifth grade there is evidence of the use of technology. One only has to walk into the classrooms to observe students in action or observe the completed projects. It is amazing to me how experienced Argonner's students are in this area. Hat's Off to all of Argonner's staff members.

If only I could find the time to explore various programs .....One step at a time. My goal for School Year 1998-99 is to do exactly that - explore. Next year, I will not be the "New Kid on The Block" (Hanau Model School). Although there will be two new colleagues who will be. What a relief for me! I shall just provide them with a copy of this article to let them know, I've been there, done that, and fully understand that you don't understand.

*Ora C. Flippen-Casper is the principal at Argonner Elementary School.*

## Inspired to Write

(Continued from page 1)

Inspiration is truly an inspiration." Art teacher Mark O'Connor stated, "Hanau High School students are on the cutting edge of computer graphics. They work with virtual landscaping, human modeling, and publishing graphics that

prepare them not only for art publications but designing careers as well. Computers have really enhanced the knowledge and skills of students who were originally afraid of a pencil." "It's exciting to see so many students and teachers learning and growing with technology," responded Kevin McGillivray, educational technologist for the Hanau Schools Complex. "These new innovations should not only increase student publications but should also be reflected in higher scores in student testing programs such as Terra-Nova and SAT's." Reflecting over the school's current successes and future endeavors, Hanau High School's principal,

Dr. Sandra Matthys, testified, "The growth in the use of technology by teachers and students in the high school is an inspiration to me and my fellow administrators who will continue to pursue the acquisition of more technology for the school."

## Building Bridges

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On 5 May was our Multicultural Festival 1998 at Argonner ES. Indeed technology played an important role on this day as well. Our Passports and country stamps were products of Print Shop Deluxe and a colored printer. As we traveled to countries and cultures representing all the world a great deal of research had come from a myriad of Internet sites including a web site, [www.homeworkheaven.com](http://www.homeworkheaven.com), CD ROM atlases, and culminating in

student made PowerPoint presentations. One student in Mike Goff's 4th grade class was so excited about his new understanding of Morocco his enthusiasm was contagious. When asked about his PowerPoint presentation the student said, "just bring me a disk and I will make a copy of my Power Point file for you right now."

It is safe to say that we in the Hessen District Hanau complex have all been bridge builders during this school year. Technology has provided a medium and momentum which has helped us design and cross bridges to the world, bridges to each other, and bridges to the future. This bridge building has been a cooperative venture between teachers and students and parents alike. As eloquently said in an ancient Buddhism saying, "If we face in the right direction, all we have to do is keep on walking." My best hopes are that this is only the beginning for the collective us in Hanau.

*Zara Hashami is the CSC chairperson for Argonner and Sportfield Elementary Schools.*

## Hanau Model Schools Newsletter

Editor in Chief  
*Oren Eddie*

Contributing Editor  
*Kevin McGillivray*  
*Kevin\_McGillivray@ccmail.eur.odedodea.edu*  
*KMcGillivray@compuserve.com*

Publisher /Designer  
*Oren\_Eddie@ccmail.eur.odedodea.edu*  
*101501.3300@compuserve.com*