

# **Supporting Critical Media Literacy in a School**

Presented by Jill Foster and Debbie Vert

What do you think?

What does literacy in  
the 21st century  
mean to you?

# Thinking Differently About How We Educate

Modern students:

- text message on their cellphones
- browse/download movies & music
- know how a TV show will end before the season begins
- research, write and author online content in their spare time
- listen to music, do their homework & text their friends simultaneously

WHAT Do You WANT  
KIDS To Do With  
TECHNOLOGY?

## WRONG ANSWERS

- MAKE PREZIS
- START BLOGS
- CREATE WORDLES
- PUBLISH ANIMOTOS
- DESIGN FLIPCHARTS
- PRODUCE VIDEOS
- POST TO EDMODO
- USE WHITEBOARD
- DEVELOP APPS

## RIGHT ANSWERS

- RAISE AWARENESS
- START CONVERSATIONS
- FIND ANSWERS  
(TO THEIR QUESTIONS)
- JOIN PARTNERS
- CHANGE MINDS
- MAKE A DIFFERENCE
- TAKE ACTION
- DRIVE CHANGE

TECHNOLOGY IS A TOOL, NOT A  
LEARNING OUTCOME.

# Traditional Literacy

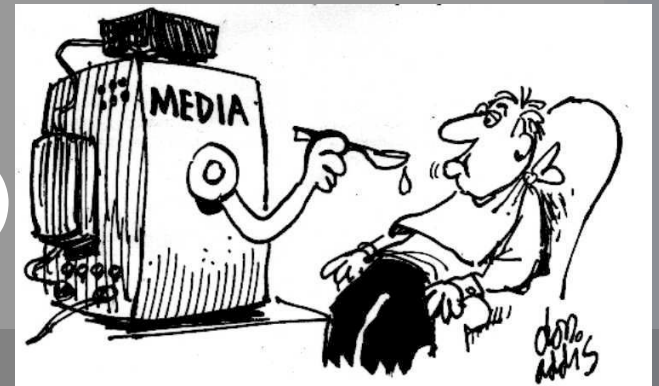
UNESCO (2004) defined literacy as ....

“... the ability to identify, understand, interpret, create, communicate and compute, using print and written materials associated with varying contexts. Literacy involves a continuum of learning in enabling individuals to achieve their goals, to develop their knowledge and potential, and to fully participate in the community and wider society.” (p.13)



# Media Literacy

- one of the multi-literacies
- encompasses multimodalities
- includes the study of mass communication and popular culture
- 4 approaches to teaching media literacy (Kellner and Share, 2007)





# T4L

“While students are readily drawn to social media, they do not necessarily use them critically to gain deeper understanding. The Learning Commons can build on the entertainment value that students find in social media to further learning opportunities for critical and creative thought.”



# How do we do that?

- TL skill level and availability
- make it easy for teacher's to access and troubleshoot, ie. tech team
- Collaborative culture
- Principal and team leaders engaged in ongoing discussions and planning - *"The principal is key in establishing and encouraging working partnerships among staff and students. The principal must provide the climate for cooperation, experimentation and growth."* - T4L
- allow PEDs ...aka authentic real-life practice of skills learnt





# Inquiry is the key!



“Knowledge building” vs. “Knowledge telling”

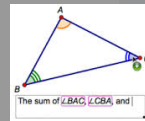
- shift teacher’s thinking
- lead students to learn how to learn
- Teach students to ask questions, analyze, interpret and evaluate
- acknowledges and values global cultures and practices

*“Being able to think critically and creatively will prepare learners to approach opportunities with intelligence. Learning requires flexible and inquiring minds that not only take in information, but also question it. Students need multiple opportunities to practice and test their abilities through inquiry.” - T4L*

# Explore...Think....Question...Connect

Kiva: [Watch the video](#) or [kiva.org](http://kiva.org)

[e-pals](#) and [I-earn Canada](#)



Geometers Sketchpad: [instructor notes](#), [project ideas](#), [training webinars](#)

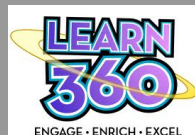
Moodle



Research tools: [Britannica](#), [Learn360](#), [BookFlix](#), [Edugains unit](#), [instaGrok](#)

Pumpkin Pie Math

Social Studies



# Inquiry in Kindergarten

## Kindergarten Inquiry...

It started with a book....



Then it lead to some good questions like...

? Where in the world do they live? What do they eat? How do they keep warm? Why do the little penguins stay under the other penguins white part? How long can they hold their breath? Do they eat only fish? Why do they slide on their bellies?

Then it was a letter to Mrs. Vert for some non-fiction books.



We also found information from:



Google



Look at what we have learned!

Penguin Questions

Q: How do penguins keep warm?

A: -feathers -2. layer 1. Water proof 2. fluffy warm  
-blubber (fat)  
-stay together as a group, take turns on the cold outside

Q: Why do the little penguins stay under the other penguins white part?

A: -must keep warm to survive

Q: How do their feet stay warm?

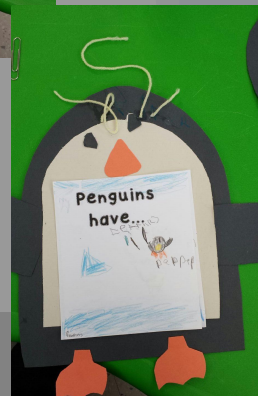
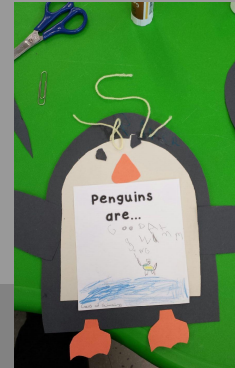
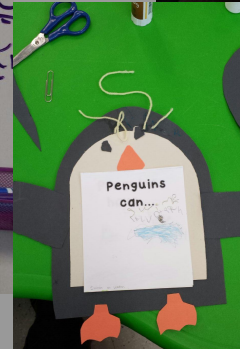
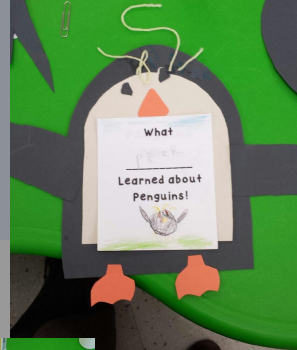
A:

Q: How long can they hold their breath under water?

A: for six (6) minutes

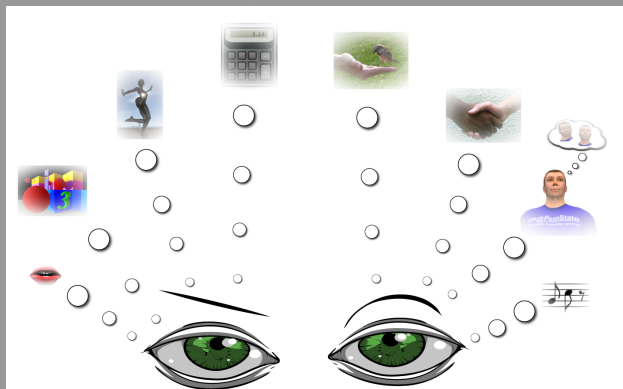
Penguins...

can...	are...	have...
FEED their Babies (macrom)	BIRDS (Apten)	ORANGE FEET (macrom)
BELLY SLIDE (macrom)	Long, tall (Faith)	BABIE SLIN eggs (Lute)
JUMP into the water (macrom)	GREAT WIMMY (macrom)	2 FLIPPERS (Lute)
HOLD their breath for a long time (macrom)	BLACK, white (macrom)	FEATHERS (Lute)
SWIM (macrom)	GREAT PARENTS (macrom)	WARM feathers - 2 sets of feathers (Lute)
Waddle (macrom)	out in the ocean for WEEKS to get food (macrom)	(1 waterproof 2 soft, warm, cool)
hold their B (macrom)	Some Drown when they are young (macrom)	egg shells that are thick to protect them against the cold



# Ways to Differentiate - Learning Process

"Teachers who reach out and embrace technology can certainly tell you that it's much easier to address kids' interests, because there's a way to find almost anything you need that you can connect kids to, and that does make your subject relevant," (Dr. Carol Ann Tomlinson, Author and Differentiated Instruction Expert)



It is in our best interest to use multiple activities in order to involve our students' most developed intelligence in active learning.

# Differentiation

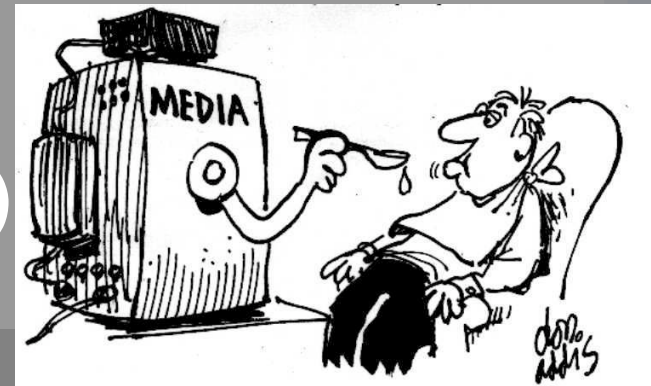
- isn't easy
- should help teachers and students, not be an add on
- requires that all players understand the why (big idea), what (learning goal) and how (success criteria)
- assistive technology



"If learning is enjoyable and challenging, learners will do it enthusiastically. Think of a video game that players are keen to concentrate on for hours. They do it because it's "hard fun." Turning hard work into hard fun ***requires helping students relate their work to their own lives and the culture in which they live.*** This type of learning, inherent in the Learning Commons, is sticky — it stays with the learner. And it creates an environment where the individual will grow and flourish." - T4L

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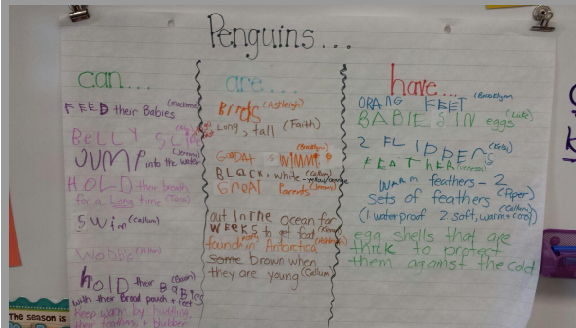
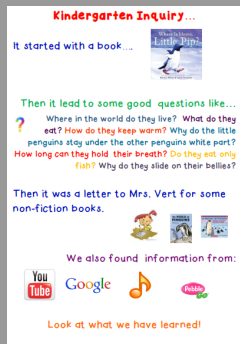
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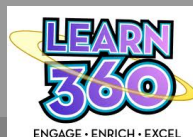
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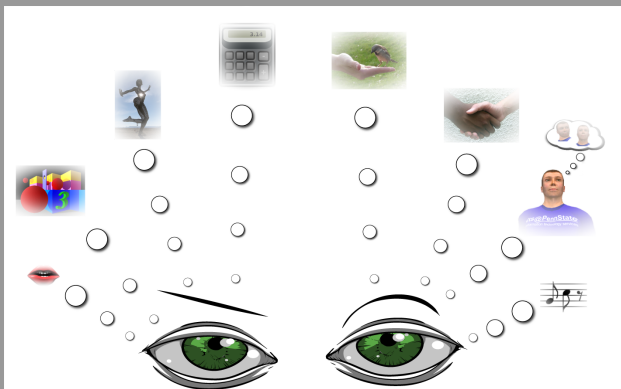
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