

# TOWN OF FAIRVIEW TECHNOLOGY NEWSLETTER



February 2012

## Special points of interest:

- The Tablet Generation



## Inside this issue:

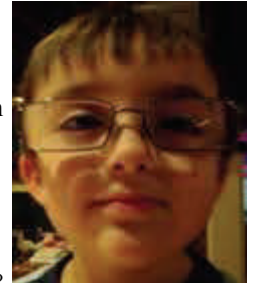
iBook 2

Internet Speed 3

## “The Tablet Generation” by Bill Baxter

As a technologist I love new toys so when I got the IPAD 2 I was both excited and skeptical about its possibilities. What I learned over this past year is not so much about me and how I use the device but about how my 3½ year old grandson, Julien, and other pre-kindergarten children use them. What captured my thoughts is that Tablets and the applications that go on them will fundamentally change how our children learn and absorb information both at home and at school.

My journey to enlightenment all started shortly after I received my new IPAD. My grandson was immediately taken to it as an entertainment device. I showed him how to play Angry Birds and he played until we told him to put it down. After he went home, I started researching children’s learning applications for the IPAD (especially free ones) because I’d rather have him learn than just play games. Over the past year I have been absolutely amazed at the IPAD’s ability to transform dull learning topics into cool interactive, visually stunning topics. My grandson has become one smart little kid. He can read and write the alphabet, he knows his numbers up to 50, he can add, subtract simple numbers, he knows the solar system’s 8 planets and most of their temperatures – Venus is hot, Uranus is cold. He knows where Texas is on the Earth’s surface and likes to play the piano. Here’s a look at the go to apps Julien loves.



**Mathboard Addition Free.** My grandson is a bit young for this but he’s catching on and it’s fun to play with the chalk.



**Solar System.** This one is pricy but WOW, what a cool interactive 3D way to teach kids about the solar system, planets, and moons.



**Fill your IPAD up with the most amazing children’s books** such as “The Three Little Pigs”, “Larry the Lizard”, and “Nighty Night”



**Abby’s Preschool ABC’s.** Another cool learning game that helps teach the kids their ABC’s



**The Penguins of Madagascar.** An engaging story that provides 3 different ways to read; Auto Play, Read To Me, or Read It Myself.



**Counting 123.** A free app that makes learning how to count fun.



**ABC Letter Tracing.** This fun little game has helped my grandson learn how to write the alphabet.



**Coyote’s Tale.** This is a go to app for “little man”. Interactive and visually cool. We sit on the sofa and read this story together. (over and over ☺)



**Piano Free.** This very cool app plays on its own or has “falling keys” that help teach you which keys to touch and the timing too.



**Google Earth.** Not just for adults, kids love to spin the globe in space, see the lights of the cities from space and zoom in on their home state

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“Score 1 point for Technology.”



### “The Tablet Generation” Continued

This article sounds a bit like bragging but I recently had a great conversation with a Kindergarten teacher and she tells a similar story. She asked each class if they knew how to use a Smart Phone or Tablet. On average over 50% of her children had experience with the iPad or Smart Phone. She also noted an increased level of knowledge and exposure to the fundamentals (Reading, Writing,

Math). I credit the IPAD for making it easy to teach my grandson topics that typically wait until kindergarten.

So here’s the point. Just 3 years ago, kids didn’t have the ability to pinch, swipe, zoom, spin, listen, and watch on a device as easy as the IPAD and other tablets. These capabilities and the wealth of knowledge available on a single device have fundamentally changed the way our kids

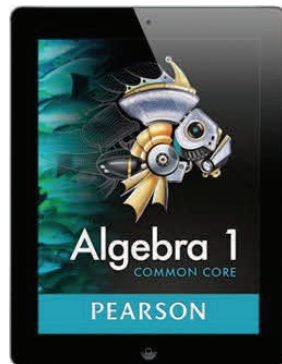
are learning, and they’re learning faster as well. Right before our eyes the world of learning and education is changing. No longer are dull 2 dimensional textbooks and lectures the order of the day. Now, just grab yourself a Tablet and you’ll have the world and all its knowledge at your fingertips.

Score 1 point for Technology.

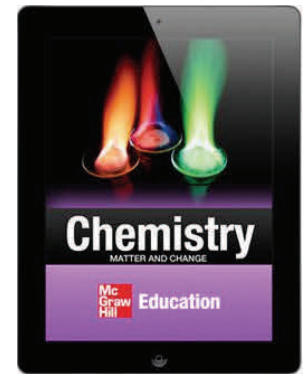
### Are Paper Textbooks a Thing of the Past? By Jon Skuta

I can remember the days in middle school and high school when the first day of classes meant waiting in long lines to pick up the five or six textbooks needed for that year’s coursework. In the upcoming years, students may not have to wait in the long lines or have to carry around those heavy backpacks to and from the house. A few years ago the iPad changed everything, but according to Apple it is now “changing the classroom.”

According to their website the “iPad inspires creativity and hands-on learning with features you won’t find in any other educational tool — on a device that students really want to use. Powerful built-in apps and apps from the App Store let students engage with content in interactive ways, find information in an instant, and access an entire library wherever they go. And now, with the introduction of Multi-Touch textbooks, iPad takes learning to a whole new level.”



In a recent update to the iBook app, used by millions to download books for reading, iBook 2.0 introduced textbooks. Apple truly believes that these new dynamic textbooks will be something that no student will want to put down. These are textbooks of the digital age that include interactive videos and



3D images. The best part is the ability to highlight and take notes directly on the iPad.

The top K-12 publishers, including Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, McGraw Hill Education, and Pearsons, are already creating these digital masterpieces for the classroom. How long will it be before your student is bringing an iPad home instead of backpack full of textbooks?

### How Fast Are You Running?

Have you ever been sitting at the computer and thought to yourself “the internet sure seems slow today.” Well you may be right. The best way to figure out if that is the case is to run a simple speed check that can be done through multiple websites. John Adler, Chairman of the Technology Advisory Committee, says his preferred website is [www.speedtest.net](http://www.speedtest.net). So the next time you think your internet is not running up to speed or you have upgraded your service through your internet provider and want to see if the extra money makes a difference, run a speed test!

## Town of Fairview

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### Keeping it Country



### Town of Fairview Technological Goals

- Provide residents with the best possible infrastructure, consistent with the Town's Comprehensive Plan.
- Serve the needs of the Town Council with recommendations, analysis and information.
- Listen to, and share with residents technology questions, issues, and opportunities.
- Work with existing and new service providers to meet the needs of our residents and businesses.
- Promote free choice and open competition.

We're on the web! Check us out! [www.fairviewtexas.org](http://www.fairviewtexas.org)

### Are you a Licensed Amateur Radio Operator?

When disaster strikes, Amateur Radio operators (Hams) can provide vital assistance to a municipality in the event that main lines of communication are inoperable. A few types of emergencies where hams have helped in the past include: earthquakes, tornadoes and severe weather, earthquakes, motorist accidents, fire and chemical spills, and search and rescue. If you are a licensed amateur radio operator and would be available to assist if needed, please email [jskuta@fairviewtexas.org](mailto:jskuta@fairviewtexas.org)

