

pre view

There is a lot going on this winter and spring.

Even the usual events, like the ITEA Conference in Nashville in March, will mark new milestones this year. ITEA will unveil the technological literacy standards that will provide written criteria for student assessment, professional development, and program improvement.



National Engineers Week also has some new programs this year and a host of popular ones from the past. They are all featured in this issue's Ties to a Broader Network. The free, online West Point Bridge Design Contest is back again this year, too, and open to all US students ages thirteen through twelfth grade. Check it out <http://bridgecontest.usma.edu>.

This issue also marks the return of one of our favorite engineers and authors, Harry Roman. While I was editing Harry's piece on New Jersey inventors, I got a call from one (an inventor, that is). Jeanne Clements is a high school English and drama teacher who felt she could improve kids' SAT scores. Several major publishing companies rejected her CD-ROM idea, but she persevered. Verbal Edge is now patented and on the market. A blurb about it appears in Resource Center. We talked her into writing an article on her design and problem solving experiences. Look for it in March.

None of Rob Massey's middle school students will receive patents on their roller coasters, but that doesn't dampen their enthusiasm. Their challenge is to design and make a track that causes a marble to be the slowest in reaching the bottom. Sounds easy—try it.

Someone who might be receiving a patent is Soojin Choi. Soojin developed a computerized pattern recognition program supported by a touch screen computer mounted in furniture custom-designed for small children. Her KinderBoard on KinderTable is extraordinary.

Soojin isn't the only teacher we're featuring this month who is reaching our younger technologists. Lynn Hull developed and runs the only K-5 technology lab in the Philadelphia school system. Can kids that age understand robotics? Certainly they can. We've known Lynn for years and now we have an article highlighting her contributions.

Finally, John Hutchinson notes that Computer Aided Drawing (CAD) has been around for quite awhile and that many CAD curricula look like a software version of mechanical drawing. They shouldn't. With today's design software, your students can be designing and making in 3D, right from their introductory course.

What do your courses look like? Share them with our readers by writing an article for Ties. You are our best source of programs that work.

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