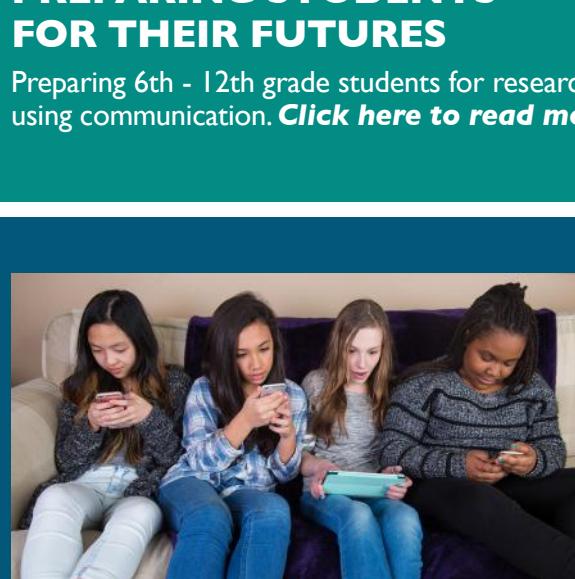


MAY 2017  
GRANT WOOD AEA  
**INFO@**

Monthly information for teacher-librarians  
and media contacts



**Click here to read all full-length stories**



### PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THEIR FUTURES

Preparing 6th - 12th grade students for research using communication. [Click here to read more.](#)



### ONLINE RESOURCES FEATURE: DIGITAL LITERACY

A free resource on digital citizenship to use with 7th - 12th grade students. [Click here for more information.](#)



### LESSON IDEA FOR 6TH - 8TH GRADERS: UNDERSTANDING EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

Deanna offers suggestions to incorporate communication into the research process. [Click here to read more.](#)



### “THINK, MAKE, INNOVATE”: WEARABLE CARDBOARD

Join Jason and Amber for the 2nd season of the **Makerspace Challenge Show**.



### LOOKING FOR GREAT PROFESSIONAL SUMMER READING?

We can help you out...for free! [Click here to find out how.](#)



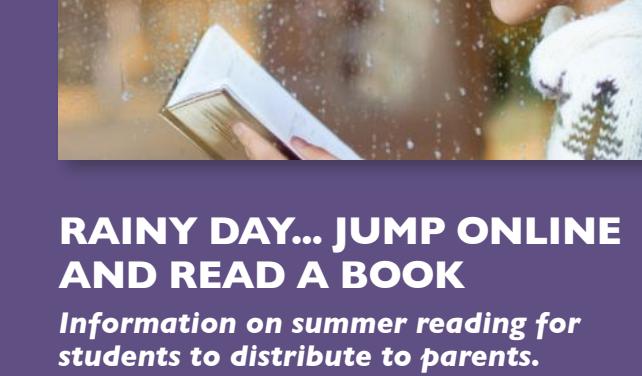
### WHAT'S NEW IN THE GWAEA MEDIA CENTER?

New resources in the GWAEA Media Center! [Click here to find out what they are.](#)



### SUMMER VAN DELIVERY

Check out the details for summer van delivery.



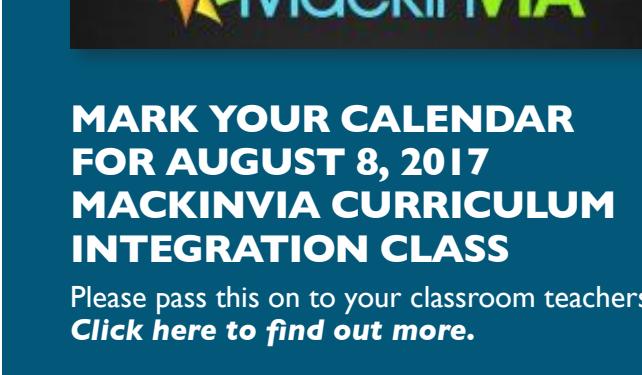
### THE WORK CENTER

We're open all summer from 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. It's a great time to get ahead on projects!



### SCHOOL YEAR CHECKLIST FOR SCHOOL LIBRARIES

Lots to do in the school library? [Click here to access some practical information](#)



### GRANT WOOD AEA MEDIA CENTER SUMMER HOURS

Please drop by to visit us this summer! [Click here to find out when we're open this summer.](#)



### Congratulations to Duane Van Horn!

Duane Van Horn, Grant Wood AEA Van Driver, is the 2017 GWAEA Caring Colleague! [Click here to read more.](#)



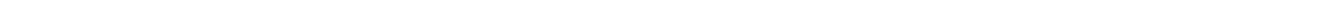
### MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR AUGUST 8, 2017 MACKINVIA CURRICULUM INTEGRATION CLASS

Please pass this on to your classroom teachers. [Click here to find out more.](#)



### THE “WEEK OF MAKING” IS JUNE 26-30, 2017

Interested in ways to incorporate creativity into your classroom? Join Grant Wood Digital Learning Team for a “Week of Making”! [Click here to learn how to get involved.](#)



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## PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THEIR FUTURES

In October 2016, Deanna began a series on preparing students for the 21st century. This is the last of the series. To access past articles in this series, go to [2016-2017 Info@ GWAEA Media](#).

This month Deanna suggests ways to build communication into the research process for students in grades 6-12.

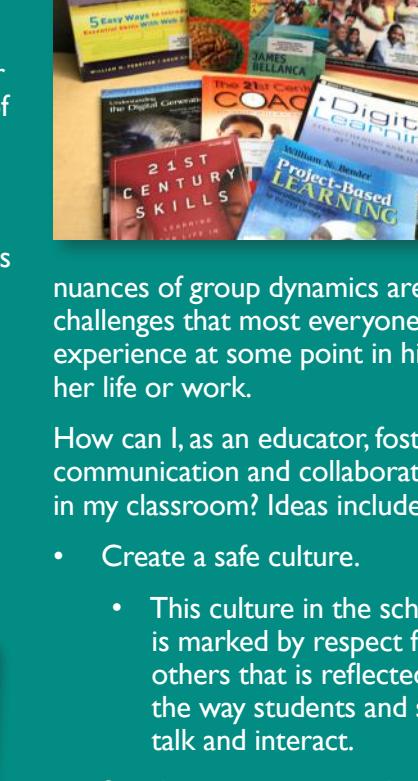
Communication is a broad term that incorporates multi-faceted levels of interacting and sharing of information. Students are motivated to communicate when they use technology.

**Communication skills are important factors in student success in the workplace, college and life.**

Since technology is an essential part of communication in the 21st century, the link between communication and technology for students is natural. However, communication in the 21st century is more than just being able to effectively use digital media. It's about personal interactions as well. We must remind our students that responsible communication practice puts forth their best. It represents who they are as individuals in every relationship and the alliances they make in their lives.

**Whether talking face-to-face, blogging, texting, or creating a visual product, students' values and beliefs are defined by how well they communicate with others.**

Communication goes hand-in-hand with Collaboration. These two 21st century skills are more than activities; they are essential life skills. As adults, students will have to effectively communicate in more forms, using a wider variety of tools than ever before. Articulating thoughts and ideas, and navigating through the



nuances of group dynamics are challenges that most everyone will experience at some point in his/her life or work.

How can I, as an educator, foster communication and collaboration in my classroom? Ideas include:

- Create a safe culture.
  - This culture in the school is marked by respect for others that is reflected in the way students and staff talk and interact.
- Set classroom norms which incorporate positive attributes of an effective digital citizen.
  - Communicate ideas clearly, whether in writing, speaking or presenting.
  - Accept differences of opinions and styles.
  - Assist other group members with your expertise.

### How do I create opportunities for students to communicate?

- Expand the ways students can collaboratively demonstrate understanding of the principles of communication such as:
  - Assisting an administrator with a presentation.
  - Explaining to a younger student "how to...".
  - Persuading the teacher/principal to allow a privilege.
- Set up occasions to use various technologies to communicate/collaborate
  - Phone text
  - Email
  - Google Hangouts
  - Skype video conference

### Some helpful hints to get started include:

- Assessing the physical room and adjusting, as needed, to make sure the students can sit together and discuss their tasks face-to-face.
- Knowing the students' learning styles or personality traits to help you to divide the work initially.
- Having students take different group roles (writer, technical director, main presenter, researcher) throughout the year. This will allow students to gain skills and to learn how to contribute in multiple ways.

Deanna's recommendation for resources on Communication as a 21st century skill include:

- [The Critical 21st Century Skills Every Student Needs and Why](#)
- [Teaching Students how to have a conversation](#)
- [Communication, Collaboration are Key to Success in School, Workplace, and Life](#)
- [Teachers leverage digital tools to improve teens' writing](#)
- [Common Core in Action: Why collaboration and communication matter](#)
- [How Communication and Collaboration Contribute to School Improvement](#)
- [Communication and Collaboration](#)
- [Communication tools](#)
- [Supporting Communication and Collaboration in Project Based Learning Activities](#)

**Teachers must provide an opportunity for the students to develop a framework of communication and collaboration skills that will empower them to achieve their dreams.**

## ONLINE RESOURCES FEATURE: DIGITAL LITERACY

When thinking about how to incorporate digital resources into instruction or activities for students, consider the following statements from Digital Literacy:

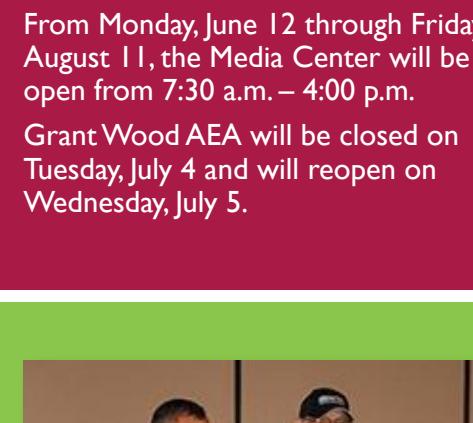
"Teens spend more than fifty-three hours a week online - more time than grown ups spend in a full-time job."

"The Internet is an exciting and educational place but also has dangers."

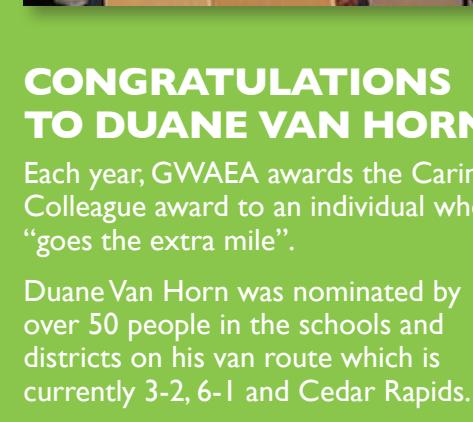
"Prepare to have some fun adventures and discover something new and exciting - but do it safely." (Digital Literacy).

To prepare students for digital citizenship for grades 7 - 12, take a look at Digital Literacy, a free online resource for schools and districts in GWAEA.

**Step 1a-b:** Under the Educators tab on [www.gwaea.org](#), select Online Resources.



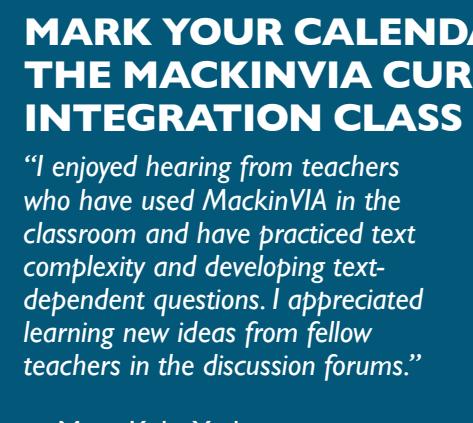
**Step 2:** From the online resources page, select Digital Literacy.



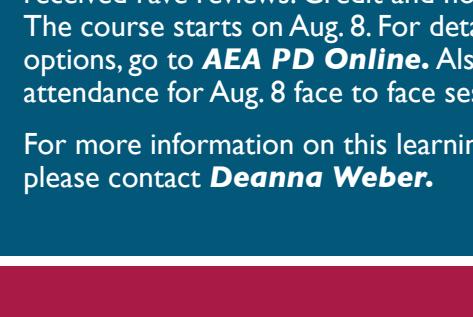
**Note:** This step will be bypassed if your site is an IP authenticated location.

**Note:** If you don't know the username or password, check with your teacher librarian or contact the Grant Wood AEA Media Center at 319-399-6754 or 800-642-4107.

**Step 4:** Click on a Communication Basics.



**Step 5:** Click on "All About Safe Communication" to begin.



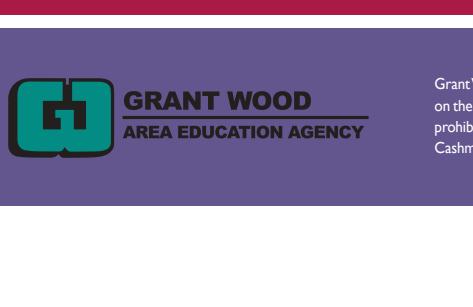
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**Digital Literacy**

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