Here are some examples of great websites to visit with students. Some of these websites feature interesting articles about technology or the history of computing. Others are excellent examples of Flash animation, Java programming and filmmaking.

• [http://www.sandiegozoo.org](http://www.sandiegozoo.org)

The San Diego Zoo’s website features great videos and facts about animals, along with a special “Panda Central” section dedicated solely to the zoo’s collection of Chinese pandas. The site even includes educational projects and experiments for young students to do in class or at home. There is also information on the importance of the conservation of animals and animal habitats.

• [http://www.cbi.umn.edu](http://www.cbi.umn.edu)

The Charles Babbage Institute Center for the History of

(continued on page 2)
(Websites, continued)

Information Technology (CBI) is an historical archives and research center of the University of Minnesota. CBI studies the history of information technology and information processing and their impact on society. The “Resources on the History of Computing” section provides interesting links to other sites that research and recount the history of computers.

- http://www.atom.com

AtomShockwave is an independent film company that provides multimedia entertainment to businesses and consumers. The website features short films of many different genres from all over the world. This is an exemplary site for learning about filmmaking and Flash animation. It was also named #1 “Best Site for 2002” by Yahoo! Internet Life.

- http://www.si.edu/science_and_technology/computers_and_communications/

This Smithsonian Institute webpage documents the evolution of technology and computers during the Information Age. It has a small collection of computer art from the 1960s as well as an extensive collection of artifacts, photos, and even interviews about computer history. This site is a great resource for seeing the evolution of computers and technology.

- http://www.google.com

Google.com is a powerful search engine that can match a search query to thousands of sites within seconds. An important feature on google.com is the “Safe Search Filtering” option that allows the user to set a high level of content filtering for young children. This can be selected by choosing “Preferences” on the home page and then selecting the desired level of filtering.

- http://www.kidsclick.org

Kidsclick.org is another great, safe search engine specifically designed for elementary-level children. The site lists a wide variety of links to webpages with topics that range from “weird and mysterious” to “society and government.” Each subject contains links to websites that are appropriate and informative for kids. • • •

By Lia Daniels

SBPS Technology Department Staff News

- The Technology Department would like to announce that the temporary part-time district wiring positions posted on October 7, 2002 have been filled. The new members of the district’s wiring crew are John Piznar, Brian Young, and Anthony DeMarco.

- The Technology Department would like to announce that the position for a temporary part-time data processing clerk posted on October 8, 2002 has been filled by Lia Daniels.

- Mike Buttitta, the District Technician responsible for Brunswick Acres, Cambridge, Indian Fields, and Brooks Crossing at Deans, will be leaving the department on November 1. While Mike has enjoyed his work in the schools, he will be moving on to further his education in the hopes of becoming a teacher someday. We wish him well and continued success in the future.

Due to Mike Buttitta’s absence, the district technician weekly school schedule will be revised and changes will be announced soon. • • •
The Read 180 Program Moves to the High School

http://teacher.scholastic.com/read180/index.htm

*Read 180* is a reading intervention program developed by Scholastic, Inc. to improve reading skills of students who read below grade level. This program utilizes laptop computers and Scholastic, Inc. software to create a series of highly motivating and individualized programs. The name, *Read 180*, refers to the 180 degree turnaround of students’ reading skills at the end of the program.

After the proposal made by Dr. Samuel Stewart, Crossroads South implemented a pilot *Read 180* program in January of 2002. The class met Monday through Thursday from 3:30pm to 5:15pm. According to Charleen Shackleford, director of *Read 180*, the program allowed 15 students to participate. These students participated until June, and some even continued for four weeks during the summer. This year, the program operates in Crossroads North and Crossroads South, Tuesday through Thursday, from 2:30pm to 4:15pm. In total, there are 30 program participants between the two schools. “It is our hope that students who need to continue the program will have the opportunity to do so at the high school level.” says Mrs. Shackleford.

Fortunately, this year, a pilot *Read 180* program headed by English teacher Patricia Abitabilo has been introduced at the high school. These *Read 180* students are primarily from reading workshops, reading HAP, and Special Education classes.

A typical *Read 180* curriculum requires ninety minutes of instructional practice. The first twenty minutes is dedicated to whole-class instruction that may include shared reading, reading aloud, or mini lessons. The next sixty minutes are divided into three twenty-minute rotations as students move to different workstations. They work independently using the *Read 180* software, have small group instruction, and read independently or listen to modeled reading with *Read 180* Audiobooks. The last ten minutes are used for a whole-class wrap-up that concludes with journal writing.

*Read 180’s* effectiveness is partially due to the appealing subject matter of the books that motivates students to continue reading. The books survey different subject areas, such as history, culture, science, and math, so students receive a diversified and enjoyable reading experience while learning new vocabulary and increasing their reading fluency. All the readings are suited to different levels. The Audiobooks’ diverse topics include Cleopatra VII: Daughter of the Nile by Kristiana Gregory and Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan. The *Read 180* paperbacks are just as unique as the Audiobooks, featuring stories about Muhammad Ali, Helen Keller, and World War II.

*By Lia Daniels*
New Internet Security Policy

The South Brunswick School District, in an effort to continue receiving federal funding for technological purchases, has decided to implement the basic Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA). With CIPA, websites that may not be suitable for children will be blocked from their web browsers. This decision has come after many recent court rulings and federal legislation requiring that public school Internet usage must have protective filtering and blocking of Internet content.

District Public Meeting

On October 17, 2002, the South Brunswick School District held a public meeting to review the district’s decision to implement the basic CIPA requirement for filtering and blocking Internet content. The meeting was held in the High School Library to address parents’ concerns regarding this decision.

Internet Content Censorship and E-Rate Funds

Although censoring Internet content has always been controversial, restricting any websites considered inappropriate for children would not only protect students, but district schools would continue receiving governmental funds. Filtering and blocking certain websites is essential in order to continue receiving the E-rate funds, which may total more than $100,000 annually. The E-rate program, a governmentally-funded program that ensures that all eligible schools and libraries have affordable access to modern telecommunications and information services, donates $2.25 billion annually and provides libraries and schools with discounts, often referred to as the “E-rate.”

Therefore, the South Brunswick School District must formally produce a security policy. A security policy is a hardware and software control to enforce the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) already in place within the district. This control “defines which assets can be accessed - that is, read, changed, deleted, downloaded - and by whom” (PC Week, Intranet and Internet Firewall Strategies, 1996). AT&T Managed Firewall Service (AT&T MFS) will act as a filter between the Internet and the South Brunswick internal local area network (LAN) and wide area network (WAN). This allows all of South Brunswick’s web servers to be protected behind the firewall on an internal network. (A firewall prevents unauthorized users from gaining access to a computer network. It can also monitor the transfer of information to and from the network.) AT&T MFS will provide offsite monitoring, technical support, security encryption, and activity reporting as part of the service. This new firewall will guard children from an unfiltered Internet while providing additional security from hackers, crackers, SPAM, and even terrorists.

Student Access from Home

Additionally, the district would like to achieve its next goal for the new firewall: the extension of student access to the network from home. The Technology Department is planning a way to make this dream into a reality. • • •