Next Step Forward

Ed Tech Week

Monday
Ed tech week

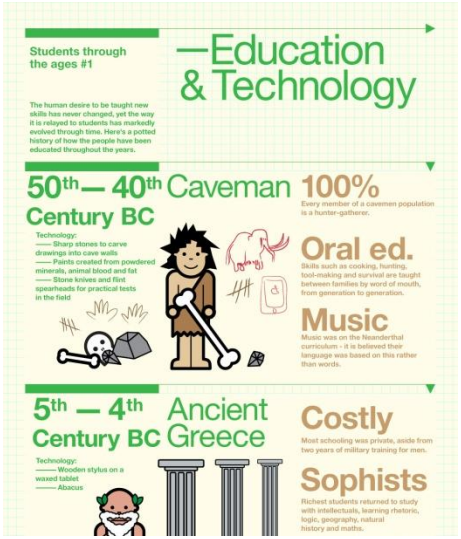
This week we will talk about Ed tech: its history, benefits and limitations. We will discuss the best ways of integrating tech into the classroom and building a successful tech program. Stay tuned!

"It's called 'reading'. It's how people install new software into their brains"

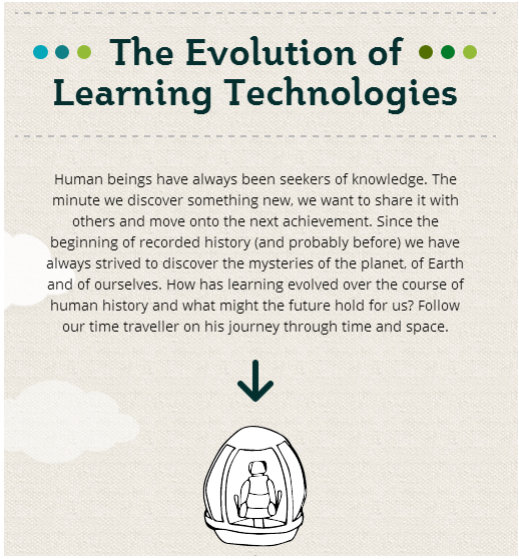
Before having a look at the resources, take a moment to reflect on your personal position as regards tech in education. Share your views with us!

Tuesday

Brief history of tech & ed



http://www.edudemic.com/a-quick-look-at-the-history-of-education-technology/

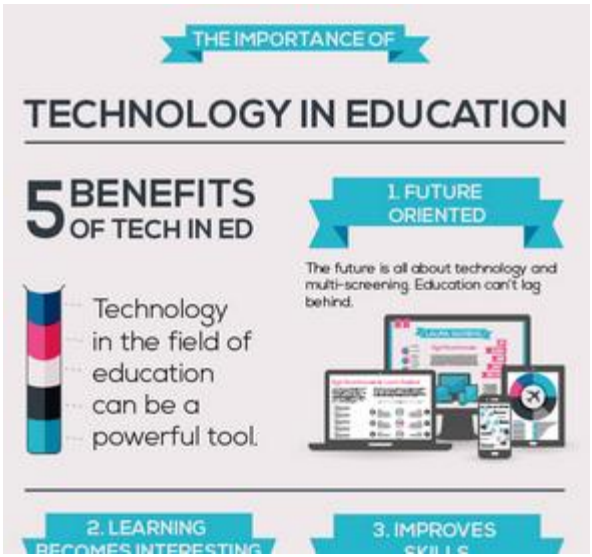


http://www.opencolleges.edu.au/informed/features/the-evolution-of-learning-technology/

Wednesday

Benefits of tech in education

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kMi13DoDBAM



http://elearninginfographics.com/the-importance-of-technology-in-education-infographic/

Thursday

Will tech revolutionize ed?

SOMETIMES THE QUESTIONS ARE COMPLICATED AND THE ANSWERS ARE SIMPLE.

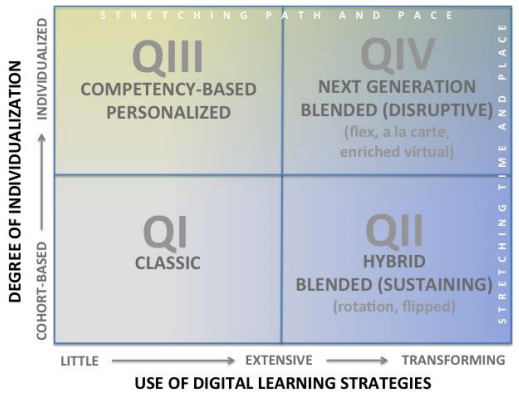
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-2d4lHAE9Fo

http://ajjuliani.com/shifting-ed-tech-narrative/

http://ideas.ted.com/2014/09/03/theres-no-app-for-good-teaching/

Friday
Build your tech program

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jason-saltmarsh/how-to-build-a-successful_b_6329300.html



http://gettingsmart.com/2014/06/moving-towards-next-generation-learning/

Saturday
Next Steps

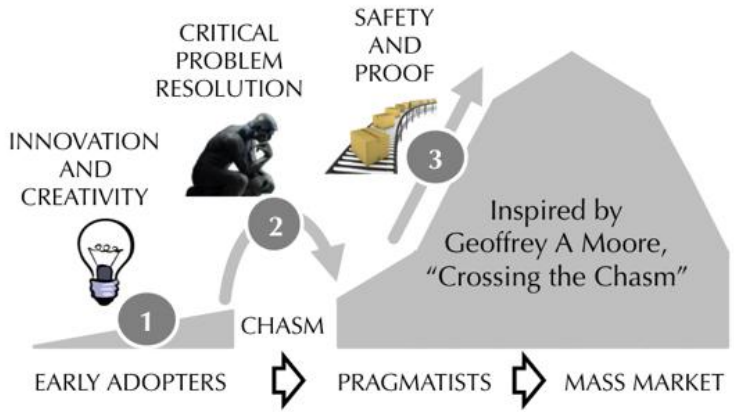
http://www.wise-qatar.org/education-technology-classrooms-jordan-shapiro

Next Step Fwd

http://nextstepfwd.weebly.com/next-step-forward.html

Sunday
Word order matters

Based on Rogers' diffusion of innovations model, today´s teachers are urged to become early adopters of educational technology for the benefit of their students. However, instead of worrying about where in the adoption curve each instructor fits in; educators should become familiar with the main factors that influence the adoption of an innovation in the first place. In fact, it is precisely the discussion of these factors that help people cross the chasm and become adopters, as shown in the following picture:



Source: http://www.inflexion-point.com/Blog/bid/72236/Research-Proves-That-Most-Customers-Prefer-Certainty-to-Creativity

According to Rogers, the evaluation of an innovation's competence takes into account its:

- Relative advantage
- Compatibility with existing values and practices
- Simplicity and ease of use
- Trialability (The extent to which the innovation can be tested or experimented with before a commitment to adopt is made)
- Observability (The extent to which the innovation provides tangible results)

History shows that education has always been aided by tools. Moreover, most teachers agree that technology has the potential to motivate and improve students' skills if used with a sound purpose in mind. However, many instructors are not using technology in their classrooms as much as they could simply because they lack confidence. Most educators have been tricked into thinking that EdTech is all about complex technology and gadgets, strange acronyms or mission impossible tasks. Nevertheless, taking a closer look at the concept, it is evident that the educational part goes first. And the fact is that there is nobody like a teacher to see the real educational value of something! Believe it or not, this is much simpler than most people think.

- First, choose a technology you find relevant to the learning objectives you have designed and that is compatible with your values and practices. Remember to select something that does not represent an impossible or has a long learning curve. Take into account that context matters and the person who knows best about your students' needs is you.
- Second, try it out and check its results. Take time to evaluate if the tool you have chosen helped students achieve the learning objectives and if it provided functional improvement.
- Finally, join others and share your experience. Being part of network of educators interested in the topic is probably the most encouraging way to start and it has the extra benefit of learning from their experiences!

If you follow these three simple steps, you will be able to innovate your teaching practice and improve your students' learning experience, one tool at a time. But most importantly, you will develop a solid judgment of Ed Tech in practical ways. This is essential as most teachers do not have proper training or much saying as regards the school's policy on the subject. So, the key is to just start where you are and with what you already have. There are many free useful resources to help you out. That is, after all, Next Step Forward´s purpose…

And hopefully, we serve you well. ☺

References

Rogers, E. M. (2010). *Diffusion of innovations*. Simon and Schuster.

For a good summary of this book see
http://www.enablingchange.com.au/Summary_Diffusion_Theory.pdf

http://nextstepfwd.weebly.com/