PALS Summary – February 15th Lecture, Utilizing Technology for School Success

On February 15th, Lab School faculty Dan Hartmann and Jennifer Sherman gave a lecture on Utilizing Technology for School Success - Digital Tools for Supporting Students with Learning Differences. After the lecture, Lab parent Mary McGann sent the following note to the parents in her daughter's class and has agreed to let PALS circulate it to all parents. Thank you Mary!

Note also that PALS attended the lecture and we were particularly impressed with Jennifer Sherman's description of teaching "The Waste Land" poem by T.S. Eliot using a "Waste Land Ipad app". Kids could read the poem, read it with annotations, review the original manuscript, see a video of a "Waste Land" play, or listen to the audio book (read by various people, including Alec Guinness and Vigo Mortensen). Different kids would "access" the poem in different ways. After that they discussed the poem in great depth, much more so than in the past without the app!

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To Parents in Ms. Van Dyke's Class,

I was able to attend last night's lecture and I thought it had such good information that I wanted to ensure you all were aware of it.   I am a strong believer and supporter of having technology in the class and I think it can assist and be a tool to use to engage children in their own learning.   My daughter Jackie Lamb is a student who struggles to learn but given the right tools, techniques and technology she can demonstrate her knowledge base.

I wanted to forward to all of you information that I think is pertinent to our kids.    The lecture last night was put on by two of Lab's most gifted teachers (in my opinion) Dan Hartmann and Jennifer Sherman who teach in the high school.   The presentation I have attached that you can look through contains material that I think many parents might not be aware of in how technology can be such an incredible game changer for our kids.   Dan and Jennifer in their daily teaching have integrated technology into their lessons and have engaged their students in how to learn.    This was a presentation to see and hear live because the depth of knowledge and commitment to their students and their in-depth knowledge of transformational technology is incredible.

So I hope you look through the material and if you have questions or comments please let me know and I will forward onto PALS to see if we can have Dan and Jennifer do another presentation if there is enough interest. Please keep in mind that the technology they presented and their methods are what they are doing today but they are limited in accessibility for all students because of a lack of infrastructure and financial resources to make this a reality for all Lab School students.   This is something that the technology committee at Lab is working to change and Lab now has the information they need on what it takes to bring the infrastructure up to speed what we need now is the monies to fund it.