

# Gaggle

Volume IX • Issue III • October 2013

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## Cyberbullying Knowledge is Power

October is National Cyberbullying Prevention Month and the topic of bullying is on everyone's mind. With all of the events in the news touching on this subject, we decided the best way to bring attention to the issue of cyberbullying was to provide you with resources and links to educate and help create positive dialogue at school and at home.

A successful anti-cyberbullying campaign involves students, parents, schools, government and law enforcement. Each stakeholder group has a special role in the solution and a unique perspective. For educators, cultivating meaningful relationships with students while creating a positive climate in the classroom is a start to making bullying less prevalent within school walls.

Many schools have policies and training in place to guide teachers and students in the right direction when it comes to preventing cyberbullying. However, we thought it would be useful to list additional resources to assist you in creating all around good digital citizens.

### Anti-Cyberbullying Resources and Links

- "Not in Our School" is a campaign to help stop bullying and cyberbullying. They offer a quick start guide to help get your classroom, school or district organized: <http://www.niot.org/nios/quickstart>
- Gaggle Online Safety Pledge that you can download and use with students: <https://gaggle.net/wp-content/uploads/Gaggle-Online-Safety-Pledge.pdf>
- Creating a Safe and Respectful Environment in Our Nation's Classrooms: An online toolkit and training for teachers: <http://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/creating-safe-and-respectful-environment-our-nations-classrooms-training-toolkit>
- StopCyberbullying is a cyberbullying prevention program that has specially-trained young volunteers that design and deliver community programs to help their peers address cyberbullying: <http://stopcyberbullying.org/index2.html>. This site is home to a number of resources including:
  - Age appropriate quizzes: "Are you a cyberbully?"
  - Free Download: Alex Wonder Kid Cyberdetective Agency Game
- Bullying Infographic to share with peers and parents: <http://www.pinfographics.org/ig/cyberbullying-infographic-reveals-alarming-facts/>

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## Cyberbullying: Knowledge is Power (cont.)

We have also included a list of sites that have been identified as posing potential danger for students. Please note, not all of these sites are breeding grounds for cyberbullying, but the reality is that with the lack of monitoring or knowledge of how these sites work, they are creating the perfect opportunities for cyberbullies.

- **Ask.fm:** A social networking site where members interact by inviting others to ask anonymous questions.
- **Omegle:** An instant message service that promises chats with random strangers.
- **Kik:** An instant message service that also allows the sharing of photos.
- **Meet Me:** A social networking site that lets users tailor their search for potential social contacts by age and geography.
- **Vine (App):** Kids are using Vine on their phones and tablets to physically hurt and publicly humiliate each other.
- **Tumblr:** Kids can post anything from anywhere, customize everything, and find and follow anything they want.
- **SnapChat (App):** A smartphone app that allows users to send photo and videos that the app promises disappear within seconds, but which can be kept much longer.
- **Bang With Friends:** (also known as Down in Apple's App Store and "The Next Bang") allows Facebook users to discretely hookup anonymously when they reciprocate through the app. However, anonymity is not always the case.
- **Chatroulette:** Kids can anonymously video chat online with anyone, without any security blocks or filters.
- **Instagram:** A social networking site where kids can post photos and their followers can comment on their photos.
- **Edmodo:** A social networking site used in many schools. However, the site is unmonitored.
- **Keek:** A social networking site focused on microvideo sharing. Users upload video status updates and are able to share them with friends or followers.
- **ooVoo:** A video chat and instant messaging service with apps for desktop, mobile, tablets and Facebook.

These websites and links are just a few of the many resources available for educators and parents. A common theme mentioned in all of them – knowledge is power. The more equipped you are with information on this subject, the more equipped you will be to handle a bullying or cyberbullying situation.

## Gaggle Auto Login

Gaggle now has the ability to automatically log users into our system when they login to their computer through their district's network. This allows your students and staff to quickly access Gaggle without having to go through the normal login process. Our Auto Login process takes advantage of the user's Microsoft Windows or Apple OS X username and password and uses those credentials to access our system. This process is easily integrated into your current user login scripts, and makes it that much easier for both students and staff to access Gaggle.

If you have any questions about the new Auto Login feature or would like more information please have your district contact their account manager.

### Speak Up 2013

Participate in Speak Up 2013 and learn what K-12 students, educators and parents have to say about education issues. Be a part of the conversation and share your ideas about how to leverage technology in schools to promote better learning.

Register at: <http://www.speakup4schools.org/speakup2013/>.

# School Spotlight

## Mesquite ISD, TX

### Using multiple tools enhance student learning

Mesquite Independent School District is located in Mesquite, TX just twenty minutes outside of Dallas. With over 39,000 students and 46 campuses, the district believes that “by challenging students with high expectations and a rigorous curriculum, they will excel.”

Mesquite ISD joined the Gaggle family in 2011. Their initial goal was to provide students with a safe email account. Since then, teachers in the district have expanded their use of Gaggle with tools like the Digital Locker, Mark-it Up!, Assignment Drop Boxes, GaggleTube and the iPad App. Tammy Rushing, District Facilitator of eLearning and Technology Staff Development says, “what really started sending our teachers to Gaggle was GaggleTube; for the first time, teachers were able to share YouTube videos with their students on campuses where YouTube is blocked.”

Katy Coffey, a fifth grade teacher at Rutherford Elementary added, “The fifth grade teachers are currently using Gaggle for flipped instruction and our UPSL initiative (Understand, Plan, Solve, Look back). The teachers are using GaggleTube to approve certain videos for students. Students then watch the videos at home with guided notes. Task cards are then provided to help achieve the next day’s objectives.”

The fifth grade teachers throughout the district are also utilizing the Gaggle iPad App and all of its features for flipped instruction and the UPSL initiative. Students are accessing UPSL lessons from the Assignment Drop Boxes each day and teachers are then retrieving submitted documents and grading them with the Mark-it Up! feature. “Once teachers were in Gaggle, they realized that there were more uses for it than just GaggleTube. Now that the Gaggle App has been developed and we are beginning to get iPads in the hands of students, Gaggle makes it easy for teachers to share documents and students to submit assignments,” says Tammy.

Mesquite ISD classrooms are utilizing multiple Gaggle tools to enhance student learning and engagement. They, like most districts, saw value in GaggleTube right from the start, but have since triggered additional Gaggle engagement with other tools such as the iPad App. Kudos to you Mesquite ISD for continuing to see all the possibilities that Gaggle Apps has to offer and thanks for being part of our family!

## Tech Talk: Cloud Based Archiving

More and more districts are moving to cloud-based email services and reassessing email archiving requirements to meet eDiscovery, FOIA, and backup needs. Gaggle currently provides cloud based archiving services for over 700 districts and manages over 300,000 accounts. Gaggle is capable of archiving Google Apps, Office 365, Exchange and other email systems.

Benefits of cloud archiving include:

- **Reduce Costs** – Cloud-based archiving offers a lower initial investment because it does not require additional hardware or software.
- **Secure Offsite Storage** – Your data is stored in the cloud in multiple geographic locations. You can sleep well knowing that someone else is managing the security of your data.
- **End User Access** – Your end users can be granted web-based access to their archived email with powerful search tools that turn your archives into a knowledge repository.
- **Predictable Costs** – With a web-based service your costs are generally the same each year regardless of your retention policy.
- **Flexible Retention Policies** – Gaggle’s archiving service offers a high degree of customization.
- **Account and Data Migration** – Archiving services are compatible with multiple email providers and can help migrate email from your current system to the new system.
- **Security Features and Logging** – Cloud based systems offer extensive security features to ensure the integrity of your archived data. In addition, most services offer logging of all activity associated with your archives.

Gaggle’s Email Archiving Solution helps you easily store, manage, and retrieve your data. If you’d like information about Gaggle’s archiving service contact us at 800-520-8550, [sales@gagglemail.com](mailto:sales@gagglemail.com) or visit [www.gagglemail.com](http://www.gagglemail.com).

# Curriculum Corner

## Bring on the Blogs

Now that the school year has begun and you are off and running, we know that you and your students have been busy creating and producing all sorts of exciting content. We also know that capturing that content and sharing those ideas can be a challenge. Bulletin boards, open house events and newsletters are some of the ways others can take a peek inside your classroom. We would like to encourage you to consider blogs as another way to share your class content and your students' creativity.

Blogs are more than mere online diaries. Gaggle's blogs provide you and your students the opportunity to do so much more than just post journals online. Gaggle's blogs allow you to share documents, videos, links, images and even Voki and Animoto videos in an online, anywhere format. Imagine the excitement of students when their content is posted online for the whole school to view!

Gaggle's blogs have many viewing and privacy options. Blogs can be restricted to specific classes or groups of users, they can be public, or they can be public with a shared password. Blogs are also an easy way for teachers to create class webpages. Teachers can create and utilize a class blog to post information, distribute important documents, share video tutorials and showcase examples of student work. When blogs are password protected, class content is only seen by those individuals that have been given access. In addition, commenting access on class and individual blogs can be customized to prevent reader comments. This feature provides a way for you to give parents easy access to class resources and a way to stay up to date on class activities.

Interested in blogs? Spend 10 minutes at your next staff meeting demonstrating all the engaging tools and options that blogs offer. I am sure your staff will have more ideas on how they can use blogs to share what's happening in their class. By the end of the meeting you might even hear them say... "bring on the blogs!"

Here are a couple of links to get you started:

**Creating Your New Blog:** <https://www.gaggle.net/training-videos/watchvideo.php?v=ODY5MDIyNTU5>

**Who Can See My Blog:** <https://www.gaggle.net/training-videos/watchvideo.php?v=Njg0MDIxOTg3>

## Gaggle Introduction

### Tracy Duncan, Account Manager/Trainer

Tracy has been training Gaggle customers for over 2 ½ years and loves every minute. Asked what her favorite moment was to date, Tracy quickly replied "Riggins, Idaho. I had just finished my session and I was able to peek into a classroom using Gaggle. I was ecstatic when they invited me in and I was even more excited to be able to interact and work with an entire classroom of students who were creating presentations using Zoho." Once a teacher, always a teacher!

A self-described football loving southern girl, Tracy attended Troy University in Troy, Alabama and holds a Bachelors of Science in Secondary Education (English) and a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction. She is very active in her sorority alumni association (Chi Omega) and handles all recommendations for potential new members from Metro Atlanta. When she is not sorting recommendations, Tracy is an avid reader and spends time boating on Lake Lanier during the warm months and snow skiing when the boat is put away.

Family time is very important to Tracy. Her daughter Hayden is attending Troy University to study Secondary Education in Social Studies and her son Brantley is active on his high school cross country and baseball teams. When her children are busy with life, Tracy can always rely on her yellow labs, named Wrigley and Butter, although they make her hate her small vacuum cleaner.

Tracy looks forward to meeting more of Gaggle's customers in her role as trainer and hopes that her travels will allow her to experience Roadside America from a local point of view. If Tracy travels to visit your district, be sure to point out the local attractions. So far, the top of Tracy's list is the birthplace of Kermit the Frog in Leland, Mississippi.

## Ask Admin

**Question:** I am in the process of setting up my Gaggle account and I'd like to add a signature line to my emails. Where do I go in my account to set up my signature line?

**Answer:** To add a personalized signature line to your account, go to **My Account** in the upper right hand corner of your screen. Select the **Signature** tab. In the text field, type and format your signature as you would like and click **Save**. Please note that your signature cannot be longer than 7 lines or 700 characters long. If you have any questions or need help getting setup, please let us know! We are always here to help.

## Free Informational Webinars

Need a Gaggle refresher? Register for one of our many free webinars. Visit our Webinars blog at [www.gaggle.net/webinar/](http://www.gaggle.net/webinar/) or use the Portal Link on the left panel in your account to see all of our upcoming offerings. The webinars run about 45 minutes and are offered at multiple times so you are sure to find one that fits your schedule. If your school gives credit for attending these trainings, please email us after participating, and we can provide documentation for your attendance.

## Catch Gaggle At...

Conference	2013 Dates	Location	URL
Ysleta ISD TNT Conference	Nov. 2	El Paso, TX	<a href="https://sites.google.com/site/yisdntnc/">https://sites.google.com/site/yisdntnc/</a>
Google Apps for Education Midwest Summit	Nov. 3-5	Wisconsin Dell, WI	<a href="https://sites.google.com/site/gapsmidwestsummit/">https://sites.google.com/site/gapsmidwestsummit/</a>
SWMSS	Nov. 5-6	Bozeman, MT	<a href="http://www.resa4u.org/Page/240">http://www.resa4u.org/Page/240</a>
GaETC	Nov. 6-8	Atlanta, GA	<a href="http://www.gaetc.org">www.gaetc.org</a>
Tech & Learning Forum: Austin, TX	Nov. 7	Austin, TX	<a href="http://www.techlearning.com/techforum/texas13">http://www.techlearning.com/techforum/texas13</a>
ERDI C&I	Nov. 9-10	Chicago, IL	<a href="http://www.erdus.com">www.erdus.com</a>
HECC	Nov. 13-15	Indianapolis, IN	<a href="https://hecc.k12.in.us/conference/index.cfm">https://hecc.k12.in.us/conference/index.cfm</a>
IETC	Nov. 13-15	Springfield, IL	<a href="http://www.il-edtech.org/">http://www.il-edtech.org/</a>
CEPTA	Nov. 19-22	Pasadena, CA	<a href="http://cetpa.net/pub/htdocs/2013-conference.html">http://cetpa.net/pub/htdocs/2013-conference.html</a>
NYSCATE	Nov. 24-26	Rochester, NY	<a href="http://www.nyscate.org/conferences.cfm?subpage=483">http://www.nyscate.org/conferences.cfm?subpage=483</a>

### 99 in 5

#### Add Your Voice to the "99 in 5" Campaign: Support High-Speed Internet Access in Schools

99in5 is a campaign of the Alliance for Excellent Education to expand E-Rate to ensure that 99 percent of schools have the broadband they need within 5 years. To add your voice to the "99 in 5" campaign visit: <http://99in5.org/>