Reaching Students In The Digital Age

(NAPSA)—Today’s students are very much at home in an electronic world, having grown up e-mailing, texting, and surfing the Internet. And, increasingly, educators are turning to educational technology in order to engage the students. For example, large touch screens that work with projectors and computers—called interactive whiteboards, or “action boards”—are replacing chalkboards in many classrooms. With this technology, teachers and students are able to access data and use digital media presentations and control computer applications with the touch of a finger.

Educators are also increasingly using podcasts, which are digital audio or video files that can be played on a computer or downloaded to an MP3 device. Podcasts enable teachers to share lectures, interviews, discussions and assignments with students at any time. They can also be a tool for publishing student-generated content.

Even cell phones are being used to improve student achievement. In one recent study, 9th and 10th grade math students were given cell phones equipped with specialized apps to help them master algebra studies. The study found that those using the apps performed 25 percent better on the end-of-year exam than students without the devices.

According to Dale Fulton, a former school superintendent for Indianapolis Public Schools and current vice president of curriculum development for Discovery Education, “No matter what methods teachers and administrators use to engage today’s students, high-quality digital content is critical. “Today’s classrooms are dynamic places, and teachers are challenged to spend as much time on instruction as possible,” he adds.

Today’s classrooms use a variety of digital technology to help engage students. For example, “When a student asks a question like ‘What does Antarctica look like?’ or ‘What does a Masai tribesman wear?’ a library of digital media can help answer through engaging content that makes students want to learn even more.”

Fulton, whose company produces Discovery Education Streaming, the in-classroom digital video-based learning resource scientifically proven to increase academic achievement, says digital libraries are also cost-effective alternatives to expensive book and DVD libraries.

When the scientific community decided a few years ago that Pluto was no longer a planet, all the books and DVD libraries and all the textbooks referencing the solar system were instantly out of date,” he explains. “With a digital library hosted online, content changes can be made quickly and seamlessly, making sure students and educators have the most up-to-date information.”

For more information, go to www.discoveryeducation.com.

Did you know?

(NAPSA)—Using the mobile Web can be an effective way to market a small business. Experts say mobile Web sites increase sales, improve marketing and provide a new channel for customer interaction. To learn more, visit http://mobithinking.com/SMB.

Available in small, handy tubes, the over-the-counter topical gels can be applied as needed to filter and prevent the start of mild nasal congestion.

One way to protect the environment is to use products made from 100 percent recycled paper, such as Small Steps™ products. By switching to Small Steps by Marcal, you can help save 1 million trees a year. For more information, visit www.marcalsmallsteps.com.

One thing that can help you stay safe this summer is a good sunscreen. Many sunscreens advertise the fact that they can protect against both UVA and UVB rays. But do they really work?

SUNSCREEN SENSE

New Law Helps Keeps Pools Safe

(NAPSA)—Few things are as refreshing as a dip in a pool. It’s important to always keep safety in mind when you swim—especially if children are around. Drowning is the second-leading cause of accidental death among American children ages 1 to 14. And according to Safe Kids USA, approximately 460 children younger than 5 drown each year in swimming pools.

Because children can drown in a matter of seconds and in as little as 2 inches of water, the watchful eye of a parent is the most important element of pool safety.

Remember these tips:

• Always have a landline phone near the pool in case an emergency arises, so 911 can trace
• Never run around a pool.
• Completely remove safety drain covers and backup filter systems. Safety vacuum release systems can protect against entrapment when a pool’s or hot tub’s powerful drain suction traps a swimmer underwater.

It’s a step all public pools are now required to take, thanks to a new law, and it could help keep kids safe in your backyard pool as well. When a swimmer becomes trapped in a drain or suction outlet in a swimming pool, spa, whirlpool or hot tub, the force of the filtration system can be overpowering. The supercharged suction from drains can be so powerful that even strong swimmers can’t escape, and would-be rescuers are unable to free them.

In addition to all public pools being required to install approved anti-entrapment drain covers, all single-drain pools must also install an anti-entrapment device, such as a safety vacuum release system (SVRS). A SVRS automatically reacts to the blockage by immediately breaking the vacuum created by the child’s body and releases him instantly. Experts say most public or private pools can install approved safety drain covers and backup layer of protection for about $1,500.

For more information and tips, visit www.poolsafetycouncil.org.

Site Offers Women Community And Resources

Women visiting the site are able to:

• Join online communities such as Health Insurance 101 and healthy living groups
• Participate in online seminars featuring health, wellness and fitness experts
• Access tools, tips and health checklists
• Obtain information on health literacy

“Time is so compressed for many women who are juggling jobs, children and other obligations while trying to make sure they and their families stay healthy,” said Kara Ellinger, director of women’s initiatives for UnitedHealthcare. “Because so many women are turning to the Internet for information, we wanted to develop a comprehensive resource that puts all of the information women need right at their fingertips. Source4Women will instantly help make their lives a little bit easier.”

 Armed with these resources and tools, women can confidently manage their health and that of their families. For more information on health insurance basics, and health and wellness for women, visit www.uhc.com/Source4Women.