

October 30, 2009

## Smile, You're on Teacher Tube

Birchwood third-grade teacher Ms. Janine Colagiovanni is no stranger to using the latest technology to help inspire and teach her students. This year she has introduced her class to the world of Flip cameras. Through a grant, six of these small, lightweight, easy-to-use digital video cameras are now finding many uses in the classroom. "They are easier to use than a regular camera" says Matthew, one of Ms. Colagiovanni's students. His classmate Andrew enjoys the lighter side of the Flip cameras. "I like to record funny things and then watch them on teachertube.com," he says. Another classmate, Quinn, a member of the Bulldogs football league, likes to watch his best moments on the football field after his father films them.

Ms. Colagiovanni enjoys seeing the many ways that her students find to use the cameras to augment the curriculum. "The children are using the cameras in most imaginative ways," she says. "We recently finished a video thank-you card that we sent to a student's father who gave a fire-safety presentation in class. The kids not only got to express their appreciation, but they also got to review and summarize what they had learned." They also use the cameras to learn about each other and about their hobbies and interests. "One of my students has a pet goat named Duke," says Ms Colagiovanni. "She brought Duke to school and did a video presentation about him. Now we can all learn about what goes into having a pet goat."

In addition, the class recently produced a series on how to decorate a pumpkin, as well as a special tribute to Grandparents Day. Their next project will be an in-depth look at family history, for which each student will interview family members. All of the Oscar-worthy video clips can be viewed on Ms. Colagiovanni's E-board via the district website.



*In a video done earlier that same day, a student edits her video showing the basics of making a Chinese Air Balloon as teacher Janine Colagiovanni reviews.*



*The new video cameras like the Flip, shown here, easily plug into any media device like a computer, TV, or as show here, the classes SmartBoard.*

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