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FPS Technology Department, 1000 W Stone St, Fayetteville AR 72701 www.fayar.net

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It's a Wiki, Wiki, Wiki, Wiki, Wiki Site

What immediately comes to your mind when you hear the term "wiki"? Do you wonder if it is related to the Tiki of Polynesia, or maybe the Enchanted Tiki Room attraction at Walt Disney World? Possibly you've visited Hawaii and are reminded of the Wiki Wiki Shuttle, so named because in the Hawaiian language the word "wiki" translates to the English word "fast." You may instead immediately think of the online encyclopedia Wikipedia, and perhaps groan in frustration over its use in research.

All of these are correct, but in both business and education, a wiki is also a web 2.0 interactive tool. It is a website that allows multiple users to create, modify, and organize content collaboratively. Wikis can be useful for a small group of friends or colleagues, a class, a school, a district, or even a global community.



The fine art of education.

In the Fayetteville Public Schools, there are many examples of wikis actively being used to share information and make plans. One that

is in use across the district is the "FPS 21c Learning System Wiki." This wiki allows members of the workgroups involved in planning the district 21st Century Learning System to collaborate easily through a web site. The wiki contains areas for each of the seven workgroups involved in the process to share documents and discuss their work.



Many schools in the district are using wikis to meet some of their collaboration needs. Washington Elementary and Holcomb

Elementary, for example, are using wikis to allow faculty to work together on plans for integrating 21st-century content into the classroom. McNair Middle School is taking advantage of a wiki to plan their itinerary for an upcoming Schools to Watch conference. Asbell Elementary even organized a garage sale to raise money for Field Day with a wiki site. In addition, FHS teachers and teachers throughout the district are using wikis in classrooms for project-based learning through student collaboration.

The popular wiki hosting site **pbwiki** recently changed its name!

It is now **pbworks**. Any wiki sites on pbwiki were updated automatically.

If you are still unclear on how a wiki could be used, you might be interested in a video "Wikis in Plain English" available on Teacher Tube (<http://tinyurl.com/2uyv7q>). You'll be ready in no time to join a group on a wiki, wiki, wiki, wiki, wiki site!

Grant Opportunities

* 2009 Ypulse Totally Wired Teacher Award *



Sponsored by Dell, the Ypulse 2009 Totally Wired Teacher Award will honor a **public school teacher from grades 3-12 who is successfully using technology** (the Internet, social media, mobile technology, or gaming) in the classroom. Inspired by Ypulse founder Anastasia Goodstein's book, *Totally Wired: What Teens & Tweens Are Really Doing Online*, and the challenges she observed around integrating technology into public school classrooms, Ypulse will recognize a teacher who has overcome these challenges and is inspiring both students and other educators. All three finalists will receive an IT solution from Dell to use in their respective schools. The selected teacher will be honored in person at the Ypulse Youth Marketing Mashup June 1-2 in San Francisco.

<http://mashup.ypulse.com/teacher-award/>

Application deadline: May 15, 2009

* Dollar General Back to School Grant *

The Dollar General Back to School Grants provide funding to assist school **libraries or media centers** in meeting some of the financial challenges they face in implementing new programs, or purchasing new equipment, materials or software.

<http://www.dollargeneral.com/servingothers/Pages/backtoschoolgrants.aspx>

Application deadline: May 22, 2009

Web Resources

My Aware Maker -

<http://www.myawardmaker.com/templates/education.html>

Educational Award Templates are available for many different purposes (attitude, writing, reading, participation, etc.) They are easily downloaded into Adobe Reader, where you add the specific name and information

Common Craft "In Plain English" Videos -

<http://www.commoncraft.com/show>

Interested in learning more about technology or other concepts, but without the jargon? The Common Craft show provides free online videos on various topics, including many that are technology-related, in an easily understood manner. Popular topics right now include Twitter, RSS,

