

AT Tidbits--September/October, 2014

It's a new school year and students/parents who use iPads may want to be reminded of a few tips that can help to "tweak" your iPad.

Helpful hints for using your iPad

- Dock your most frequently used apps on home page--you may have up to six.
- Organize with folders!
- Side switch is for Rotation Lock or Mute--set this in **General Settings**
- Take a screenshot by pressing the HOME & SLEEP/WAKE button at the same time
- Want to see if your iPad is getting full? Check your storage by going to **Settings--General--Usage**. Delete apps you're not really using as you can always reinstall at a later time.
- You may want to turn off multitasking gestures--under **Settings**
- Under Accessibility, turn on **Speak Selection!** This will enable your iPad to read text aloud in places where you can highlight text.
- Set **Restrictions** so kids can't purchase apps or add ons!
- Think about using **Guided Access** if you want your child to stay in an app
- If your iPad freezes or is acting very strange do a **Hard Reset**. This means holding the Sleep/Wake button and the Home button at the same time. After about 10 seconds you will see the Apple Logo which means it is reset.
- Camera--You can take a photo with the **volume up** button (good on iPhone when you want a steadier hand shooting in landscape!)

FYI

Google Text to Speech

A new trick I read about in a technology journal makes use of dictating into Google Docs with the iDevices. This appears to work quite well and basically provides a student with using free voice recognition to write. The steps are easy and as follows:

1. Create a new Google Doc in Google Drive (be sure to give it a name to find it easily later). It seems to work better if you do this on your computer first.
2. Run to get your iPhone or iPad--because you can't wait to try this!
3. Visit Google Drive through a Web browser or mobile app and sign in.
4. Find the document you created and open it.
5. Click on the microphone button available on the keyboard and begin speaking.
6. Your text will "magically" appear in the document.

Read&Write for Google is from a long standing company called Texthelp and this Chrome extension is now **free** for teachers! This allows students to have access to word prediction, highlighting, make vocab lists. and more. If you're not using the Chrome Browser yet with your students, you should just to take advantage of this! The premium version is available to teachers for free and all you need to do is go to this link to sign up: <http://tinyurl.com/ofqgeq9> . You can also go to the Chrome Web Store and search for Read&Write for Google and follow the directions on the right hand side of the page when it comes up. The cost for an individual subscription if a student wanted to buy it would be \$100. There are several Youtube videos that explain some of it's great features. Read&Write for Google--support for web pages can be found at this link: <http://tinyurl.com/obmsb37> and Read&Write for Google--using it in Google Docs can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/mccnfmo>.

Better Google Search Hints

Refine your search using the minus (-) symbol. Just put it before any words you don't want to show up. Say you want to search for "kittens" but don't want to see sites that sell them. Just type in "kittens -sales" and you're good to go!

Put quotation marks around words "**[any word]**" to search for an exact phrase in an exact order. Keep in mind that searching with quotes might exclude relevant results.

Website Discoveries

www.mathchimp.com This website is a collection of Math games and activities for grades K-8 and they are aligned with the Common Core Standards.

www.route66literacy.org This is a new online instructional literacy program for adolescents and adult beginning readers. It takes advantage of many of the simple books that are from the [Tarheel Reader](#) website. It is research driven and emphasizes age appropriate content while working on the essential elements of reading instruction.

Teachers can sign up for a free trial account, though limited it gives you an idea of how the website works. The premium account is \$140 per year.