



The Gaggle

Bringing you a Gaggle of News

Volume 5

Issue 5

January 2010



It's Elementary, Dr. Watson!

It seems like solving a mystery is the subject of many hit movies and TV series, and it always feels good to solve a puzzle! Although we are not Sherlock Holmes or Gil Grissom, many teachers and administrators may sometimes be faced with a puzzle in Gaggle we need to solve.

Most educators have run in to a situation where a student denies having done something, and a "he said/she said" situation needs to be unraveled. Bullying, cheating, rumors, and other negative behavior are unfortunately a fact of life in most schools. Things said in the hallway, lunchroom, and on the playground or bus are difficult to corroborate, so oftentimes these situations go without consequences, which can cause them to escalate. And there are increasing numbers of parents who will immediately discount anything negative or inappropriate they are told their children are doing.

But when students use email, blogs, and other Gaggle features, a trail of evidence can help you get to the bottom of things.

Educators have the ability to drill into student accounts and view any email messages sent and received. And since students cannot delete messages from their Deleted Folder, they can't get rid of anything they don't want someone else to see. For further sleuthing, you can view the Full Header of any message which includes the IP address it was sent from. This can be very helpful when the accused student insists someone else used their account.

Gaggle's Search feature can also help you track things down. One school was able to determine the specific student who started a chain letter spreading through the entire school.

Register for our new webinar to learn more about being a Gaggle Sleuth!

Free Webinars

Register for one or more of our free training webinars! Click the link below, choose your session(s), and fill out the registration information. You must use your Gaggle email address to register. You will be sent your personal webinar log in within 2 business days.

Webinars are approximately 40 minutes long, all times listed are Central Daylight Time.

This month's webinar will help you be a detective in Gaggle, from finding student's accounts, reading email headers, and tracking down messages.

Sleuthing in Gaggle

Thursday, Jan. 21st
4:00pm-4:45pm

Tuesday, Jan. 26th
3:30pm-4:15pm

Thursday, Jan. 28th
4:30pm-5:15pm

Thursday, Feb. 4th
4:00pm-4:45pm

[Click here to register!](#)

Curriculum Corner

It's time for New Year's resolutions! It's important to have goals, so help your students have a great second semester by making some educational resolutions. Documenting and sharing your resolution increases the likelihood of keeping it. So have students post theirs to their own blog, or as a comment to your teacher blog. You could also use a homework drop box if you'd prefer to keep them private, or really encourage follow up discussion using a message board.



School Spotlight

Abilene Independent School District, Texas

Gaggle has been an essential tool in Abilene ISD's technology tool box since 2007. They rely on Gaggle to integrate technology skills with their curriculum to meet the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. For the 2009-2010 school year, they added Gaggle's Human Monitoring System (HMS), empowering their teachers to focus on integrating Gaggle's many features without worrying about the day-to-day monitoring of accounts.

HMS is an optional feature that sends all blocked messages or notices of other potentially inappropriate activity to a dedicated Gaggle employee, rather than to a district teacher or administrator. Gaggle handles the unblocking, deleting, and minor violations based on district policies, and forwards multiple violations to the school or district. Anything that could be a student safety concern, such as violence, drug use, or suicide threats, results in an immediate phone call to the school.

Cary Owens, Abilene ISD's Coordinator for Instructional Technology, credits the addition of HMS for a large drop in the amount of support her team has had to provide to teachers.

According to Cary, "The best part of Gaggle's HMS is the consistency and speed at which blocked emails are handled." She points out that dealing with false positive blocked messages could be a time consuming task teachers no longer need to do. HMS also gives her confidence that students are monitored in an objective and uniform manner. "Knowing Gaggle is taking care of the blocked emails and watching for issues needing immediate attention, it is easier for us to focus on other issues..." explains Cary.

If you'd like to learn more about Gaggle's optional Human Monitoring System, give us a call!

Tech Talk

Visit Us at TCEA!

Are you a Texas Educator coming to the TCEA Conference in February? Gaggle will be there and we'd love to see you!

Come by Booth #1155 to speak with a sales person or account manager. We'll be rotating four different mini-theater sessions throughout the day, with prizes for attending.

Gaggle also has three concurrent sessions at the conference you can attend:

Email Archiving and the Open Records Law,

Feb 10, 9:15am with Gaggle's President, Jeff Patterson

Emerging Internet Technologies for Student Communication,

Feb. 11, 12:00pm with our Texas Sales Rep, Mark Elder

How Can Student Email Increase Achievement?

Feb 11, 1:00pm with our Implementation Manager and former educator, Andrea Keith

ASK ADMIN...

Question: How can I find out how many of the students' accounts have this specific message in them?

Answer: You can use the Search feature. On the left side bar in Gaggle, click the small arrow next to the spyglass icon in the search box. The Advanced Search option will give you a screen with multiple parameters to choose for your search. Be as specific as possible with your search. The results will be displayed with your search terms highlighted in red.

Please don't hesitate to contact Gaggle's Sales or Customer Service staff if you have any questions!

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