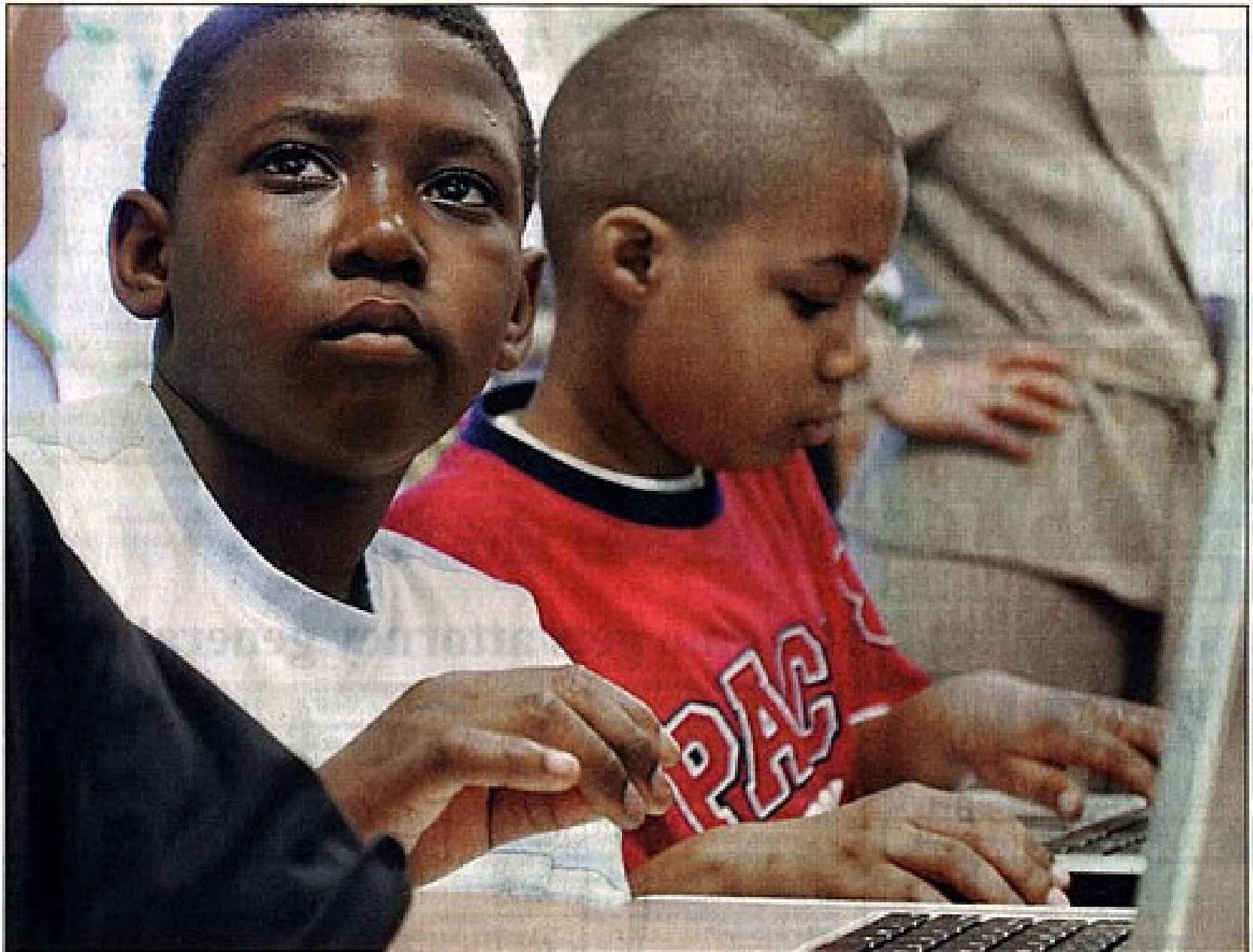


# Invasion of the iPod kids



Kathy Gardner/The Journal News  
Trevon Gordon, left, and Micah Duncan, study a PowerPoint guide yesterday at GrandView Elementary School as they work on a podcast about sea turtles.

## Students broadcast lessons and projects to Internet audience

Leah Rae  
The Journal News

### TARRYTOWN

It's one thing to display your latest school project on the fridge. It's quite another to put it up on the World Wide Web.

But students are taking their handmade storybooks and reading them into microphones, creating podcasts for an audience as big as the Web itself. The technology, only a year and half old, is quickly catching on in the elementary schools.

In Tarrytown, second-graders are podcasting their poems on a school district blog. Middle school students are making video podcasts for their Internet friends in England.

"It's cool to make a movie to send to another country," 10-year-old John Jelenek said during class in the Washington Irving School computer lab. Last week, he and his classmates were producing a virtual walking tour of Tarrytown landmarks.

The students aren't just playing with cool gadgets, teachers say, but finding new ways to share what they've learned. For younger children, podcasts are a way to practice reading aloud. For older students, it's a way to present their research.

"Kids just tap into it right away, be-



Tom Nycz/The Journal News

Lucy Brannon, 9, records her poem for a podcast with John Calvert at the Morse School in Sleepy Hollow. Students throughout the Tarrytowns school district are learning to use podcasts and audioblogs to share their work with a wider audience.

cause it's radio," said Will Richardson, a former New Jersey educator who lectures around the country. He is author of the book "Blogs, Wikis, Podcasts and Other Powerful Tools for Classrooms."

Teachers like the format because the content can be easily controlled, unlike interactive blogs and bulletin boards. For privacy's sake, teachers generally withhold the last names and photos of the children. Students record their voices, and the podcasts — or audioblogs, to use a generic

term — are posted on the school Web site. "There's a pride associated with not only seeing your work in print, but then hearing your voice," said Sarah Chauncey, the librarian at Grandview Elementary School in East Ramapo. Having designed computer systems at banks and insurance companies, Chauncey designed a Web site for the school. Students can log on to a restricted part of the site and call up their work. Chauncey watches their progress and sends them individual notes.

Lauren Lawson, 9, learned proper enunciation as she podcasted a report on the late Rosa Parks "and Her Adventurous Long Life."

"It was kind of exciting, because I had to do it over and over until I got it right," she said. "Cause I couldn't mumble or anything."

At the Morse School in Sleepy Hollow, Lucy Brannon recorded a poem about owls. She rotated her handmade book as she read from it, having written the poem in a circle. Listening to one of the takes, she noticed a silent pause in her reading and wanted to correct it. By the final take, her 9-year-old voice was animated and confident.

School districts need about \$1,000 in seed money to begin podcasting, said John Krouskoff, Tarrytowns' technology director. His district's non-profit foundation paid for an iPod to start the program, then bought digital recorders.

"We had to buy the iPod for them to be excited about recording their own voices," Krouskoff said. Since the program began in December, Tarrytowns' audioblog has had hits in 30 countries, technology specialist John Calvert said.

Unlike adults, children don't hesitate to play with electronic gadgets, so they learn by experimentation, computer teacher Jean O'Brien said. When her students put together a mock newscast about the Greek Olympics, they figured out how to design opening credits that float across the screen, something O'Brien didn't

Please see **PODCASTS, 2B**

### Student podcasts

Tarrytowns school district: <http://blog.tufsd-builds.org>

Grandview Elementary School, East Ramapo: <http://www.grandviewlibrary.org>

### More ideas on technology in education:

Will Richardson's blog: <http://www.weblogg-ed.com>

Bob Sprankle's Room: <http://www.bobsprankle.com/blog>



**On LoHud**

■ Listen to the students' podcasts at [LoHud.com](http://LoHud.com)

# Students podcast their lessons

PODCASTS, from 1B

know how to do.

But the content is what really matters, and the children have no shortage of ideas.

Georgina Peña, an 8-year-old at the Morse School, wrote a podcast about Hammy, a ham-loving ham-

ster. "I picked my hamster because he died, and it really hurt me, because I only got to spend two weeks with him," she said.

Griffin Gebeler, 7, told no less of a story than the Big Bang, inspired by a visit to a museum.

"Once there was no Earth at

all," he read aloud. "There were humongous bubbles in space. There was only a few stars. There was the Big Bang. Then stars were born, time after time."

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