

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Sue Sharp, Principal, Beechnau Elementary (Ravenna), 231-853-2258 x327
Mindy Lynch, Teacher, Beechnau Elementary (Ravenna), 231-853-2258

Web Link: www.tech4learning.com/pixie

Ravenna teacher to train other educators in use of creativity software

In March 2009, Mindy Lynch, a teacher at Beechnau Elementary in Ravenna will travel to the Cobo Center in Detroit, Michigan to train other educators in the use of cutting-edge creativity software called *Pixie2*. Lynch expects to train around 100 participants at the annual Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning (MACUL) Conference in the computer program authored by *Tech4Learning*. Lynch said she is excited to teach others about *Pixie2* as she has seen its positive impact on student learning. “The program mixes fun, eye-popping creative choices with the core subjects of math, science, language arts, and social studies. It engages students in powerful ways and encourages them to learn.”

The creativity software is geared for elementary children and includes text, painting tools, clip art and digital photos. *Pixie2* is capable of displaying student work as a slide show, video or website complete with music and recorded voice. According to Lynch, students really get excited about learning when they can incorporate their own technology (digital photos) into a classroom lesson. Students build up their confidence by sharing their work with peers and parents. *Pixie2* also has pre-made documents for classroom teachers to use on a daily basis.

Lynch said, “I am amazed at how quickly young students are able to navigate the tools within the program. It is a very user friendly program, but at the same time it is very dynamic with frequent upgrades. This is part of the fun and why it is so captivating for ages 5 and up,” added Lynch. *Pixie2* is helpful to students because it can be used in very simple ways for Kindergarten through first grades, to quite complex ways for upper elementary grades. It is a program that students can use to integrate classroom learning each year and build on technology skills as they advance. *Pixie2* prepares students for further learning at the middle school level and aligns with state curriculum standards.

Lynch, who has been employed by Ravenna Public Schools for the past 12 years, teaches health, computers, and physical education to Beechnau Elementary students. She sees an average of 255 students each day in the Kindergarten through fifth grades. She has also coached basketball, volleyball and track for five years for the district. She said, “One of the neat things about our small community is that I may teach an entire family of children at the same time throughout the course of the week.”

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