

QUILLAYUTE VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Tech Bytes

**This Issue:**

- What's New This Year
- Google Earth Brings Ancient Rome Online
- Featured Website
- Tips and Tricks

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**What's New This Year**

This year the QVSD has seen some changes in technology.

The school year began with a changeover to the new QV Domain and a new email provider, Gaggle.net. Our bandwidth, or access to the outside world via internet, has increased from three T-1 lines to eight, which speeds up our internet traffic.

This fall we received some off-lease computers from WA Dept. of Information Services. We have also leased some desktops and laptops and are currently placing the new machines as well as implementing the domino effect to replace some of the older student machines.

**Google Earth Brings Ancient Rome Online**

Google Earth has added to its software a three-dimensional simulation that painstakingly reconstructs nearly 7,000 buildings of ancient Rome, including the Colosseum, the Forum and the Circus Maximus. The program, which gives users access to maps and global satellite imagery, now hosts a new layer that allows surfers to see how Rome might have looked in AD 320, a bustling city of about 1 million people under Emperor Constantine.

Pop-up windows provide information on the monuments, and

visitors can also enter some of the most important sites, including the Senate and the Colosseum, to observe the architecture and marble decorations. Using laser scans of today's ruined monuments and advice from archeologists, experts worked for about a decade to reconstruct ancient Rome within its 13-mile-long walls. The simulation, completed in 2007, was intended as a scholarly tool to study the ancient buildings and run experiments on them—for example, to determine their crowd capacity. The work's publication on the internet means it can be used for broader educational purposes.

Google has started a competition for US teachers offering prizes for the best curriculum using the new tool.

<http://earth.google.com/rome>

*Especially important now that our budget is so tight, please remember to print to the Xerox copy machines whenever possible. The cost of printer toner for individual printers is very high and it cost fractions of a penny to print to the Xerox machines.*

**Featured Website:**

Spain's Prado Museum has teamed up with Google Earth for a project that allows people to view the gallery's main works of art from their computer - and zoom in on details not immediately discernable to the human eye. The project involved 8200 photographs taken between May and July last year which were then combined with Google Earth's zoom-in technology.

To view, go to Google, download the Google Earth Software, and type "Prado Museum" in to the search engine. Once the museum comes into focus, click on the square with the name of the museum.

**Tips and Tricks**

Gaggle. Net has an auto reply option available to you. When you are out of the office for an extended period of time, you can send an auto reply to all email messages you receive to let them know you are out and won't be replying right away

- Go to [www.gaggle.net](http://www.gaggle.net) and sign in (Your username is your **entire** email address, and your password is the same one you use to log into the network each morning).
- On the toolbar at the top, choose User Options. Near the bottom of the page, change the Auto Reply Setting to On.
- Check the Auto Reply Enable box.
- Enter the start and end date of the period of time you will be gone.
- Enter the message you want sent in your auto reply.
- Click Update

The auto reply feature will automatically turn off on the end date.

*If you have any difficulties performing a task in any of the office programs, we have the ability to remotely access your desktop with you and walk you through. Contact Debbie Hull (ext 107) for help.*

