

Flashlight

FOCUS ON FILM!

The Learning Lighthouse CLC has been involved in many filmmaking projects recently. The Wirral Sure Start team approached us to help film their Children's Centres to create a DVD promoting their use and the diversity of activities which happen at each centre. A second short version film will also be produced to display in Doctors' Surgeries. Two schools Park High School and Weatherhead Media Arts College were involved in some of the filming and editing sessions gaining valuable experience of filming to a brief.

A short film has been filmed and edited showing the process of a 'Restorative Justice Conference'. Wallasey School students and staff along with members of the Youth Offending Service acted out a fictitious meeting and a film crew from Wallasey School filmed and edited the footage.

Pensby High School for Girls, through their 'Year 7 - Added Dimensions Project', ran a competition for teams to come up with a storyboard of a film based around the theme 'transition'. The reward for the winning team was to film and edit their storyboard to show what life is like for a new Year 7 entering the school. The project was so successful it has recently been repeated in Wallasey School with each of the feeder Primary Schools sending a Year 6 film crew along for the day. These pupils will be making the transition to Wallasey School this year. The project has been filmed and there are editing dates booked for next half term.

Clare Mount School have produced a film based on the classic story 'The Gingerbread Man' - in French! 'Le Pain d'Epice' was filmed at the Learning Lighthouse using green screen technology which allowed the characters (from Year 8) to be resized and repositioned to fit beautifully drawn cartoon backgrounds. A further group of students from Year 9 recorded the voiceover in French which was also added to tell the story of the classic fairytale.

MASTERCLASSES

A series of Masterclass sessions have been held at the Learning Lighthouse over the last term. There has been a lot of interest in the use of Adobe Flash and so the first of these masterclasses was designed for those people who have some previous knowledge of the software - 'Flash Intermediate'. This course involved the next level of complexity in timeline animation and assumed a basic knowledge of the main tools. A further Adobe Flash masterclass was later held for more advanced users which introduced the use of Actionscript. 'Flash ActionScript: Essentials' covered elements such as how to make your Flash animations more dynamic by using ActionScript to add interactivity, movement and control. Basic navigation for websites & movies, simple interactive game elements and logical reasoning were also covered. Finally a masterclass in 'After Effects: Essentials' was held. After Effects is 'The Icing on the Cake' of video editing. The course included how to achieve extended control over edited footage and an exploration of motion graphics and the world of video FX to add complex, yet simple, impact to animations and videos.

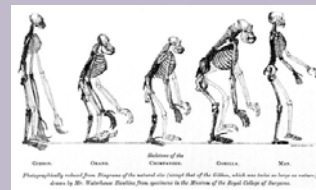


If you are interested in these or any other projects that we can help you with – contact the learning lighthouse on 678 2509.

CELEBRATE DARWIN 200

On Thursday 12 February, the nation celebrated 200 years since Charles Darwin, one of the world's most creative and influential thinkers, was born. Darwin200 is a national programme of events honouring his scientific ideas and their impact. Many celebrations are taking place and will continue until 24 November 2009, the 150th anniversary of the publication of his famous book, 'On the Origin of Species'.

We celebrated Darwin's achievements through two days of filmmaking sessions working with previously filmed footage, images, royalty free music, sound effects and blue screen footage filmed on the day.



Teams of students from Ridgeway High School, Wirral Grammar for Girls, Wirral Grammar for Boys, Wallasey School, Prenton High School for Girls, Upton Hall School and Park High School all enjoyed a busy day editing a short film based on an aspect of the evolutionary theory.

3D FILM PREMIERE

The Learning Lighthouse City Learning Centre has invested heavily in 3D filmmaking for education and the short film '3D Fairy Tales' was our first opportunity to work with a Wirral Secondary School, Rock Ferry High School, to explore its potential.

In the future we will be working with other Wirral Schools to use 3D filmmaking to enhance and enrich the curriculum by making a variety of diverse 3D films for example 3D science and geography resources. The film was made using two cameras on a stereoscopic camera mount with a dual view alignment monitor and sync buzzer to synchronise the two inputs. The footage was edited using Adobe Premiere.

The resulting 3D film is viewed on one of only a few 3D HD TVs in the UK. These TVs are capable of displaying stereoscopic 3D HD movies via 3D compatible glasses and hardware. The shutter for the glasses is so fast, at 120Hz, that there is no flicker or ghosting whatsoever. The equipment and support for making this film was supplied by Jack Ezra from 3D Experience www.3dexperience.co.uk. Films can also be exported as anaglyph movies for viewing on a standard TV with 3D anaglyph glasses - red/cyan.





Flashback

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

During the holiday periods the Learning Lighthouse has offered themed activities. In February half term workshops were run along the theme of 'Web Activities'



Imagine • program • share - 'Scratch' is a downloadable program for multimedia control using snap together control blocks to create stories, games and animations and then the creations can be shared on the web.



is an interactive, animated web comic, which is a global community where people of all ages create, publish, share, and remix comics - without having to draw! A workshop was run at the CLC to introduce to the main tools required to create a comic.



Adobe Dreamweaver - this was a whole day course which introduced students to the software and helped develop their ideas into a basic website.

At Easter an image manipulation and media series of workshops were run based on:-

'Through the window... Imagine & believe' where students created a short video of windows, doors and other portals through which they could sneak a look at other lands, habitats and themes.



'Zoom, Zoom, Zoom!'... A workshop where students used our digital microscopes to examine all sorts of objects under magnification. Adobe PhotoShop was then used on the images to add filters and change colours.

'Design your own animations'... This session was an introduction to Adobe Flash to create simple and cartoon style animations.



'Wanna be a Pop Art Icon?'... This workshop introduced students to the work of Andy Warhol and his PopArt paintings where he used silkscreens to create a kind of "assembly line" art. Inspired by his famous images of Marilyn Munroe the students reworked images of themselves in a PopArt style using Adobe PhotoShop.

'Photoshop skills'... An introductory session where students were able to become familiar with the power of Photoshop in some depth as this was a one day course run for older students.

If you are interested in these or any other projects that we can help you with – contact the learning lighthouse on 678 2509.

-----STOP PRESS-----

TLL WINS MERIDIAN AWARD

The Learning Lighthouse CLC has won an award as runner up in the category 'Unique and Unusual' in the 2009 Pitney Bowes MapInfo International Meridian Awards recognising the best in customer innovation in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software. Pitney Bowes, MapInfo have been impressed with the variety of projects that have been completed by children as young as Foundation Stage (4 to 5 years old) and right up to sixth form using their software.



WEBSITE LAUNCHED

www.taste4health.co.uk

Taste 4 Health is an exciting new project based at the Learning Lighthouse and aims to increase children's involvement and awareness both with the food they eat and how it is prepared. We are very keen to hear from any schools who may wish to participate.

The project will involve children and raise their awareness to healthy eating and how this can be fun. It will build a web based resource of recipes, cooking techniques and general health tips. Schools will choose and submit their own recipes in the form of a step by step photo story, which illustrates the process from preparing the ingredients right through to the finished dish.

Each month, one recipe will be selected and will be animated using Adobe Flash to give a more thorough demonstration of the process. The pupils will be invited along to the Learning Lighthouse CLC and will be totally involved in this process, enhancing their experience of multimedia, as well as the thrill of cooking their own recipes.

So 'Get Cooking!'

NEEC '09

GROWING PEOPLE - GROWING MINDS



Wirral successfully hosted the prestigious 105th North of England Education Conference (NEEC) in January 2009. The three-day learning programme was centred on workforce development, helping key partners to learn to work together more effectively to safeguard and nurture children and young people.

More than 130 schools from across Wirral came together to provide contributions and all wrote a line for a special poem that was displayed called "I Dream of Being..."

The Learning Lighthouse CLC was asked to collate and produce a DVD of still images reflecting all the major events in which young people from around the Wirral had taken part during 2008. The DVD was created with the great support of Marie Stacey, Jenny Grimshaw, Lindsey Davidson and Debbie McCabe. It was displayed during the conference breaks and between masterclasses and seminars.