



NJ Coalition for the Advancement of Assistive and Rehab Technology

Newsletter

September - December

Special points of interest:

Visit NJCART on the web
at www.njcart.org

Join our listserve!

NJCART list serve is an email group of over 100 people interested in AT in the NJ Area. It is a great place to ask that tough A.T. question, find out about the newest technology, tell others about upcoming events you are sponsoring, or announce new job openings.

Go to NJCART website and click on the "Get Involved" page for more details.

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Join us for our next meeting.....

Topic: **Assistive Technology for People with Traumatic Brain Injuries**

Date: Tuesday, December 2, 2008

Time: 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Location: Center for Head Injuries
Cognitive Rehabilitation Department
Hartwyck at Oak Tree
2048 Oak Tree Road
Edison, New Jersey 08820

Please RSVP to Mike Marotta by November 21st – mmarotta@cpofnj.org
or (609) 882-4182 x 516

For directions, visit: <http://www.njrehab.org/OutOakTree.htm>

Summary:

Technology solutions for people with traumatic brain injuries are as unique as the needs of the people themselves. Join us for this session where we will explore technology solutions for scheduling, task reminders, organization and more. High tech to low tech solutions will be highlighted and participants will receive resources to use with consumers they serve.

Presenters: Susan Paradise and the Cognitive Rehabilitation Department Staff

Also, VOTE for NJCART officers!
All members in good standing can participate.
Details to follow.

NJCART Mission

The New Jersey Coalition for the Advancement of Rehabilitation Technology (NJCART) is a non-profit organization established in 1987 to promote the appropriate applications of technology for individuals with disabilities, assure access to resources, and provide continuing education to its members and the community at large.

SUMMARY of our past meeting

NJCART Presents It's First Hands-on Meeting: BoardMaker Plus v.6



At our last meeting, Karen Hrank, Assistive Technology Specialist at the [Midland School](#) (and BoardMaker Wizard!) presented **NJCART's first hands-on meeting!** The topic was the latest innovations found in Boardmaker Version 6!

Karen presented a multimedia PowerPoint of the Top Ten Features of [BoardMaker](#) Version 6 family of software. Boardmaker, by Mayer-Johnson, is probably the most versatile software program Speech Therapists, Early Childhood and Special Educators have for working with students with special needs. It's not surprising that it's Karen's favorite software as well. You'd be hard pressed to find a school district that doesn't have Board-

maker.

Boardmaker is widely used for making visual supports such as schedules, worksheets, calendars, communication boards, AAC device inserts, labeling objects around the classroom and for printing out all those symbols used with the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS). But you don't have to be working with someone with special needs to reap the benefits of this friendly but incredibly powerful software. It's flexibility lends itself well to students of all ages and each symbol is supported by 44 languages. Boardmaker Plus teaches, talks, translates, is terrific!

Boardmaker comes in three different versions that are available for both Macs and PCs:

Boardmaker allows you to create printed materials using Picture Communication Symbols (PCS) and other pictures and graphics. **This is print based only.**

Boardmaker Plus! turns the computer into a student learning tool allowing teachers to create engaging activities that make learning fun. *In addition* to all of the print capabilities of the original Boardmaker software, Boardmaker Plus! gives you voice, sound, animation and video capabilities. **This is what most schools would want.**

Boardmaker with Speaking Dynamically Pro

(a.k.a. SD Pro) builds on the capabilities of Boardmaker Plus! by adding natural-sounding voices, word prediction and abbreviation expansion to support augmentative and alternative communication (AAC). **This is what is most typically be used on an individual's communication device.**

Karen's skill and cleverness with Boardmaker was evident by the way the students work in the school's restaurant, grocery store, and bank. One particularly brilliant example was how the students learned the functions of cash registers and placing orders at the store and restaurant. Karen designed everything using Boardmaker Plus which the students accessed through a touchscreen monitor. Pictures of the items in the store and the restaurant's menu make it easy for the students to master skills.

Our group then headed to the media center where Karen led us through the hands-on part of our meeting. Karen had sample boards installed on each computer and guided through many of the new features of Boardmaker Plus.

Here are some of the top new features of Boardmaker Plus! V.6

Symbolate-just type and symbols appear in the new Symbolate button feature! Quickly and easily add symbol support to sentences, stories and other text using a Symbolate button. Just choose the Symbolate Tool, click, and start typing-or copy and paste in a block of text. Symbols will automatically appear! ☐

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myMSmyWay.com Your guide to using technology to help improve the way you live with multiple sclerosis (MS).

My MS My Way was developed by the MS Technology Collaborative, a landmark alliance of organizations passionate about helping people with multiple sclerosis (MS) maximize their abilities. The alliance brings together leaders from the pharmaceutical, technology, and patient advocacy sectors, including Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals, a U.S. affiliate of Bayer Schering Pharma AG, Germany; Microsoft's Accessibility Business Unit; and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Each organization has a specialized understanding of the needs of people with MS.

In addition, a project **Steering Committee** comprised of people with MS from across the country oversees the program. They help to ensure the outcomes from the project truly address the unmet needs of people living with MS.

Microsoft brings its technology expertise to the MS Technology Collaborative. For nearly twenty years, Microsoft, a global technology leader, has focused on developing accessible technology for everyone, including those with disabilities.

Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals is a company that has been at the forefront of MS therapy development, starting with the introduction of the very first therapy for relapsing remitting MS and continuing with its innovative treatments in development today.

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the world's largest MS research, service, and advocacy organization, is dedicated to achieving a world free of MS. The Society will field the MS Technology Collaborative survey to a significant number of people living with MS, to help ensure that as many people with MS have the opportunity to participate and provide feedback.

Visit their website and you will be able to use their guide specific to your challenges and learning what products will be helpful to your specific needs!

Your guide to technology solutions

By answering a few simple questions on the Snapshot quiz, you will be able to find solutions tailored to your specific needs. It is designed to help you find customized solutions and information to help you use technology to move your life forward. www.myMSmyWay.com

Great Websites to visit

www.atomiclearning.com

Atomic learning provides web-based software training for more than 110 applications that students and educators use every day. See this great website for short, easy to view and understand tutorials!!!

upcoming CART meetings

December 2, 2008

AT for people with TBI,

Tuesday, at JFK in Edison

Coming in 2009

Feb/09- Gloucester Cty, AAC

April/09-Abilities Expo-AT Resources

Sept/09-ETTC Middlesex, Literacy

Nov/09-Monmouth Cty-AT in the IEP

Do you have information you would like included in the next CART Newsletter? Send to Joanne Castellano at teconn@aol.com

Having a workshop?

Share a great website

Provide a software review

Lets hear a great success story!

Software Review

IntelliTools Releases Classroom Suite

Version 4

Classroom Suite 4 is an intervention tool that helps students in grades PreK through 5 achieve mastery in reading, writing and math.

If you've had the opportunity to use the IntelliTools Classroom Suite, you probably know that it is a very powerful tool. The ICS gives you the ability to customize activities to meet the diverse needs of your students. You surely know that there isn't enough time in the day to take full advantage of all of the features of authoring programs such as the ICS.

IntelliTools heard your feedback over the years and incorporated templates in earlier versions of the ICS that made it easier to create activities.

Still, the ICS was first an authoring program and second, a program featuring readymade templates & activities.

With the release of ICS version 4, this is reversed! The ICS now presents a

number of K-5 math and reading activities that are usable instantly. The authoring capability is still a part of the program, but it is not something that you must use. Version 4 also includes excellent student and class management features. When students complete activities, their responses are recorded and teachers can easily obtain and print reports.

Beyond the activities that come with the ICS, the IntelliTools Activity Exchange (www.IntelliTools.com) remains a great source of activities that educators from around the US have submitted to IntelliTools. Many of these activities can be used with the latest version of the IntelliTools Classroom-Suite.

Tom Caine and Associates, LLC

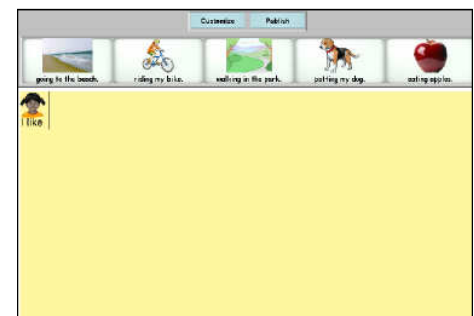
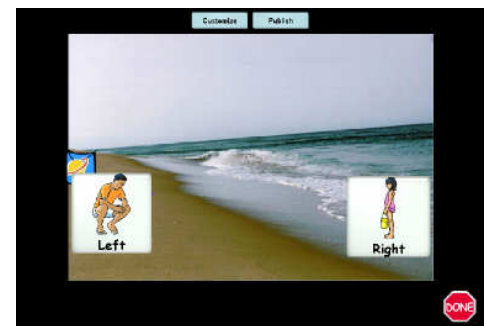
26 Howell Road

Mountain Lakes, NJ 07046

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

ADAM KRASS, Past President, NJCART



After earning bachelor's degrees in agricultural engineering and life sciences from Rutgers University in 1984, Adam became interested in assistive technology while taking post graduate courses in industrial design in 1085 at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. In 1986

he began his first job in assistive technology with (then) UCP of Monmouth and Ocean Counties in West Long Branch, NJ, adapting augmentative communication devices for Patti Carlessimo, who introduced him to NJCART. Adam continued his involvement with NJCART during a 5-year stint as an electronics engineer for the U.S. Army at Ft. Monmouth, NJ. It was during this job that he began a master's degree in applied psychology from Stevens Institute. He then worked briefly for DIAL for Independent Living in Clifton, NJ, and the University Affiliated Program in New Brunswick. In 1991, he began full-time employment with CP of NJ in Trenton, where he began his current interest in computer-related assistive technology. Adam was grateful

for the opportunity to learn about assistive technology from Richard Dodds, Garth Heid and the late Darlene Keller, whose lessons still ring true today. Adam also worked for Maddak/Ableware as a new product manager and designer, an independent consultant for the NYC Department of Education, for Bergen County Special Services, and the P.G. Chambers School.

With regard to NJCART, Adam was a board member during the tenures of Ina White, the late John Noecker, Fred Tchang, and Mike Marotta, and has held almost every position on the board (with the exception of treasurer). His involvement in NJCART has instilled a belief that assistive technology is successful when practiced as a collaborative endeavor, including the input of the student/client, their family and a wide range of professionals.

Adam recently opened a new business, Adam Krass Consulting, LLC located at 25 Montross Avenue in Rutherford, NJ 07070. He provides assistive technology evaluations, training and ongoing support for children and adults with disabilities throughout the NJ/Metro NY region.

When not doing assistive technology, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Laurie and their son, Joel. Adam is also a semi-professional violin player.

HELP INCREASE THE NJ CART MEMBERSHIP—bring someone to the meeting

Come to a meeting and enjoy.....

Peer Networking!

Problem solving / AT solutions for the home, school setting, work-site, and/or therapy site.

Learn about devices and software

Observe new and innovative AT programs throughout the state!

Share ideas.

Enjoy a fine meal and great discussions

Become empowered by technology.

This is a great resource for Teachers, Therapists and parents!

CART meetings are held 4 times per year in various parts of the state.

Bring your expertise to share or just bring yourself and learn! These meetings are informal and designed to increase everyone's knowledge in a fun experience.

New Jersey CART Board of Directors

President:	Mike Marotta	mmarotta@cpofnj.org
Vice President:	Tracy Agate	tagate@cpnj.org
Treasurer:	Karen Hrank	hrank@midlandschool.org
Recording Secretary:	Deb Bassett	deb.bassett@dynavoxtech.com
Corresponding Secretary:	Joanne Castellano	jcastellano@techconnection.org
Immediate Past President:	Adam Krass	adakra@bergen.org

NJCART Presents It's First Hands-on Meeting:BoardMaker Plus v.6continued

- PCS supported by [44 languages!](#)
- Symbolate button-just type and symbols appear!
- Symbolate buttons will read aloud and highlight each word-symbol pair, or word, as each word is spoken
- Swap and shuffle buttons allow for quick swapping of content, appearance and actions between two or more buttons
- Quick Text, Quick Picture, and Quick Record buttons allow changes to buttons in the Use mode
- The MJ Sounds Library contains dozens of fun sounds
- Drag and drop images from the Internet or other programs
- Dashed button borders
- Draw freeform buttons of any shape
- Align and center button content
- Quickly resize multiple buttons
- Movable buttons let users create dynamic activities for counting, sorting, sequencing and more!
- Interactivity with video and animation support, and synthesized and digitized voice
- Play movies and sound files!
- Record speech!
- Option to install country-specific symbols such as holidays, famous people, food and currency

Did you know all these can be found on the Mayer-Johnson website:?

Download a free trial copies of Boardmaker

Top Ten New Features of Boardmaker Tutorials as well as free web-based trainings

Board Sharing and Boardmaker forums

Free Upgrades

There are 70 Boardmaker Add-ons programs every popular school subject, 1000's of additional symbols.

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Check out this Boardmaker Add-on out on YouTube!

[Yuichi's Games](#) is a Boardmaker add-on. It consists of nine games that are fully accessible by switch as well as other access methods. They can help to develop symbol recognition, reinforce vocabulary, build logic skills, improve visual perception, support symbol word correspondence, and practice word beginnings/endings.

You can customize many of these games with your own symbols/images and words and they are fun for children and adults.

Requires Boardmaker Plus or S.D. Pro version 6 or higher.

Boardmaker Group

Connect, ask questions, get advice and share boards with thousands of Boardmaker users from around the world using this very active & popular group. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/boardmaker/>

Did you know that Boardmaker with SD Pro V. 6 comes preinstalled on every DynaVox V and Vmax AAC device?

Prior to the Hands-on portion of our meeting Karen gave us a tour of this Nationally Recognized Blue Ribbon School.

The Midland School has recently completed a major renovation with an addition that included a new gym/auditorium with stage, art room, wood shop, independent living suite, teaching kitchen, green house, restaurant, grocery store, bank, as well as meeting rooms and offices. The learning environment and opportunities they provide for their 240 students is certainly something to proud of!

Midland serves students ages 5 and up and is piloting a [Super Senior](#) program that accepts 18 –21 year olds from other schools.

The new 2 to 3 year Job Training /Transition Program is designed for students who have completed their 4 years of high school core curriculum graduation requirements and are considered "Super Seniors!"

The Super Senior program provides intense career preparation utilizing an integrated, community based approach to instruction and learning. The program currently **boasts** a job placement success rate of 85% for its graduates.

Midland also provides services for adults with developmental disabilities through its 5 group homes, which offers community housing as well as social/recreational experiences.

Many thanks to Karen Hrank and Midland School for hosting our meeting and for their hospitality!

To find out more visit www.midlandschool.org

Summary of October 7th NJCART meeting at the Matheny Medical and Educational Center.

What a great opportunity we all had to hear the presentation by Sean Murphy, Vice Principal of the Matheny School, along with Alex Fraumann, Christine Mayercik and Donald Pauselius who makes up the team along with Sheryl Gavaras the Principal of the Matheny School. This team of professionals has put together the **One to One** initiative for the Matheny School. The goal of this project is to provide a laptop for every student. “One laptop – One child.”

The presenters explained why it is important for students to have access to technology. To open pathways for learning and to provide a better quality of life. Specifically technology offers equal leveling opportunities. For example if a child is homebound or home sick he would not have to miss the field trip he so much wanted to go on. Utilizing technology that includes video conferencing, he can virtually be on that field trip with his classmates. Utilizing a laptop opens the door to normality. In today's world everyone, or just about everyone, carries their laptop to and from work, meetings, and so on, therefore students with disabilities do not look any different having their laptops mounted to their wheelchairs or carrying them around for learning and communication. .

For the team at Matheny including students and professionals, technology has made a huge difference educationally and personally. To illustrate this point, the students (many who reside at this facility) can be tucked into bed by their parents who live miles away. Another example is a student that was able to see and talk to her mom while she was having lunch in the cafeteria, while her mom was at work miles away.

Critical to the success of this One to One Initiative is Matheny's efforts to include para professionals when providing staff development. As a result, they feel it very much reduces the chaos in the classroom and the staff feels more valued as a contributing team member.

Donald Pauselius, occupational therapist, explained how using switches is vital to many of the students for independent access. Matheny utilizes a screening tool to assess a student's skills. This screening helps to determine if the student is ready to use a switch. and what switch is most appropriate for a variety of activities. Having a student profile, including information on switch setup readily available helps tremendously especially when there is a substitute teacher.

Christine Mayercik, speech pathologist, spoke about setting up AAC devices, content and pictures. Christine shared a wonderful quote with us, “*not being able to speak is not the same as not having anything to say.*”

One thing that Mr. Sean Murphy and his team were adamant about is that EVERY teacher or school professional should know about and use the **ISTE.ORG** website.

The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) is the trusted source for professional development, knowledge generation, advocacy, and leadership for innovation. A nonprofit membership organization, ISTE provides leadership and service to improve teaching, learning, and school leadership by advancing the effective use of technology in PK–12 and teacher education. Home of the National Educational Technology Standards ([NETS](#)), the Center for Applied Research in Educational Technology ([CARET](#)), and the National Educational Computing Conference ([NECC](#)), ISTE represents more than 85,000 professionals worldwide. ISTE, supports its members with information, networking opportunities, and guidance as they face the challenge of transforming education. This website offers video for staff and student development. A vital Resource!

NJCART thanks the Matheny team for hosting this very informative meeting, sharing their ideas and expertise, as well as for the lunch. Thanks again!