

The kids say...

"I loved it!"

"It was fun. I liked the Magic Tree House podcasts!"

~Dawson, 2nd Grade

"I liked the site very much! It was cool!"

~Kennedy, 2nd Grade

"The pen pal idea was a good idea, because we got to interact with second graders, and I made a little second grade friend."

~Erik, 5th Grade

"It was fun and exciting to talk to my pal over the computer. We talked about the ocean and learned about each other."

~Logan, 5th Grade



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Let's Talk About the Ocean!



Just a Click!

*Electronic Pen Pals: A Brief History of
Two District 86 Classrooms
Miles Apart, Yet Just a Click Away*
by Barb Sollberger and Sarah Masters
East Peoria Elementary School District 86
April 2009

Our Mission:

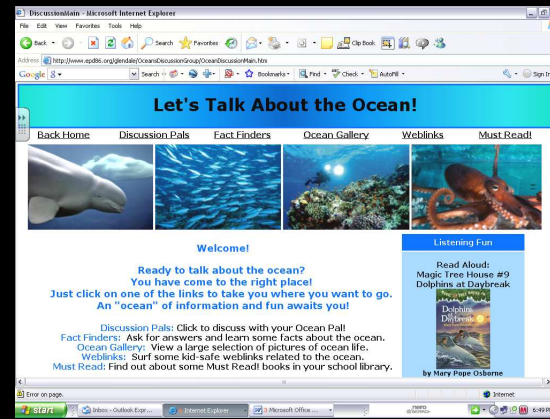
Our mission was to design an electronic, theme-based, pen pal experience for our students in a way that would adhere to our district's Internet safety guidelines. Ultimately, this experience would allow our students to communicate in a twenty-first century way.



How Did We Do It?

"Let's Talk About the Ocean" was created using Microsoft FrontPage, the software that is currently used by our district webmasters. Similar to a blog, the site was designed to allow for discussion between the second and fifth graders using a system of forms to post discussions. The set-up was then secured to be password protected to accommodate the district's Internet safety requirements. A secure pen pal format for Glendale School's fifth grade students to partner with Armstrong School's second graders was born.

Welcome to Our Site!



Welcome!

Ready to talk about the ocean?
You have come to the right place!
Just click on one of the links to take you where you want to go. An "ocean" of information and fun awaits you!

Discussion Pals:

Click to discuss with your Ocean Pal!

Fact Finders:

Ask for answers and learn some facts about the ocean.

Ocean Gallery:

View a large selection of pictures of ocean life.

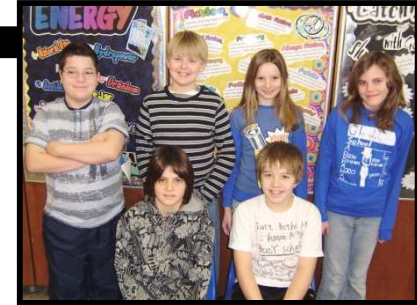
Weblinks:

Surf some kid-safe weblinks related to the ocean.

Must Read:

Find out about some Must Read! books in your school library.

The Fact Finders



Can seahorses swim backwards?

Thanks for your question! That is a good one! We have investigated and found some information for you. YES, a seahorse can swim backward! A seahorse has no tail fin like fish, so it uses its dorsal fin on its back and its pectoral fins on both sides of its neck to swim...

~Fact Finders Alexis & Tanner

Ocean Joe Podcast



"Yo, this is Ocean Joe!...Today we are going to talk about sea ancestors...Did you know the Ichthyosaurus..."

~Ocean Joe (Joseph)

Second graders commented:

"I liked when he said 'Yo!'"

"I liked his sound effects."

"I liked the Jaws music he hummed."