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Contents

5 UpFront
7 Feedback
10 Dispatches
12 Sage Advice
14 Ask Ellen



17 Head of Class

News • By the Numbers •
 Health • Tech Teacher
 • Culture • Hot Stuff •
 Field Trips



24 Cool Schools

Mississippi's Freedom Project
 uses the history of racial
 equality to inspire power
 and perseverance.

BY LISA MOREHOUSE

54 Room to Learn

A snappy Sharkmobile.

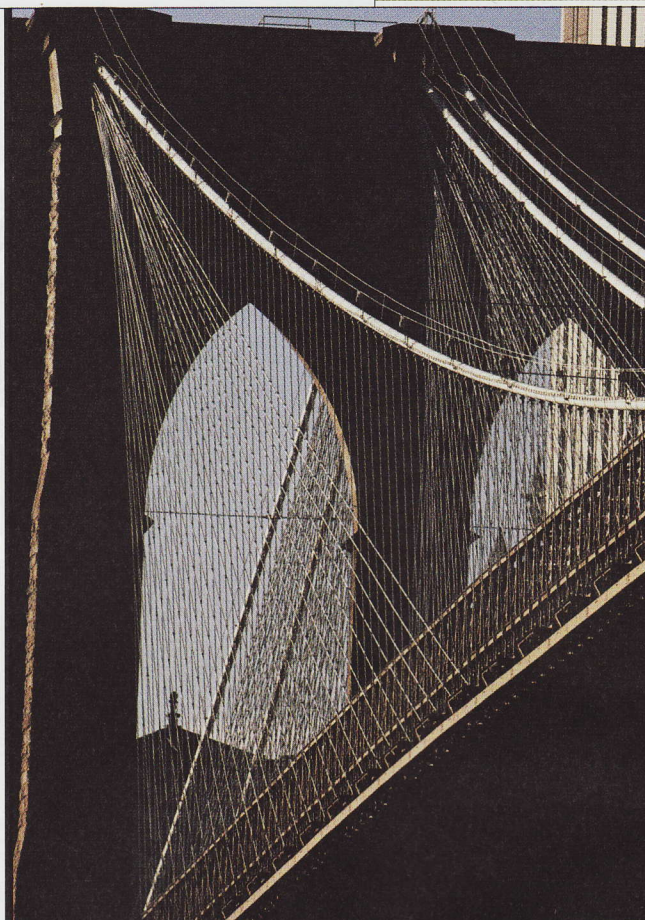


56 Heart & Soul

In rural India, dance and
 song help build pride for
 impoverished children.

BY SARA BERNARD

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28 Design

The Big Easy Meets the Big Apple:
 They came from devastated New
 Orleans, to learn and to heal.
 By Evantheia Schibsted



60

Pop Quiz: Jeff Corwin

The *Animal Planet*
 host talks the talk of
 ecology and environ-
 mental preservation.

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edutopia.org

online exclusives:

Readers' Survey Results:

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 learning tool.
edutopia.org/text-messaging

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 into a classroom.
edutopia.org/bronx-law

video:

Turning on Technology

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 ironworks is captured with the
 latest technology.
edutopia.org/ferryway-video

Boston Latin School: The Sound of Learning

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 student, devoted gamer, and violin
 prodigy pursue his passions.
edutopia.org/boston-latin-video

Smart Moves: The New PE

Collaborative games, zip lining, and
 classroom aikido are part of a new
 physical education movement that
 makes kids healthier and smarter.
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Head of Class

→ News → Health → Tech Teacher → Culture → Hot Stuff → Field Trips



Get in Gear

High tech auto safety starts when kids can barely reach the brakes. **By Sara Bernard**

One of my friends doesn't wear his seat-belt," confesses Russell Newton. "But I tell him, 'You could get majorly hurt!'"

Russell, a fifth grader at Clemson Elementary School, in Clemson, South Carolina, isn't the only kid coaching his friends and family about car safety. He's one of thousands of K-5 students in three South Carolina school districts participating in the new e-Cruisers curriculum, a tech-driven twist on drivers' ed.

Thanks to e-Cruisers, part of an initiative of the Clemson University Automotive Safety Research Institute (CU-ASRI), students as young as six create podcasts, movies, comic books, and other digital media that revolve around bike and auto safety—a decade or more before they can legally drive a car.

Kim Alexander, executive director of CU-ASRI, believes such early lifestyle education develops responsible future drivers. "Car crashes are the leading cause of death of Americans between the ages of two and thirty-four," she says, citing research by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Nearly two years ago, Clemson Elementary School opened the doors to its e-Cruisers Traffic Safety Instructional Design Laboratory, a hotbed of technology-infused project learning. Teachers train in programs like Apple's GarageBand, iMovie, PowerPoint, and Comic Life and Adobe's Photoshop Elements, and return to their classrooms ready to employ them as they expand on the curriculum's six life skills: respect, self-awareness, communication, assessing consequences, responsibility,

and problem solving.

Students determine what it means to be a peaceful passenger, for instance, and "write, storyboard, and videotape possible scenarios, add music, create transitions, and work in cooperative-learning groups to put it all together," explains Kaye Carraway, technology resource teacher at Clemson. "Or they design bike helmets and create a podcast in the form of an advertisement." E-Cruisers is powerful, she adds, because "it empowers children to be part of a solution."

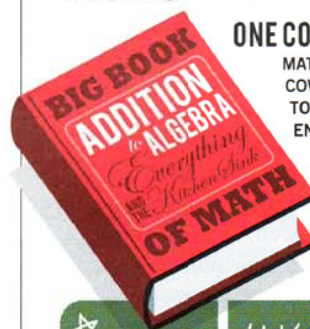
Every spring, Clemson students host an all-day safety fair, where many of the older students collaborate with community members to teach the younger ones in a way that showcases both their work and their public-speaking skills.

"When my son got up in front of these younger children to teach them, I saw a side of him I never had," says Michelle Conley, a kindergarten teacher whose son is in fifth grade. These presentations also have a "powerful impact on the kindergartners," she says, because "they listen to older students in a way that they're not going to listen to adults."

Angie Newton, Russell's mother, says her son's "ability on the computer has skyrocketed" since he dove into e-Cruisers. Now, Russell comes in before school to help Kaye Carraway troubleshoot computer issues, as well as mentor other students during the school day.

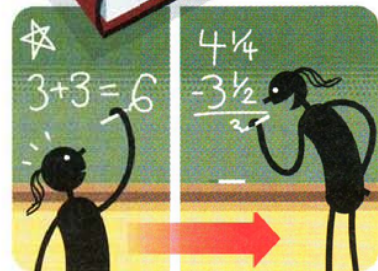
This kind of meaningful instruction becomes all the more so, of course, if it saves lives. "I don't accept one death or one injury" on the road, says Kim Alexander. "Even if the numbers are coming down, that's still one too many." **C**

By the Numbers



ONE COMPLAINT: MATH TEXTBOOKS COVER TOO MANY TOPICS WITHOUT ENOUGH DEPTH.

The panel said that students must be able to



ADD AND SUBTRACT WHOLE NUMBERS BY THE END OF THIRD GRADE and be skilled at

ADDING AND SUBTRACTING FRACTIONS AND DECIMALS BY THE END OF FIFTH GRADE.



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Clemson University Teaches Young Students Road Safety Rules

The [Automotive Safety Research Institute](#) at [Clemson University](#) is visiting South Carolina public schools to teach children and adolescents about the importance of driver safety. With a goal of decreasing teen highway deaths and injuries, the Clemson Cruisers program teaches road safety rules to students, beginning as early as the first grade. The Cruisers curriculum is designed to foster a culture of safe driving by teaching children to lead careful and respectful lifestyles. The success and innovative nature of the program has drawn rave reviews and has become a model for similar programs nationwide.

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