



Palm Projects 2003-2004

Weatherford Elementary School

Description of Projects:

Palm handhelds were introduced into two classes at this school: Third Grade and Fifth Grade-Bilingual. Both teachers used the Palms for the students to maintain daily journals. DocsToGo was used to maintain these journals. In addition, students recorded vocabulary words and definitions.

DocsToGo was also used to read and annotate excerpt from books. By scanning sections of a book that the class was reading, students were able to highlight words and phrases for discussion in class.

Summary:

Both teachers felt that the students gained much knowledge in the use of technology. In addition, they felt that this knowledge had an impact on the overall learning process because of the enthusiasm that was sparked by having access to their handheld device. Many of the students were quite sad to turn them in. Here is some of the feedback from these projects.

- The students were enthusiastic about using the technology. In some cases, this was the first exposure to using technology in this way. In fact, several of the parents asked about acquiring a handheld device for their child after the project was complete.
- Students were taught how to use the HotSync program to update the information on the computer and handheld. In addition, they were taught how to print their documents from both the handheld and the computer. The teachers felt that the student's comfort with the use of technology greatly increased.
- Students used a dictionary software program that allowed them easy access to definitions. Students in Mr. Hartley's class used a Spanish/English dictionary to practice vocabulary in both languages.
- Teachers were issued PalmPix cameras and software to use with their handheld devices. Teachers were able to take digital pictures and incorporate them into the student's work.