

The Promises and The Perils of the Internet

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Over the past two to three years, students and teachers have returned to their classrooms with a new instructional tool at their disposal -- the Internet. For the very first time, many teachers and students have had the opportunity to experience the promises and the perils of the online world -- first hand. What have they found?

The promises?

- Teachers and students can access up-to-the-minute information. Events that won't be documented in textbooks for years can be explored on the Internet today.
- Students can collaborate with peers and professionals around the world, and even invite electronic mentors to participate in their class projects -- no matter where they live -- in real time, no delays!

The perils?

- While the Net holds tremendous opportunities for enhancing the way teachers teach and students learn, it's an enormous, sometimes confusing place.
- Once you've learned how to send and receive email, and mine the Internet for information, one big question remains: How do you use the Internet to its fullest in your classes, so that it becomes a regular, integral part of your day-to-day teaching activities?

Many teachers are faced with these same questions, but there are solutions:

Read about how the 1998 US *Teacher of the Year* (*page since removed from news site*) embraces the Web. Philip Bigler "is a historian who also looks to the future — and how students can use computers and the Net as learning tools. Philip Bigler expects classroom computers to be as common as chalkboards, but also recognizes that the glut of information on the Web requires students to scrutinize sources."

I would invite you to walk through some of the sites below. Read more about how other teachers are using the exciting resources of the World Wide Web, everyday!!! in their classrooms.

[K-2 educational resources](#) are now available on the WWW and primary classroom teachers are [introducing](#) the Internet and [incorporating](#) information into [class](#) Web pages, brief reports and virtual science projects with just one computer in the classroom.

Upper elementary and middle schools are [integrating](#) technology into [thematic units](#) centered on science, language arts, social studies, physical education, art and [music](#), cross-curricular interactive lessons or computer-supported [simulations](#) and virtual science everything.

High school courses are being developed in [math](#), calculus, sciences with [laboratory experiments](#) in

biology, chemistry, physical science, philosophy, and drama. Teachers are supplementing the standard curriculum with Internet resources for historical research, business and economics, project-centered learning and in the performing arts such as [orchestra and vocal music](#).

And last, but certainly not least, is this vast site containing thousands of Internet links for teachers (*dead link*). Enjoy this one!!!

One of the best things about CAT~net is that it provides a directory of Adventist educators across Canada, and includes, where possible, a link to each teacher's e-mail. It's there to encourage communication and the exchange of ideas. Haven't got e-mail? Try [Hotmail](#) for free e-mail that can be checked through your Internet browser. All you need is access to a computer connected to the Internet, which most public libraries have available for free.