

# ST.SOMETIMES

The Life and Times of Greg Lemoine, international educator.



**Dreaming of  
Green**

This island of desert leaves  
me wanting for more green  
in my life.

## The Grind

Sometimes Life is just a daily grind. As  
much as teaching can get.

## JAZZ

The band keeps me going. I always  
look forward to Sunday nights. Band  
Practice.

## Technology

Helping staff, teachers, parents, and  
students with technology in  
education. I LOVE it.

# A DAY IN TECH

## General

- 01 Can you fix the volume? I can't hear anything and it worked yesterday.
- 02 My video won't play anymore. Am I doing something wrong? I always do it this way.
- 03 Where did the icon go? Why do they keep changing my desktop around?

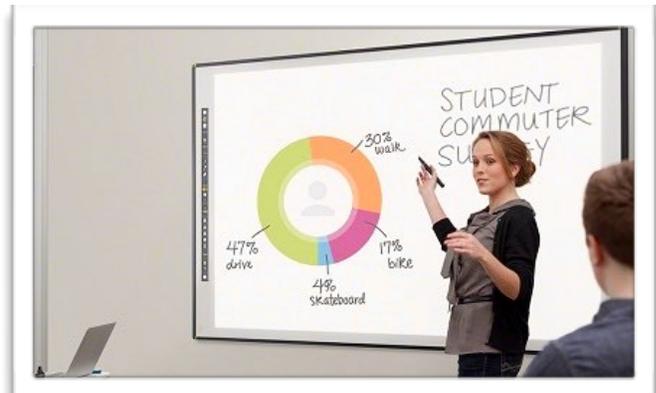


## Internet

- 04 I don't have any internet connection. There is a signal, but nothing loads up.
- 05 Why is the internet always so slow? This sucks. I can't teach with it so slow!
- 06 Why won't this website come up? Are they blocking it? I need it for my lesson.

## Promethean Boards

- 07 My promethean doesn't work. It worked yesterday, but I came in this morning and...
- 08 How do I put this powerpoint on the promethean and get it to work?
- 09 I need a new projector. This one is old. How do I get a new projector?



## Printers/Copiers

- 10 The printer is out of ink. The printer is jammed. It won't print anything.
- 11 Which printer is color? Every time I want to print there, it doesn't work.
- 12 Why can't we just get new printers. These things never work. It's jammed again.



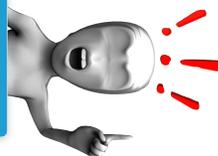
## Wifi vs Internet

Just because you have Wi-Fi doesn't necessarily mean you have internet access. Also, having a strong Wi-Fi signal doesn't always translate into fast internet speed.

The internet connection is generally beyond the control of the users. Other than turning it on or off, the only other thing you can do is pay for the desired connection speed and hope you get what you pay for.

A Wi-Fi network, which is almost always hosted routers, is independent from the internet. Meaning that any devices on the network can always work with one another to share and back up data, print, stream local media and so on. A connection to the internet, however, enables them to also access internet-based services, such as Google, PowerSchool, WhatsApp, and other web dependent apps or services.

It feels so good to get this down into printed words. *Capiche?*



## Wifi...More Wifi

A significant amount of my time, lately, has been installing wifi routers into classrooms for third and fourth grades. We are looking at 1:1 ChromeBooks in each fourth grade (13 classes of 20 students) and 2:1 ChromeBooks in each third grade (13 classes of 20 students) by the end of the year. That means wifi in the classroom.

My special focus for the technology facilitator team at our school is the network. The other two are working on

- corporate requirements (keeping up with our company compliances)
- online educational software

That means when I'm not teaching, I'm mainly solving connection issues or hardware issues with ChromeBooks or desktops. Between the three of us, we teach every classroom once a week for 45 minutes - the old "computer class" model.

However, just because we specialize, doesn't mean we don't solve issues in the other strands. We overlap a lot.



## No Homeroom

Since I don't have a homeroom, I had to move my aquarium home. An aquarium full of water is not a good idea for a computer lab.



**Thriving!**

My aquarium is home to no fewer than 40 baby guppies and live plants. Thriving!

# CHROMEBOOKS

*Our elementary school has adopted ChromeBooks (CB's) as our device of choice. The iPads, the few we had, never took off. A few teaches still use theirs, but most are collecting dust and are no longer supported.*

## Mobility

These are so much lighter than the few laptops our school tried out in the past. CBs are ideal for elementary students because they are durable. Mice and Headsets are now the point of discussions.

## Low Cost

I'm not aware of the unit cost for our district to purchase in bulk, but you see these priced around \$200 in the stores.



## Easy Maintenance

Basically, there is nothing to a CB. It is a portal onto the internet. Everything is Google at our schools, so having a device built specifically for the use of Google Apps for Education makes sense. Our students are quick to learn the CB. If one fails - usually a hardware issue - we send it back, at least now during warranty.

## We Have Hundreds

Our school district has ordered so many. Guess who gets to prepare each new device? The techies. Yet, these are so easy to unbox and get running. Looking back...I wish these had been around long ago.

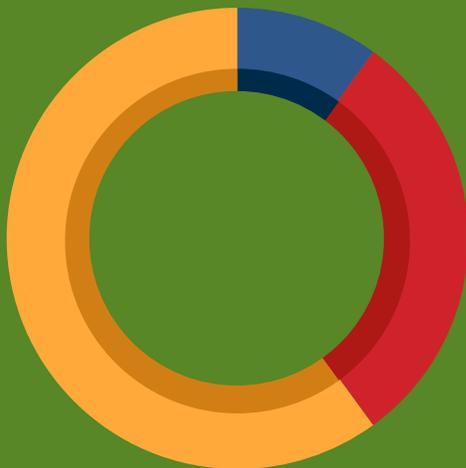
# AVERAGE DAYS OF TECH

*Working for this company has been a great decision. I am no longer in the homeroom, so my days are a lot different. I spend about 60% of my work week teaching grades 1-3. About 35% of my time is spent on solving technology problems for the school (teachers, staff, students). The remainder is for meetings, duty, and planning.*

## "A Rolling Stone Gathers No Moss"

My days fly by so fast now. I've spent the past five years worried about the 12-20 cherub souls in my classrooms. Things have changed since I got back into the technology specialty. My time is spent more outside of my classroom (lab) than inside. I do teach a lot of classes, but more time is devoted to support.

shouldn't they love their "computer" teacher? The students love most of their specialist teachers because we only get to spend a little time together and that time is usually "fun", a break from the routines of the classroom. I just tell every hugger my rule of only hugging back on the last day of school. The rule has served me well. Even the first graders stopped trying to hug me during week 2.



### HELPING TEACHERS / FIXING TECH

Printer jams, password help, smart boards, projectors, desktops, ChromeBooks, wifi, internet, websites, apps, online testing, and guiding teachers on the use of many different web-based digital tools, etc.

### PLANNING

There is very little time to discuss teaching with my team or plan lessons. Uggh.

### TEACHING

Between three teachers, we teach every student in our school. 1360 students.

## I Love this Job

Yes, I was made for this. Unlike the homeroom, this job takes me all over the school. Up and down the hallways, there is rarely a moment that someone doesn't need some tech guidance or help.

Hugs are an unfortunate by-product of teaching so many classes of early elementary. I don't hug. That's difficult for the little students that launch themselves at me in the hallway when they see me. And why

The challenge of this position remains balancing my time, our time. The three of us work as a team. The three of us have to balance our time and prioritize every minute of each school day. Luckily, we are fortunate to have an excellent administrative staff and a smart, friendly, supportive principal.

I love this job. I love my career. Life is great! There just aren't enough beautiful, single women here in the desert. It's been too long.

# I PRESENT TO YOU... THE DRY CLEANERS

*I am so very lucky. Part of living in this bubble, that I continually refer to as “the island”, is the availability of Dry Cleaning. For a person that hates ironing so much, access to a handy dry cleaner is the proverbial icing on the cake.*

**No maid. First time in 17yrs.**



There are three things I have always required overseas: a maid, transportation, and ice. You laugh? It's true.

The main reason I have a maid is my hatred of ironing. I cannot stand it. I can wash my own clothes. Just not iron anything.

Here, I don't have a maid. My apartment is small and clean. Dry cleaning. No ironing. No need for a maid.

## **Cheap Time & Money**

The little building above, the dry cleaners, lies right between work and home. I drop off my laundry - mainly my shirts - one day and pick up clean ones two days later.

One shirt costs about \$2. That's cheap. I don't even know how much my bedding or suits cost. It doesn't really matter. The cost is low. I'm close to getting rid of my rental washer/dryer and sending everything out.

## **Someone pinch me!**

This is unbelievable luck. Of all the things on this island that keep me happy, it's what happens in this building. Prior to this, I could never afford dry cleaning or I never lived near a dry cleaner. Wow. The life I lead now!

If I ever moved back to the states to teach, would I be able to afford dry cleaning? You know the answer to that. How about a maid? You know that answer too. Life is good.



## The Mini-Mart

Life on the island is partially so easy due to the mini-mart. There are so many American (Western) foods readily available and the mini-mart is on the way home from school. How easy is that? I just have to get there before it closes nightly at 9pm. I don't cook, but if I have a hankering for a sandwich, I can just stop into the mini-mart. Too bad beer isn't allowed on this desert island.

See you next in the next volume.