EARLY DEADLINE

Kendra Leigh Miller• Daily Times

Board building with Hopkins Hill School teacher Elena Curt with (l-r) Kerry Medeiros, Grinity Wimbish, and Riley Barnes.

Students at Hopkins Hill learn publishing in classroom

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COVENTRY — Students at Hopkins Hill Elementary School are hot on the technology trail.

Sarah Hemendiger shared a presentation Integrating technology into school art.

The goal was to have a piece of artwork with a Quick Response (QR) Code that once scanned brings you to a website that offers background on that piece of art.

"To me that's magic," she aid. "You scan it and her voice comes up and tells you why the artist created it."

Her idea to use this type of code came to her after learning about it at a professional learning day. Her goal was to use the QR Codes to do video and use the district-issued Chromebooks. Parents would be able to come

Publishing excites students, teachers

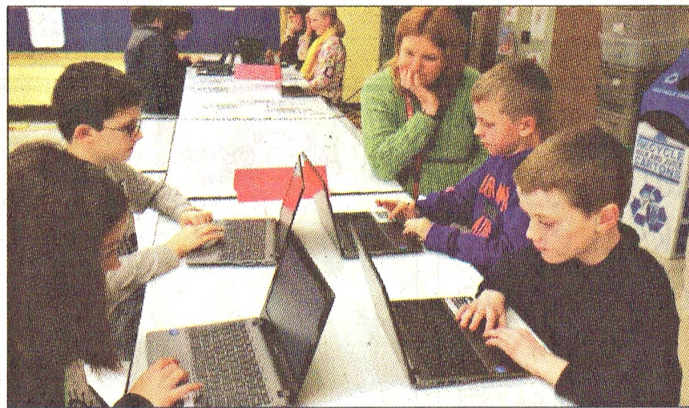in and scan their child's work and learn about it.

As she was learning how to use some of this new technology, she saw some challenges with Google versus Apple and learned how to figure out a browser that everything can be used from.

"They love it," she said. "They're all asking when they can make their QR code," added Hemendiger.

Grade four teacher Elena Curt, said she used a tool called Board Builder for her science class. We turned to Discovery for Education and used that technology to combine all the information; they researched an animal they chose as well as how the board was created to make it as individual as they are.

"They had to follow a rubric for how the project was done then they had to present it to me and their class," she explained. "Instead of the students being fearful and getting knots in their stomach because they have to present, they jumped right up and had so much confidence."

Fourth-grade science teacher Robyn Simoneau has been teaching

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Hopkins Hill students get busy with code as Olivia Barry, Michael Barbosa, Matthew Fontaine and Jacob Clark sit with Hopkins Hill School teacher Robyn Simoneau.

her students code.

"Yes, I'm teaching nine-year-olds code," she said. "One of the big jobs of the future is computer science. There's going to be a technology gap with the need for someone to know code with the jobs available," she said. "They were so excited to go home and see what they could try to do and when they came in they showed each other what they figured out."

She said it may look like a game, but they're actually writing the code.

Kindergarten teacher Jen Jendzejec explained her class completed a project that involved publishing their own book.

"We started by choosing an animal and used technology to research the facts about that animal, create a Power Point then create and publish a book that they can show their parents," she said.

"This is just the beginning; they're so engaged and I see their faces," Jendzjec said

"Awesome," said Coventry School Committee member Donna Kalunian. "It's just awesome. Look how engaged they are. If you love what you're doing, you're going to want to come to school."

A grandparent, who came to see her two grandchildren and the work they're doing said it's amazing.

"It's incredible to see how much they know," she said.

Coventry School Committee Chairwoman Kathy Patenuade, called it "wonderful, engaging" work that teachers and students should all should be so proud of.

"You can hear that motivation and inspiration in the voices of both our teachers and students," said Coventry School Committee Member Ann Dickson.

Committee member James Pierson said it's so great see the students and teachers using so much technology.

"They'll go so far," he said. "To hear the teachers' experience is great because we hear about the technology and it's amazing to see this."