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St. Elizabeth's Computer Corner

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Students in grades 4-8 just completed a lesson on Excel. They learned basic Excel terminology, such as spreadsheet, cell, and cell address as well as a few important function keys like auto sum. They learned to input data and dollar amounts and then write formula's to keep a running total of their budget as they created a Christmas shopping list budget sheet. The students had fun researching for the best prices and deals, both online and in newspaper sales flyers, and "spending" their money on wonderful gifts for their family and friends. They even donated some to charity. *(Of course they were allowed to buy themselves some things, too!)* This was a fun virtual lesson in money management!

The next unit for 6, 7 and 8th graders is a Techno Novel! The students will use PowerPoint to create a *Book Trailer, an animated book report*. Similar to a movie trailer, a preview of the book is created to entice others to read the novel they had read. They describe the main characters, setting, plot, and other elements about the story. There will be worksheets and additional activities in our Techno Novel unit that will be both fun and challenging. This unit integrates language arts learning objectives with technology.

Grades 4 and 5 will continue to learn the keyboard and develop proper keyboarding skills as they practice weekly with various learning games. Computer terms and functions will be reviewed in many of our upcoming lessons as we dive into Publisher and PowerPoint projects. Students will get a preview to Desktop Publishing, Advertising and Marketing concepts, as we become *junior entrepreneurs* for the next few months.

Happy New Year!