Education, Technology and Harmony

It is obvious that technology is in a constant state of growth and development. Too many times, it seems that schools, in their eagerness to keep pace, end up wasting quite a bit of time and money on technologies that have yet to be proven. In many other cases, these eager schools tend to "*throw out the baby with the bath water*." Instead of retaining some of those teaching methodologies that have produced solid results in the past, they simply toss them aside in favor of newer methodologies that they think will work with the newer technologies.

"We have a responsibility to preserve from the old what is dear to us as well as to discover in the new what is truly beneficial. That is an enormous task and not something to be left to chance encounters in cyberspace"(Monke). It is imperative that we learn more about what kinds of research will benefit us the most in the educational setting? I've narrowed some of my questioning down to some that I believe would be critical to any school wishing to embark on a new technological investment. For instance, "Which of 'the old' teaching methods should we keep and which should we gracefully leave behind? Which areas of education do computers actually enhance and which areas might computers actually hinder?"

After four years of teaching on the Navajo Indian Reservation in Kinlichee, Arizona, I'd have to say the most significant lesson I learned from the Navajo people was in reference to their strong belief that all things must exist in a constant state of harmony. They believe we must strive to live a life that doesn't place too much emphasis on any one area, but that we must continually live and learn from all things. Too much emphasis on one area will only take away from another thus disturbing the balance. I feel that the same theory should be applied in the world of education, especially when determining appropriate uses of technology. Simply put, it is imperative that we provide our students and staff with a well balanced variety of methods and materials from which to draw.

Source

Monke, Lowell (1997) "The Web and the Plow," *Education Week on the Web*. Editorial Projects in Education. URL (http://www.edweek.org/tm/vol-09/02monke.h09)