

**Lesson Title:** Sharing Classroom Life with Families

**Curriculum:** Parent Communication

Families always appreciate knowing what their children are doing in school. Traditionally, classroom newsletters, parent conferences, report cards, and school gatherings have been the primary means used by teachers to communicate with parents. With technology, a class can communicate worldwide with families online by creating and maintaining a website.

### **Project Description**

Over the course of the school year, the class uses a digital camera, iPhoto, Photoshop Elements and the teacher's website to share photos of student activities. At the beginning of the year, the teacher should send home a permission form to allow children's photos to be included on a web page. (Names are not included on the web page.) The class discusses what activities they will photograph and assigns responsibility for taking the photos. For example, student teams might photograph classroom science experiments; field trips; P.E., movement, art, or music classes; student presentations; and other regular or special activities.

After photos are taken, students import them into iPhoto. They select photos to share with their families. The photos would then be sized for the newsletter, and or website template(s). Students can also create a card for the teacher to send to families announcing the web page or sharing a class event. They simply create an announcement that the teacher attaches to a group email using their Groupwise account..

### **Outcomes**

After completing this project, students will be able to work cooperatively to take photos of class events. The students will tell the teacher, parent, or student assistant what to write for a caption or descriptor.

### **Technology Skills**

After completing this project, students will be able to:

- . •Use a digital camera to take photos
- . •Use iPhoto to import, organize, and share photos
- . •Use Photoshop Elements to resize pictures
- . • Inserting pictures into Appleworks, Dreamweaver, or Microsoft Word templates

## **Primary: K-2**

**Tools and Resources:** digital camera, computer with iPhoto, Photoshop Elements, Appleworks, Word, or Dreamweaver software

### **Internet**

The following are sample classroom sites:

. •<http://homepage.mac.com/jhharris/karlzgum/PhotoAlbum35.html> Password:  
nelson

. •<http://homepage.mac.com/jhharris/Chinachina/PhotoAlbum29.html> Password:  
experts

. •<http://homepage.mac.com/jhharris/SarahSidra/PhotoAlbum36.html> Password:  
midwife

### **Lessons**

Resizing pictures in Photoshop Elements

Go to [atomiclearning.com](http://atomiclearning.com) • Adobe • Photoshop Elements 2 • Part C-Modifying Images

#12 Resizing Images (1minute 37 second video tutorial)





Read instruction on individual templates

### **Tools**

Macintosh computers, digital camera, iPhoto, Photoshop Elements, active district website

**Templates Provided** –Appleworks, Dreamweaver, Microsoft Word

## Our Classroom Activities

		
Caption	Caption	Caption
		
Caption	Caption	Caption
		
Caption	Caption	Caption
		
Caption	Caption	Caption

1. Size pictures in Photoshop Elements to 1.75 – 2.0 inches.
2. Save pictures to a folder.
3. Click into the cell you wish to place your picture.
4. Go to the Insert menu and pull down to insert Picture, slide to the right and select From File...
5. Navigate to your picture folder and select your picture.
6. Click the Insert button.
7. Highlight and replace the word caption below each picture you place with appropriate text.
8. Repeat these directions until you have placed twelve pictures.
9. Delete the above directions from your page.

**Lesson Title:** Sharing Classroom Life with Families

**Curriculum:**– All Subjects

**Grade-Level Span:** K-2

**Prerequisites:** Experience with the classroom digital camera, hooking camera to computer, downloading pictures to iPhoto (Mac) or Photoshop Elements 3 (PC)

**Washington State EALR Correlation:**

- 2.2 Students advocate and apply positive social behavior while working cooperatively and collaboratively when using technology.
- 3.1.3 Students will demonstrate skills in: Publishing Skills, Graphics Skills, Internet Skills
- 4.0 Technology Communication Tools: Students will use technology devices to interact with a variety of audiences while effectively communicating their ideas.

**National Educational Technology Standards for Students – Performance Indicators  
Grades K-2**

- Work cooperatively and collaboratively with peers, family members, and others when using technology in the classroom.
- Create developmentally appropriate multimedia products with support from teachers, family members, or student partners.

**Purpose:** Parent Communication

**Description:** Over the course of the school year, the class uses a digital camera, iPhoto, Photoshop Elements and the teacher’s website to share photos of student activities.

**Activities:** At the beginning of the year, the teacher should send home a permission form to allow children’s photos to be included on a web page. (Names are not included on the web page.) The class discusses what activities they will photograph and assigns responsibility for taking the photos. For example, student teams might photograph classroom science experiments; field trips; P.E., movement, art, or music classes; student presentations; and other regular or special activities.

After photos are taken, students import them into iPhoto. They select photos to share with their families. The photos would then be sized for the newsletter, and or website template(s). Students can also create a card for the teacher to send to families announcing the web page or sharing a class event. They simply create an announcement that the teacher attaches to a group email using their Groupwise account.

**Tools and Resources:** Digital camera(s), computers, Appleworks, Word, Dreamweaver

**Assessment:** After completing this project, students will be able to work cooperatively to take photos of class events and resize the photos for printed or electronic distribution.

**Credits:** Instructional Technology Team

**Comments:** When grade level or skill level appropriate students could begin adding captions or paragraph descriptions to classroom pictures.