



1. **For all teachers needing to use the iPad's assistive technology, whether SpEd or not:** With each iPad OS update, Apple seems to keep coming out with new assistive technology features, whether text is read to the student in various languages, the rate of speed can be changed, or whether it is font spacing for dyslexic students or background shading features behind text; the iPad is the most advanced and diverse technology for students or users needing assistive technology. Please take a moment to [browse this Apple site](#), explaining all the features of the iPad's assistive technology. (Students should be on iPad OS 14+ for these features)



2. **For all Skyward users:** The [Skyward Virtual user group conference](#) is all next week, from Monday, April 26, through Friday, April 30. To Sign up: 1. Click on the Knowledge Hub dropdown on the upper right corner of your Skyward screen > select Community. 2. Once you have logged into the community > navigate to your "announcements" tile > click on the announcement that says "join us for the Spring virtual User Group conference." 3. Follow the "events" link under the "sign up today" section. 4. Navigate to the Virtual User Group session category which includes the event you want to attend (on the left pane). 5. Click into the event you want to attend. 6. On the right, click "yes" within the Event RSVP box. (those are Skyward's instructions)



3. **Here are a couple more great educational podcasts, if what I have already posted in previous newsletters has not slaked your thirst:**

1. [Educational Duct Tape](#) by Jake Miller: the #EduDuctTape Podcast focuses on viewing #edtech as a tool used to meet goals, address learning standards, and solve problems in the classroom, much as duct tape is used as a tool that solves a plethora of problems in our lives.
2. [Shukes and Giff](#) by Kim Pollishuke and Jen Giffen: The Podcast is a weekly podcast by educators Kim Pollishuke (@KimPollishuke) and Jen Giffen (@VirtualGiff). The podcast aims to share EdTech treasures with the audience in hopes of creating an AHA moment and encouraging listeners to take those AHAs and give it a go.



4. **For all staff K-12:** In the summer/fall, laptops will be replacing your desktop computers, along with a docking station to connect your laptop to the Internet, to the screen in your classroom, to a 2nd monitor if you want to keep a 2nd monitor (yes you can), to power, and to many other items. [Here is a short tutorial video](#) (3:33) preparing you for the laptop and docking station, and this information will also be emailed out several times in May. **You MUST** be logged in to your EACS Google account to access the video. Due to supply-chain problems, I do not have delivery dates on laptops and docking stations yet, but more information will be forthcoming.



**Fun Technology Fact:** Robotics engineers at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburg, in conjunction with the University of Cape Town (South Africa) are studying cheetah tails to better improve the balance and agility of robots! A cheetah's lightweight, furry tail, known as an aerodynamic drag tail, might enable scientists to overcome a problem in robotics. Many animals can perform with high precision and maneuverability at high speeds partly thanks to their tails, but the same thing can't be said for robots. Adding a tail to a robot can mean disadvantages such as increased mass, high inertia and higher energy cost. While most robotic tails have high inertia, the [cheetah's tail](#) uses aerodynamic drag to achieve high forces with low inertia. An aerodynamic drag tail, much like the cheetah's, could help with robotic mobility. [Read more of the article here.](#)

