



# The Gaggle

Bringing You a Gaggle of News Monthly

Volume 2, Issue 4  
November 2006

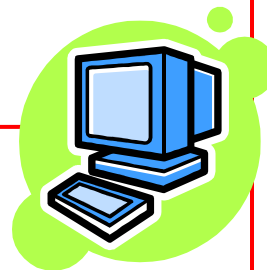
## Gaggle Now Supports Auditory Learning!

Gaggle's newest feature, the Auditory Feedback System (AFS), allows you and your students to hear all outbound and inbound emails, blogs and message board posts read out loud. Through the use of Gaggle's AFS, you can provide your students with audible reinforcement for their literacy success!

With the AFS, Gaggle can support auditory learners with an email system typically used for visual learners. The AFS can help target these auditory learners in your class by giving them the option to hear their emails read back to them. Students can have their outbound emails read aloud before they are sent, allowing them to identify possible problems and empowering them to make corrections. This is a great way to

encourage students to proof read their own emails before sending! The AFS will also read blog entries and message board posts. Being able to address two types of learning styles, visual and auditory, is a huge step forward in the education of all students, including English Language Learners (ELL). In teaching ELL students, you must speak to them in English to help them learn the language. By using the AFS, these students will be able to see and hear a word at the same time!

Gaggle's Auditory Feedback System is an easy way for you to enhance your student's learning today, and it's available in your Gaggle account right now!



## Curriculum Corner

*Learn helpful ways to integrate technology into your daily classroom activities.*

### **Use Blogs as Podcasts and Audio E-Portfolios**

The Auditory Feedback System will also read Gaggle blog entries aloud. When your students create a blog entry, they will be able to have that text read back to them before the entry is posted. Likewise, visitors to a user's blog can also have the text read aloud. This allows the Gaggle blog system to act as a personal podcast when it is played via the Internet. What a great way to produce a podcast without any extra equipment! With the AFS, blog entries can be saved to the local hard drive as an MP3 file to be played later. Here is yet another creative solution for sharing students E-portfolios.

## Training Tips

*Learn helpful tricks about the Gaggle system [here](#).*

### **Say It Button**

When the AFS is turned on for a user, a **Say It** button will appear on the write and read mail screens. Clicking this button will activate the AFS and read the incoming or outgoing email out loud. A similar link is also available on the blog and message board screens.

### **Spanish and French Voices**

Gaggle's AFS has 9 different voices schools can choose from including two Spanish and French voices. This allows students to hear emails read in Spanish and French when translated into the respective language. You can hear samples of these voices from the School Setup page.

### **Filtered Audio**

When a student clicks on the **Say It** button, the Gaggle filters will scan the text in the email first for inappropriate content before reading the email aloud. If inappropriate content is found, the AFS will automatically be disabled on that email screen and a message will be sent to the student's administrator telling them what their student tried to read out loud.