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What's up, the new news magazine on the block

Steven Lay, reporter

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Steven Lay said the new news magazine has a small circulation, but students at Tanana Junior High School in Fairbanks are unveiling the edition of their own news magazine. The magazine is a class project under the direction of their teacher. Providing technical assistance is Dr. Dick Reidel, an assistant professor of education at the University of Alaska. The students drew on the latest technology for their work. Reidel said they did work with Bev Intude and Nancy Sappo. The kids decided to work on a news magazine. They had been working with newspapers and had been using word processing. Their teacher decided it would be exciting to move into a news magazine. They accessed an information utility called CompuServe. Steven Lay said CompuServe is a major computer database which offers access to a wide variety of types of information including the Associated Press wire, movie ratings and scientific data. Reidel said they used about four hundred dollars on CompuServe. They got familiar with the product and got some material ready for the kids so they could access it easily and the kids started on their news magazine. They decided what topics they were going to cover and Reidel and Intude identified sources on CompuServe. Reidel worked with the students and their teacher in the classroom helping the students develop the magazine. Reidel said they wanted to cover topics relevant to kids their age. They had the opportunity to see experts in the field using the CompuServe system. Lay said the project was fun and served a number of sound educational objectives. Reidel said one of the things he is interested in as well as educators who are interested in the use of computers in teaching and learning is to discover powerful ways to use the computer. Computers serve us well, but one of the things they are finding is one of the most powerful uses seem to be related to what a computer can do for you. As a word processor they are finding kids write better and more. As a communication tool it allows us to access places that kids normally wouldn't be able to access. This started out as a suggestion for kids to access sources that the local newspaper can access. Reidel said the kids were very enthusiastic, some more than others. Some of the students were constantly using the resource. Generally the students were very excited about the capability. Some were excited about contacting people from all over the world and not having to leave their classroom to do it.