

## DRAFT

### Wired For Success

#### True Holiday Magic

Did you know that this holiday season is quite phenomenal? Beyond religious observances and buying gifts, we receive a phenomenal cosmic gift. The globe rests. Between December 21 and December 24, the Earth is the farthest away from the sun on its usual orbit around it. In fact, it stops moving for a short time. By December 25, the Earth resumes its course. So not only are the days shorter and the air colder, but we enjoy the proverbial “pregnant pause.” What a magical time. How do you celebrate the magic? How do you share this magic with your loved ones?

Share magic with the girls in your life. Open them up to math. Girls start out mastering arithmetic but peter out as they are introduced to the more abstract forms of mathematics. Could this decline be social engineering or is it female hardwiring? Girl Scouts of America lean toward social engineering as the key factor. Girl Scouts of America launched [www.girlsgotech.com](http://www.girlsgotech.com). This website promotes competencies in mathematics, science and technology for girls. There is a section called *Career Options* to consider future occupations; a section featuring games and a section that explains how the Internet works, including an example of HTML code and java script.

*Career Options* covers job descriptions for a computer programmer, meteorologist, cryptographer, pharmacist, engineer and an urban planner. Each job features a woman that works in the profession. The game section of the website showcases *Cryptic Codes*, *The World Around Us*, *Mandala Makers*, *Sounds of Science* and *Mixed Messages*. *Sounds of Science* has fifteen digital notes to arrange a unique or standard melody. *Mixed Messages* is a brainteaser in which the player must correctly read a color and see a word. This website does an effective job of taking the abstractions out of mathematics and science to show the real world applications of them and young girls

see women working in the fields. Girls Go Tech links to other websites such as the website for the Smithsonian Institute, PBS, NASA and Girls Are IT. NASA's website is truly mind-expanding. Photographs from the Hubble outer space mission will you have wonder whether you are viewing shots from this planet or inside a human body.

Do you have friends who love fashion shows and movies, but can't afford the admission tickets? Tell them about VIDNet.com. This website holds the latest movie trailers, fashion shows and music videos. These three major divisions are further subdivided by genre so the website visitor can easily find the kind of movie trailers, fashion and music that interests him. It works using a queuing system. You select the videos of interest and place them in the order of desired viewing. VIDNet.com does not show the complete fashion show, the portion that is ran gives a strong sense of what the designers are offering for a season.

Share the magic of Kwanzaa. Though introduced over thirty years ago by Maulana Karenga, there are still people unaware of this reflective tradition. Kwanzaa is the means to introduce fundamental practices and concepts into one's lifestyle that are life affirming. Visit [www.kwanzaamedia.com](http://www.kwanzaamedia.com) to get books and videos about Kwanzaa. Okera Ras launched Kwanzaa Media with the goal it becomes "the number one place on the Internet to watch original Kwanzaa music videos and hear original Kwanzaa songs." Kwanzaa Media has links to other websites that educate people on the origin and meaning of Kwanzaa as well as ways to celebrate Kwanzaa during the seven-day period or throughout the year.

### **An Inventor in Our Midst**

If you are a frequent reader of **Our Time Press**, you may notice advertising for Capital Mindz. It's an IT firm that includes web design in its service menu. Capital Mindz's CEO, Taraje Solomon, invented a retractable surge protector. How many times have you plugged the bulky plug of a printer, scanner, copier or fax into a surge

protector and found that it took two spaces—the one it is plugged to and the other socket just for the rest of the unit? Mr. Solomon designed a surge protector where each socket can be manually extended or contracted. The patent is pending. To see a video demonstration, visit [www.capitalmindz.com/products.html](http://www.capitalmindz.com/products.html). Solomon explains that he connected with Manhattan-based Information Technology Assistance Corp ([www.ITAC.org](http://www.ITAC.org)). Through ITAC's Fast Track program, he receives technical assistance with financing the construction of the prototype, identifying a manufacturer and preparing the patent application. ITAC directed Solomon to Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer (BBIR/SBTR) for venture capital.

Have a website? Know of computer hoax? Need a tech question answered? Contact me at [Akosua@plans4success.com](mailto:Akosua@plans4success.com).