

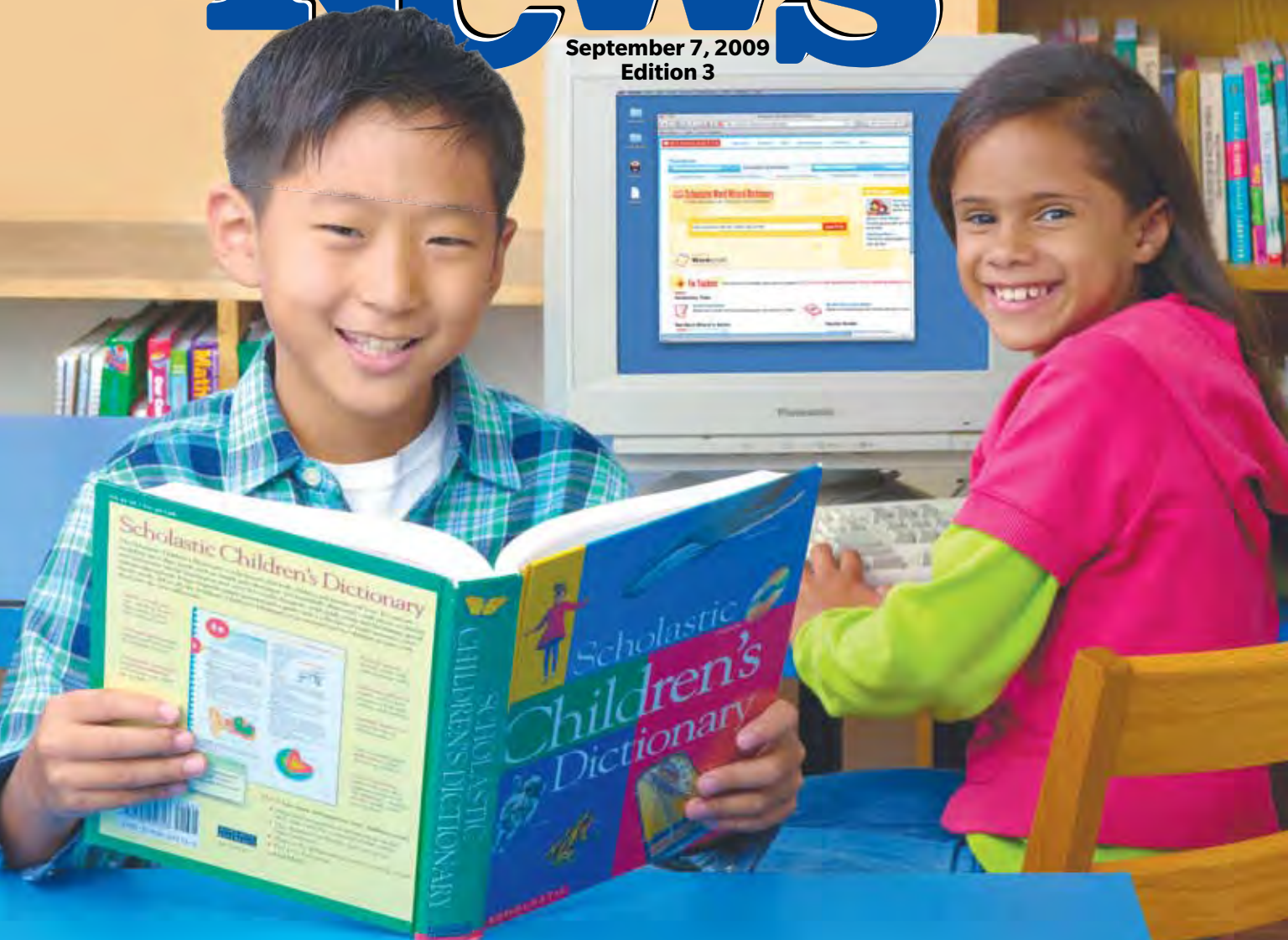
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Bye-bye, Books?

In California, school textbooks are in for a big change. Electronic textbooks may soon take their place.

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Find It!



Why do you think California might switch to electronic textbooks? **NOW TURN TO PAGE 2 TO FIND OUT!**

Electronic Education

In California, public schools are starting to make a switch: from printed textbooks to electronic ones. These are called *digital* (DIJ-uh-tuhl) textbooks, and they can be read on a computer.

Switching to Save

Why is this change happening? California is looking for ways to save money. Printed textbooks can be **expensive**, or costly. They can cost up to \$100 each.

Digital books often cost less. Some are even free.

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger also says that digital textbooks can be updated right away. Printed books get updated only once every few years.

“You wouldn’t have the first African-American

President in [today’s printed] textbooks,” says Schwarzenegger.

Different Opinions

Some experts say the switch will cost more money than it saves, because schools will need to buy more computers. Most schools don’t have a computer for every student.

Another problem is that not every kid has a computer at home.

“[Going digital] is a nice idea, but it’s not going to work,” says David Sanchez of the California Teachers Association.

Neeru Khosla disagrees. Her group, CK-12 Foundation, looks for ways to make textbook materials less costly. California may use digital materials from CK-12. Khosla says that teachers can just print out pages for students. “You don’t need a computer in every student’s hand to do this,” she says.

—By Glenn Greenberg

Some schools across the U.S. already use digital textbooks.



Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger



Find It!



MINI-LESSON: Main Idea and Details

A *main idea* describes what a story is about. A *detail* is information that supports the main idea. On this page, circle the main idea of the story. Then, underline at least two details.

How Many Hurricanes?

Each year, when hurricane season begins on June 1, people wonder the same thing: How many hurricanes will form? Weather experts can only **predict**, or say what they think will happen. There is no way to know for sure—at least for now. Scientists in Florida hope to change that.

The scientists created a new computer program. They hope it will help them correctly figure out the number of hurricanes that will **occur**, or happen. Now, the program is finally being put to the test.

Both the program and human experts have made the same prediction: four to



Hurricane season will end on November 30.

seven hurricanes for this hurricane season.

“People should prepare for every hurricane season, no matter how many storms are predicted,” says expert Gerry Bell. One way to be prepared is to have flashlights ready if the power goes out.

Red Panda Babies

A big hooray for two red pandas, Shan Tou and Yukiko. Recently, the pair became the parents of triplets—one male and two females! The whole family lives at the Red River Zoo in Fargo, North Dakota.



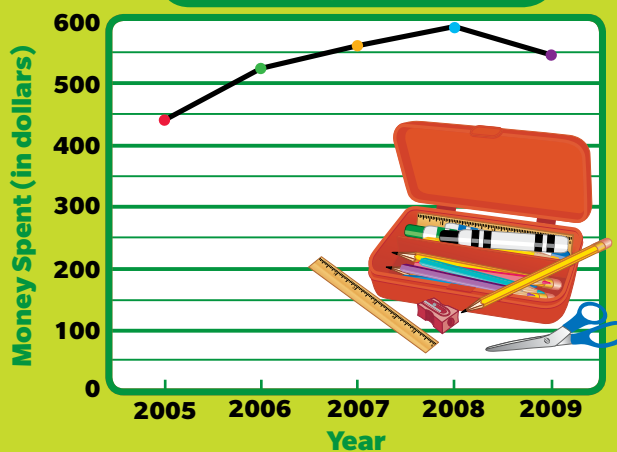
Shan Tou feeds her three new babies.

Red pandas are a **rare**, or not often seen, kind of panda. Their natural home is in the Himalayan Mountains of Asia. A number of red pandas live in zoos across North America—but new births do not happen often. Only five red pandas were born in North America in 2008.

NUMBERS IN THE NEWS

This line graph shows how much money 8,367 people spent each year on back-to-school supplies for the last five years.

Back-to-School Spending Per Family, 2005–2009



In which year did people spend the most on back-to-school supplies?

SOURCE: NATIONAL RETAIL FEDERATION

Find It!



MINI-LESSON: Plurals

Plural means “more than one.” Many plural nouns end in *s*, such as *cats* and *dogs*. Other plural nouns, like *children*, do not end in *s*. On this page, find and circle six plural nouns.

READING A CHART (SEE "HOW MANY HURRICANES?," PAGE 3)

Storm States

Where have the most hurricanes happened in the United States? The chart below shows the states that have gotten hit the most. Use it to answer the questions that follow.

Top-Five Hurricane States in the U.S., 1851-2008

State	Total Number of Hurricanes	Location in U.S.
Florida	113	Southeast
Texas	61	Southwest
Louisiana	52	Southeast
North Carolina	50	Southeast
Alabama	26	Southeast

SOURCE: NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER

- How many hurricanes have hit North Carolina?

- Which state has been hit by the most hurricanes?

- What is the location of that state in the U.S.?

- Which state above is not located in the southeastern U.S.?

VOCABULARY BUILDER

What's the Word?

Fill in each blank with the correct word from the word bank. NOTE: One of the words in the word bank is not a correct answer.

- Printed textbooks can be much more _____ than digital textbooks.
- The red panda is a _____ animal.
- It is not yet possible to know for sure how many hurricanes will _____ each year.

rare
predict
occur
expensive



READING COMPREHENSION



No Sweat Test Prep
Fill in the circle next to the best answer.

Electronic Education

- _____ is the Governor of California.
 - (A) Neeru Khosla
 - (B) David Sanchez
 - (C) Arnold Schwarzenegger
 - (D) Gerry Bell
- This story says that California may switch to digital textbooks _____.
 - (A) because printed textbooks are too heavy to carry
 - (B) because printed textbooks are boring
 - (C) because the state is looking to save money
 - (D) because printed textbooks are never updated
- Digital textbooks _____.
 - (A) cost \$100 each
 - (B) are always free
 - (C) can be updated quickly
 - (D) are used in every school

How Many Hurricanes?

- A new computer program may help scientists _____.
 - (A) stop hurricanes
 - (B) predict hurricanes
 - (C) start hurricanes
 - (D) photograph hurricanes

TEACHERS: For more quiz questions, go to www.scholastic.com/sn3.

