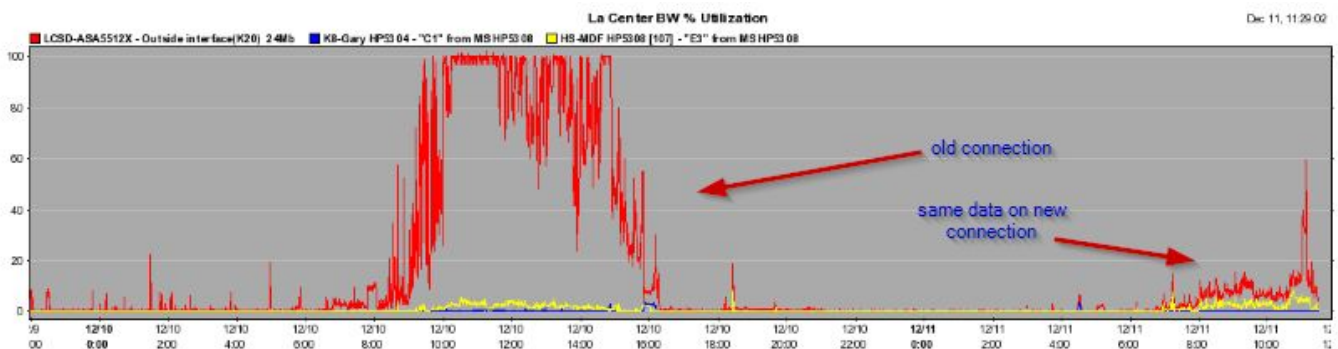


## Looking Back: Data Capacity

It has been great to have the new Internet connection. It has made a huge difference to our end users as well as to the technology department directly! Our incoming requests for assistance that were a symptom of our bandwidth problems have essentially disappeared.

To give you an idea of the change, note the chart below and realize that it is showing a “before and after” picture of our frustration... the mountains ranges of red on the left indicated high levels of frustration whereas the mounds of mole hills to the right show how much less stress is experienced by our users.



The charts actually show the percentage of our Internet connection we're using - the connection to frustration is assumed.

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## What's Current

I am working with our fiscal team and the ESD to access the funds made available by the Federal “eRate” program. This funds can only be used to support infrastructure upgrades as it relates to providing communications. At the beginning of last year there was a substantial change to the way the eRate is calculated and distributed. The end result gives us access to significantly more funds which can be used for switches, servers, uninterruptible power supplies, cabling, conduit, fiber, etc. Last year we focused on the installation of cabling to support wireless access points in each classroom. This year, we'll continue that effort and plan to acquire a significant upgrade to the “back end” of the network. Whilst not particularly glamorous to most people, it is these kinds of upgrades that allow a network to provide the speeds and reliability that we all wish were byproducts of good stewardship... which they are, I guess, if you keep on upgrading them as part of your stewardship.

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## Looking Forward

Stephanie Holmes is continuing her “Tech Cafe” this year and has been able to arrange for additional flexibility. She will be working as an individual coach for staff that are trying to extend their skills at using technology. These efforts both capitalize on the innate relevance of her discussions - each person's needs are listened to, refined, sometimes reigned in a bit, and then she helps expose them to the tools and opportunities they need to master their desired skill set.