

# FRESHLY BREWED

BY TEKANNA | WHERE TEACHING MEETS TECHNOLOGY

January 2026

Welcome to a brand-new year and a fresh cup of inspiration. After a season of rest, twinkling lights, and maybe a magical snow day or two, January invites us back into our classrooms with quiet hope and gentle new beginnings. This month's Freshly Brewed is all about easing in, finding joy in small wins, and using TEA-friendly tools that make teaching lighter and learning brighter. So grab something warm, breathe deeply, and settle into a cozy new semester; one filled with creativity, calm, and the reminder that you're doing incredible work.

## THIS MONTH'S TECH TO TRY: AI TOOLS THAT ACTUALLY HELP

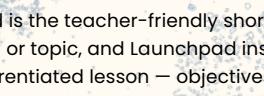
WATCH FOR MINI TUTORIALS ON [TEKANNA'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL](#) ALL MONTH LONG!



WEEK 1

Curipod is the quickest way to turn any topic into an interactive, AI-powered lesson your students will beg to do. With one click, you get slides, drawing prompts, polls, reflection questions, and built-in formative checks – all created instantly.

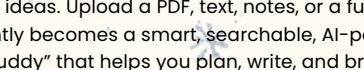
[CURIPOD](#)



WEEK 2

Lesson Launchpad is the teacher-friendly shortcut you'll love. Drop in a standard or topic, and Launchpad instantly builds a complete, differentiated lesson – objectives, activities, scaffolds, and exit tickets included.

[LESSON LAUNCHPAD](#)



WEEK 3

NotebookLM organizes your thinking, simplifies your research, and turns your resources into digestible summaries, outlines, and ideas. Upload a PDF, text, notes, or a full unit, and it instantly becomes a smart, searchable, AI-powered "study buddy" that helps you plan, write, and brainstorm.

[NOTEBOOK LM](#)



WEEK 4

Brisk is the teacher workflow hero we've been waiting for. It can rewrite reading passages at different levels, create IEP-friendly accommodations, give instant feedback on student work, generate rubrics, and even scan student writing to identify what they need next.

[BRISK](#)

## SPOTLIGHT: EDUCATOR INNOVATION IN ACTION

*Ms. Juniper Hawthorne*

Years in Education: 12

Cozy Drink of Choice: Vanilla Chai Tea Latte

### Teaching Philosophy:

Ms. Hawthorne believes learning thrives when curiosity leads the way. She designs her classroom as a space where questioning is encouraged, mistakes are treated as part of the process, and students are empowered to take ownership of their learning. Her goal is to help students see themselves not just as learners, but as thinkers capable of growth, reflection, and creativity.

### What Brings Her Joy:

Joy, for Ms. Hawthorne, comes from watching students connect the dots. She loves those quiet moments when a student suddenly says, "Wait... I get it now," or when classroom discussions take unexpected, thoughtful turns. Seeing students become more confident in sharing their ideas is what makes each day meaningful.

### Relationship with Technology:

"I use tech with intention." Ms. Hawthorne sees technology as a powerful support—not a replacement for great teaching. She carefully selects tools that enhance reflection, collaboration, and accessibility, making sure every student has a voice and a way to engage with the content.

### Favorite EdTech Tool:

Canva has become her go-to favorite. From student-created infographics to interactive presentations and choice boards, she loves how it allows students to show understanding creatively while building real-world design and communication skills.

### How Tech Has Made an Impact:

Technology has expanded how students express learning in her classroom. Instead of one-size-fits-all assignments, students now have multiple pathways to demonstrate understanding through visuals, audio, collaborative projects, or written reflection. Engagement has increased, and so has student confidence.

### A Thoughtful Concern:

Ms. Hawthorne is mindful of balance. While she values digital tools, she believes students still need time to slow down, think deeply, and engage without screens. Her approach blends technology with discussion, handwriting, and unplugged reflection to support whole-student learning.

### A Recent Classroom Win:

This semester, her students led their own inquiry projects from start to finish: choosing topics, designing products, and presenting to peers. Several students who were once hesitant to speak now confidently explain their thinking, a growth moment she considers a huge success.

### What Inspires Her:

Ms. Hawthorne is inspired by growth—hers and her students'. Seeing learners take risks, revise their thinking, and realize how far they've come reminds her why teaching matters. As she often says, "Progress doesn't have to be loud to be powerful."



Want to be featured in an upcoming spotlight?

Complete this [FORM](#) and tell us how you're using tech creatively in your classroom or school!

## Stay Connected

Never miss a sip of what's new in education and innovation.

Follow Tekanna on YouTube, Instagram, and Facebook for fresh content weekly—and stay tuned for next month's Freshly Brewed, where we'll continue to blend coffee, creativity, and cutting-edge tech.



IT'S COLD outside

