Creating Animated GIFs in Fireworks MX

Open Fireworks
- Create a new canvas with a 300x300 size; white canvas

Copy and paste clipart from Microsoft Word into Fireworks
- Open Word
- Click on Insert>Picture>Clipart
- Browse and locate the clip art
- Click on the clip art
- Click on the insert clip button
- Close clip art
- Select the clip art
- Click Edit>Copy
- Switch to Fireworks
- Click on Edit>Paste

Setting up the canvas in Fireworks
- Move the picture (clipart) up near the top of the canvas.
- Below the picture (clipart), type some text.

For this example I am going to type in the following:

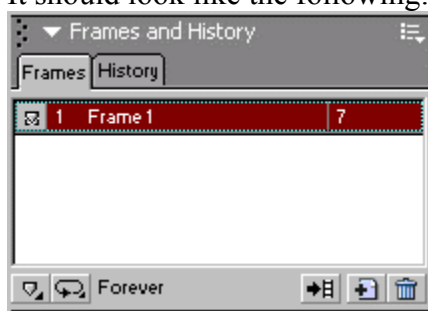The last day of school is
May 30!!!

Animating the date (May 30!!!)
- Locate the frames and history panel
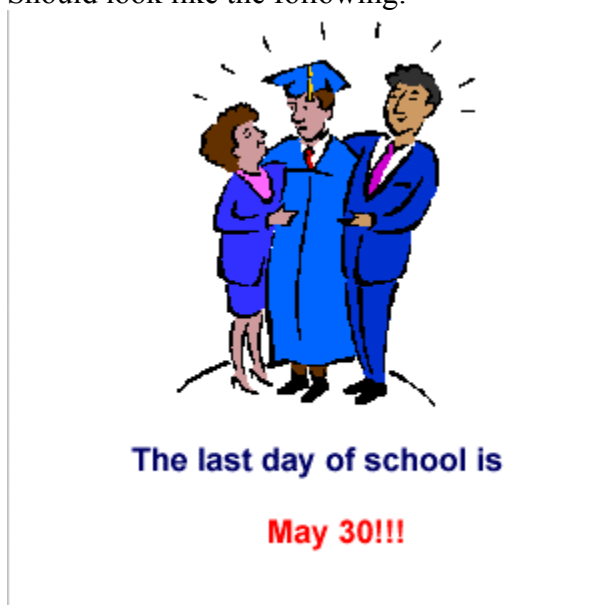 Look for the following on the right side of the window

- Click on the white arrow pointing to the right (this opens up the frames and history panel)
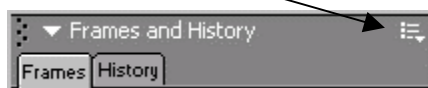
It should look like the following:

- Frame1 = current canvas
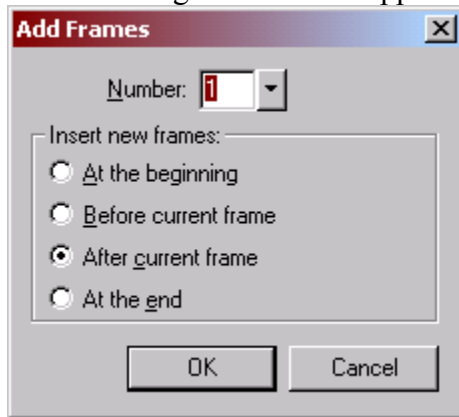 Should look like the following:

Adding frames to the canvas

- Click on the down arrow button to the **right** of the words Frames and History

- From this menu, click on the top choice that reads add frames…

The following window will appear:

- Add 3 frames after current frame (change 1 to 3)
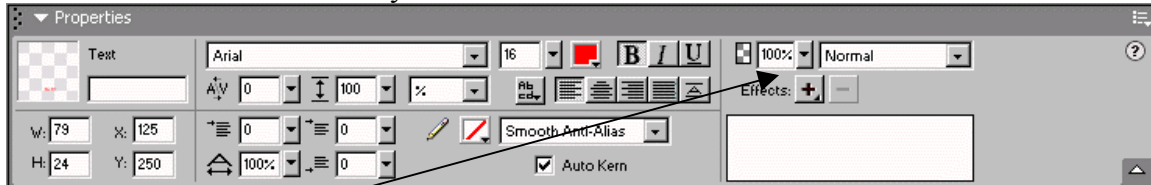- Click OK

Setting up the Frames
- Click on Frame 1 in the frames panel
- Select all the objects in frame 1
- Hold down the control key plus the A key
- Edit > Copy
- Click on Frame 2 in the frames panel
- Edit > Paste
- Click on Frame 3 in the frames panel
- Edit > Paste
- Click on Frame 4 in the frames panel
- Edit > Paste

All frames should now be similar

Adding the animation to the words May 30!!!
The words May 30!!! Will appear in a gradual visual pattern.

- Click on Frame 1 in the frames panel
- Select the text box May 30!!!

- Locate the opacity window to the right of the Underline button.
- Change 100% to 25%.
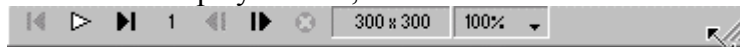- Press Enter
- Click on Frame 2 in the frames panel
- Select the text box May 30!!!
- Locate the opacity window to the right of the Underline button.
- Change 100% to 50%.
- Press Enter
- Click on Frame 3 in the frames panel
- Locate the opacity window to the right of the Underline button.
- Change 100% to 75%.
- Press Enter
- Click on Frame 4 in the frames panel
- Locate the opacity window to the right of the Underline button.
- Make sure the opacity is set to 100%.
- Press Enter

Preview the animation
- Locate the play toolbar, which is under the canvas.

- Click once on the white arrow and the animation will play.

Changing the frames per second so the words won't blink so fast
- Click on Frame 1 in the frames panel
- Double click on the number 7 to the right of the words Frame 1
- Change 7 to 30

- Repeat for each frame
- Preview the animation
- Change the numbers until you like the animation

Looping Options

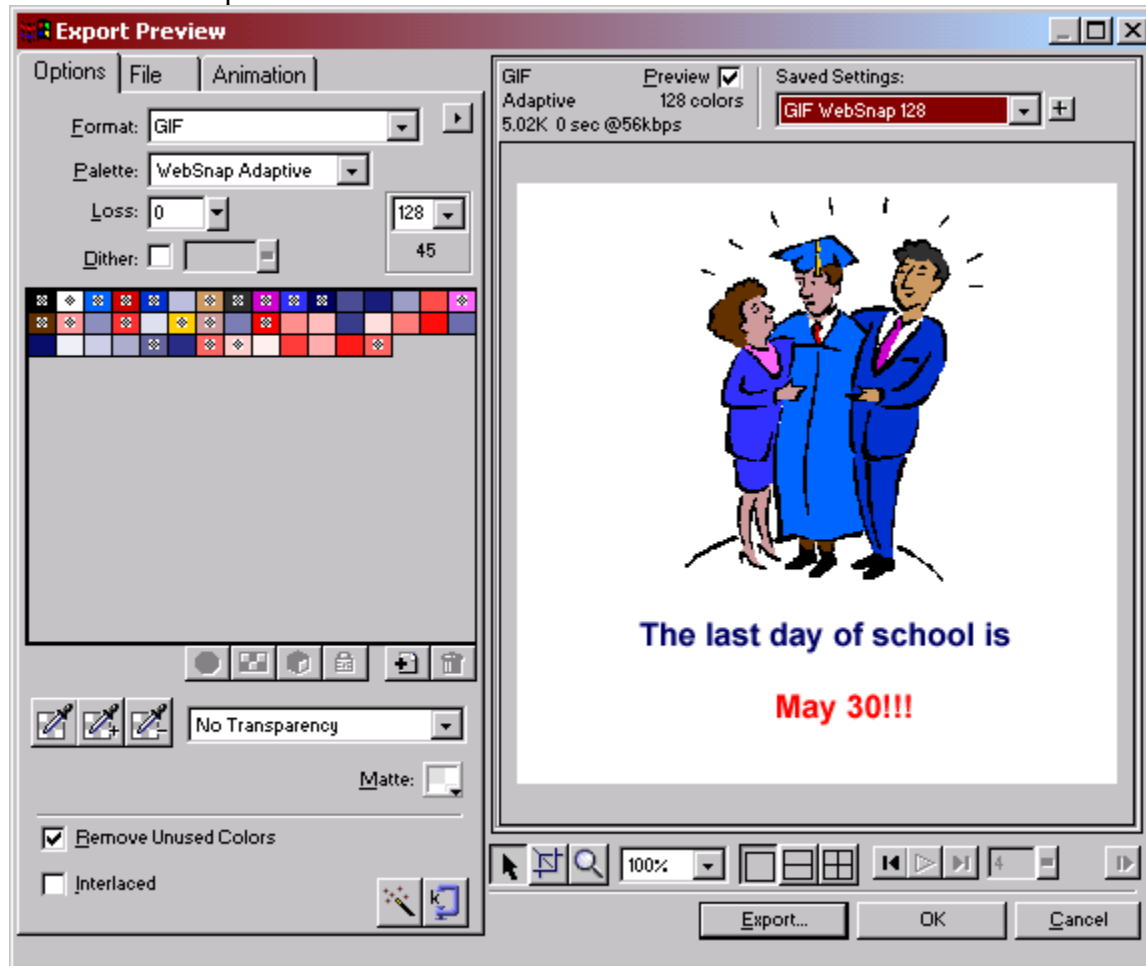- Locate the following toolbar under the frames and history panel

- Click on the down arrow next to the loop button (left of the word Forever)
This will bring up a menu with options for looping. The default is Forever. I am going to change mine to loop three times (click number 3).

NOTE: When you preview the animation it will keep looping instead of just loop once. It will loop three times when you export the image as an animated gif.

Exporting as an Animated GIF

- File > Export Preview

- Locate the format drop down on the left hand side of the window
- Click on the drop down arrow and choose Animated Gif
- Click on Export

- Browse to the location for this Animated Gif
- Name the Animated Gif
- Click OK

<u>Save as a PNG (this allows you to make changes to the animated gif later)</u>
- File> Save
- Name the gif and place in a folder