

Emerge One-to-One Laptop Learning

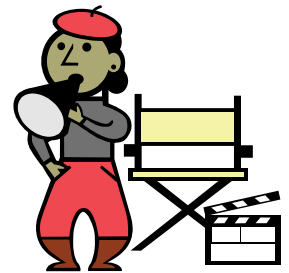
MARCH 2010

Greetings Everyone!

It's hard to believe that it's already March So much to do! Some of you have been asking about your final reports and the format for these. We have invited some of the project leads from the Emerge community to assist us in shaping the questions in the final report, as we want the reports to be meaningful to you in your jurisdictional context as well as within the ministry. This meeting will take place in late March and I should have the information to you in early April.

In the meantime, you can develop the **video** component of your report as outlined in the Terms of Reference of your Emerge grant— "A short video (max. 10 minutes) showcasing the project and project outcomes". When developing your video, consider the following:

- The intended use is to assist in communicating the story of Emerge within Alberta Education, school jurisdictions and other stakeholders. This might be something you would show to your trustees or at a parent meeting.
- Ensure that all copyright/FOIP issues are addressed as the videos may be posted in whole or in part on the Emerge website or other Alberta Education websites.
- Use exemplars that showcase students and teachers using the technology.
- Try to avoid long interviews featuring one speaker. Consider breaking this up with other pieces featuring students and teachers engaged in using the technology as a transformational tool.



Just a quick reminder to get your registrations in for **Emerge 2010 Summit**. An update is provided on page 2. Be sure to let your colleagues know about this event as well, as it will appeal to anyone wanting to learn more about educational technology. Hope to see you there!

Thanks to those of you that have taken the time to host me in your jurisdictions and at your schools, or met with me via VC, Skype or phone. I've really enjoyed hearing your stories, and it's obvious to me that you are making an incredible difference in the lives of your students. If there's anything I can do to support your projects please don't hesitate to contact me! Ralph

Passport to the Internet



Alberta Education has signed a licensing agreement with Media Awareness Network for their *Passport to the Internet* online student resource, which is aimed at helping students to develop critical thinking skills for their online experiences. Using simulations of the most popular Internet environments, this interactive resource teaches students about online safety, authenticating online information, recognizing online marketing ploys, protecting their privacy, managing online relationships and dealing with cyberbullying.

Through the licensing agreement, all schools with Grades 4 to 8 students will be able to access the resource at no cost, until August 31, 2011. A teachers' guide is also available for this resource. Information on accessing this information has been sent out to all Jurisdiction Technology Contacts.

More information on the resource is available online at <http://education.alberta.ca/admin/technology/tools-and-resources.aspx>. For more information, contact Edna Dach at Edna.Dach@gov.ab.ca or by phone at 780-644-4586.

Emerge 2010 Summit



Registration Update: Early bird rates end on **March 31, 2010**

Sign up now to get the best rate!

A contemporary education, that equips all children for their future, can be effectively provided with technology. Today's schools have the ability to leverage technology to provide a contemporary education that is relevant, assistive, meaningful, authentic, intellectually complex and engaging. Through years of comprehensive research, Alberta Education has learned a great deal about the role of technology in transformational change.

The EmERGE 2010 Summit will examine the latest research on the use of technology in schools and provide first-hand accounts of transformational change in the classroom.

Internationally renowned speakers

Bruce Dixon - President of Anywhere Anytime Learning Foundation, educator, educational software developer, business and social entrepreneur, and strategic consultant. Bruce builds effective strategies for educational leaders and policy makers around the effective use of emerging technologies. <http://www.aalf.org/>

Sharon Friesen - Co-founder and president of the Galileo Educational Network and Associate Professor in the Faculty of Education at the University of Calgary. Sharon consults on a wide range of teaching and learning topics related to curriculum reform and school improvement. <http://galileo.org/>

Donald Knezek - CEO of the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE). Don is a leader of innovation for transforming education with technology and recognized globally for his leadership in collaboration, planning and standards development. <http://www.iste.org/>

Cheryl Lemke - President and CEO of the Metiri Group. Cheryl specializes in public policy for K-12 learning technology, working internationally at a variety of levels with policy leaders, governors, legislators, superintendents, business leaders and teachers. <http://metiri.com/>

David Merrill - graduate student at MIT's Media Lab and one of the creators of the Siftables project. Siftables are cookie-sized computers with motion sensing, neighbor detection, graphical display, and wireless communication that users physically manipulate to interact with digital information and media. A video of David Merrill demonstrating Siftables is available [here](#). If you have not seen these, this is a must watch!

There are a wide variety of sessions that will be delivered by Alberta educators!

Keep an eye on the program - new speakers are being added as they are confirmed!

Visit the

Emerge 2010 Summit website

<http://emerge2010.galileonetwork.ca/>

To Tweet or Not To Tweet...

By Ralph Luedtke

...That is the question! At least it's been the question on my mind. By nature I'm a bit of a "geek"... I like technology for its own sake, yet I confess that I'm cautious too, and unless I can see how the technology can benefit me personally or professionally the love affair comes to a quick end and I move on to other things. As I've been reading about [personal learning networks](#), aka PLNs, and other social media tools, I finally convinced myself to take the plunge, and so I've joined [Twitter](#). Now as of the writing of this article I've sent exactly 19 [tweets](#) so don't expect anything too profound, but I thought I'd share with you some of my thinking and experiences with this particular social media tool.

So, how can a tool that's based on the idea of "What's happening?" and limits you to 140 characters be of any educational benefit? The first thing I've discovered about Twitter is that it's a wonderful tool to support you in developing your own [personal learning network](#). With all of the new information available via the Internet I often feel like I'm drinking from the proverbial fire hose. It can be a struggle to keep up with what's happening in the area of educational technology - things are changing so fast. By [following](#) individuals who share the same professional interests as me I find I can get a better sense of what people are reading and what they think about it. In fact, most of the links I'll be sharing with you came about as a result of following other peoples' Twitter posts (aka tweets).

By nature I'm a "lurker", I follow posts and read articles referred to in posts, but I rarely post anything. This year, one of my goals is to become more of a contributor to discussions within the professional community. Twitter allows me a couple of options to contribute. I can ease into things by [re-tweeting](#) someone else's comments or information about a subject, and therefore end up sharing this within my community of followers. I can also post any new ideas or resources I've discovered directly to the community by creating my own tweets. I've also seen people use Twitter as a

quick polling tool, although I have yet to try my hand at this. For example, I recently read of one instance where a teacher wanted to answer the question, [Why use Wordle with students?](#). Turning to his PLN he posted a tweet and within moments received numerous responses from other educators sharing why and how they use [Wordle](#) with their students.

As you can see I'm no expert but if after reading this I might have peeked your curiosity, and you're thinking that you might want to give Twitter a try, here's a little bit of advice on how to proceed – at least it worked for me. Good luck, and enjoy!

How to get involved:

1. Create an account on Twitter by [signing up](#).
2. Pick someone to [follow](#) – perhaps another educator you know on Twitter.
3. Look through the posts for items that interested you – see who posted them, and [add](#) some of these people as followers. Don't pick too many people to follow at once, as it can be overwhelming.
4. Spend a week or two (or more) just following the posts.
5. Post (tweet) something interesting you've read, comment on someone else's tweet or simply [re-tweet](#).

For further reading, check out:

[Why Teachers Should Try Twitter](#)

[Think Before You Tweet...](#)

[100 Ways to Teach with Twitter](#)

[Twitter in Plain English](#)

[7 Step Twitter Start-Up Guide for Newbies](#)

[Why Twitter in Education?](#)

[Using Twitter to Facilitate Classroom Discussions](#)



Tech.News

Sign up for Tech.News—the electronic newsletter that will keep you informed about Alberta Education’s technology initiatives, research, events and more.

Tech.news@gov.ab.ca

Featured Resources

Educational Outcomes and Research from 1:1 Computing Settings

Volume 9: Special Edition, The Journal of Technology, Learning, and Assessment

<http://escholarship.bc.edu/jtla/>

This special edition of the Journal of Technology, Learning, and Assessment features five different research articles on the impact of one-to-one laptop use in a variety of different settings.

5 Considerations for Digital Age Leaders – What Principals and District Administrators Need to Know about Tech Integration Today

<http://www.digitalcitizenship.net/uploads/LLDecArticle.pdf>

Learning & Leading with Technology, December/January 2009-10

The Horizon Report—2010 Edition

<http://wp.nmc.org/horizon2010/>

The annual *Horizon Report* describes the continuing work of the [New Media Consortium’s Horizon Project](#), a qualitative research project established in 2002 that identifies and describes emerging technologies likely to have a large impact on teaching, learning, or creative inquiry on college and university campuses within the next five years. The *2010 Horizon Report* is the seventh in the series and is produced as part of an ongoing collaboration between the [New Media Consortium \(NMC\)](#) and the [EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative \(ELI\)](#), an EDUCAUSE program.

A 21st Century Education

<http://www.mobilelearninginstitute.org/21stcenturyeducation/index.html>

The Mobile Learning Institute’s film series “A 21st Century Education” profiles individuals who embrace and defend fresh approaches to learning and who confront the urgent social challenges that are part of a 21st century experience. “A 21st Century Education” compiles, in short film format, the best ideas around school reform. The series is meant to start, extend, or nudge the conversation about how to make change in education happen.

School Technology Branch

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Transforming Learning, Inspiring Discovery