



HELLO! Amazing how time really does seem to fly as there are but a few months left in Year Two of your projects. Firstly, a huge thank you for taking the time to meet with me in your jurisdictions and schools, via VC, Elluminate, Skype, phone and face-to-face. It's truly inspiring to hear of the incredible energy and hard work that is going into the projects as you move the technology and pedagogy forward to further engage the students and teachers alike. I continue to spread the word of your inspiring stories and transformational work throughout the Ministry. I can't thank you enough for all that you are doing for the students of this province.



There have been some inquiries in regards to the reporting components that remain for your projects. To recap, there is an interim report due August 31st and a Final Report (with video) due November 30th.



The Interim Report will focus on Year 2 only, with the template being emailed to the project leads by mid-March. With regards to the Final Report, we have invited some of the project leads from the THSS community to meet in late March to assist us in shaping the questions for the Final Report. The intent is to make the reports as meaningful as possible to the jurisdictions and the Ministry. I anticipate that the Final Report template will be out to you in early April.

Please remember that the Final Report also has a video component. As outlined in the Terms of Reference of your THSS grant—"A short video (max.10 minutes) showcasing the project and project outcomes".

As you develop your video consider the following:

- Intended Use: to assist in communicating the story of THSS within school jurisdictions, Alberta Education and other stakeholders.
- Ensure that all copyright/FOIP issues are addressed as the videos may be posted in whole or in part on the THSS 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 or delivering the message via subtitles, written script or narration that appears over the video or photos of students and teachers engaged in using the technology .
- Still photos are an acceptable alternative to video.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can help in any way. Thank you again for all that you are doing for our students!

Warmest Regards,

Lynda



Tech.News

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

Tech.news@gov.ab.ca

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

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. <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. <http://galileo.org/>

Donald Knezek - CEO of the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE®). <http://www.iste.org/>

Cheryl Lemke - President and CEO of the Metiri Group. <http://metiri.com/>

David Merrill - Creator of the Siftables project. To view a video demonstrating Siftables, click [here](#).

Visit the

Emerge 2010 Summit website

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

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!



Social Media Resources

Educational institutions are beginning to embrace social media tools to provide the opportunity for students to connect and collaborate to enrich their learning experience, and for teachers to enhance their professional learning.

The Technology and High School Success projects in **Peace Wapiti** and **St. Thomas Aquinas** are researching the use of some of these tools. If you would like more information on how they are using **Facebook in Peace Wapiti** you can contact Brian Shields, Project Coordinator, at brianshields@pwsd76.ab.ca or Joan Coy, Project Lead, at jcoy@vschool.pwsd76.ab.ca. For information on the use of **Skype** in the **St. Thomas Aquinos** project, you can contact Mark Basaraba, Project Manager, at mark.basaraba@starcatholic.ab.ca.

The possibilities for the use of Twitter to enhance teaching and learning are examined in the following articles:

[Why Teachers Should Try Twitter](#)

[100 Ways to Teach with Twitter](#)

[Why Twitter in Education?](#)

[Using Twitter to Facilitate Classroom Discussions](#)

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP
 Educational Leaders
 model and facilitate
 social, ethical and legal
 issues and
 responsibilities
 Standard 5 ISTE NETS

Articles & Resources

Alberta Education. 2009. *Your Key to Success: Administrator's Guide to Raising Alberta's High School Completion Rate*. <http://www.education.alberta.ca/media/1164696/hsc-key-to-success.pdf>

Williamson, Jo & Redish, Traci. 2009. *ISTE's Technology Facilitation and Leadership Standards: What Every K-12 Leader Should Know and Be Able to Do*. ISTE http://www.iste.org/source/Orders/isteProductDetail.cfm?product_code=tlprep

Ontario Public School Boards' Assoc. Jan. 2010. *What if? Technology in the 21st Classroom*. [http://www.opsba.org/index.php?q=news/what if technology in the 21st century classroom](http://www.opsba.org/index.php?q=news/what%20if%20technology%20in%20the%2021st%20century%20classroom)

Digitally Inclined: Teachers Increasingly Value Media and Technology. 2009. GA Grunwald Associates LLC. <http://www.pbs.org/teachers/files/pdf/annual-pbs-survey-report.pdf>

Digital Citizenship using Technology Appropriately. Retrieved Feb 2010. <http://www.digitalcitizenship.net/>

3 ways Educators Are Embracing Social Technology <http://mashable.com/2010/01/10/educators-social-technology/>

Johnson, L., Levine, A., Smith, R., & Stone, S. 2010. *The 2010 Horizon Report*. The New Media Consortium. <http://www.nmc.org/pdf/2010-Horizon-Report.pdf>

YouTube :

Danah Boyd's: American Teens and Social Media. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gYOkHq-27o> The presentation in this video was developed using Prezi (a presentation software), which has been identified as one of the top ten technologies to watch in 2010 (www.Prezi.com).

Is Social Media A Fad? <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sIFYPQjYhv8&feature=youtu.be&a>

PD Opportunities

Webinar Series

You are invited to participate in the First Annual Professional Improvement Fellowship (PIF) Webinar Series hosted by People Development in the Calgary Board of Education.

April 14, 2010 at 4:30 PM

What Structures Are Necessary for Effective Technology Implementation?

Stephen Moses and Ken Weipert

The presenters of this webinar will discuss their findings and research on some of the aspects of technology planning for school environments. They will explore accessibility as a result of technology and discuss structuring accessible learning environments through the use of technology. Finally, the presenters will explore the cultural conditions for implementing technology in school settings.

Webinars are offered online through the use of Elluminate. Participants will require a headset with a microphone. Links to the webinar will be sent out the day prior to the webinar itself. Click here to [Register](#).

Leading Our Way Forward—Leadership Conference

April 19th and 20th, 2010

Shaw Conference Centre - Edmonton

In partnership with CASS, the Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium is proud to present an interactive and collaborative learning opportunity for jurisdiction leaders and their leadership team.

The conference will provide jurisdiction and school leaders with the opportunity to build 21st century ecosystems in our schools – environments where growth of 21st century skills are available for today's students. It will focus on developing instructional leadership capacity in the area of effective integration of learning technologies into the instructional process.

Three expert keynote presenters, Julie Evans, Jim Hirsch and Bernajean Porter, will collaboratively share their knowledge and experience, and will work with jurisdiction teams to develop and/or refine their district learning technology plans through a process focused on the essential conditions of effective implementation.

Registration fees are \$250 per person. More information is available at www.erc.ca on the Programs page under the Leadership workshop theme.

*EXCELLENCE IN
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE
Educational Leaders promote
professional learning and
innovation that empowers
educators to enhance
student learning through the
infusion of contemporary
technologies and digital
resources.
Standard 3 ISTE NETS*

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**TECHNOLOGY &
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