

Tech.News, Alberta Education's newsletter for Alberta's education community, began in August 2001. The newsletter was sent out by email without graphics to keep it as small as possible for those who were still using dial-up.

*Please note – the links contained in this newsletter are at least ten years old and may not exist now.

tech.news
August 24, 2001
Vol. 1, No. 1

CONTENTS:

1. Greetings
2. SUPERNET Update
3. ICT Parent Brochure
4. Online Elementary Mathematics Resources
5. Web Awareness Workshop Materials
6. ALERT: Inappropriate Web Site Update
7. The CEO Forum School Technology and Readiness Report
8. LibraryNet
9. LINKS

=====

1. Greetings

You have received this e-mail newsletter, called tech.news, from the Stakeholder Technology team of Alberta Learning. The mandate of Stakeholder Technology is to "work with partners to provide leadership and support for the implementation of evolving technologies in learning."

tech.news will be delivered to you by e-mail every second Friday throughout the school year. The primary audience for this newsletter is K-12 Jurisdiction Technology Coordinators. The purpose of tech.news is to:

- Provide timely information about initiatives, such as SuperNet and the Online Curriculum Repository (OCR);
- Highlight resources, such as Best Practice documents and professional development activities;
- Invite participation and discussion about common issues, ideas and concerns;
- Highlight articles, news stories and web sites that provide information about learning and technology; and
- Provide a means of communicating jurisdictional activities related to learning and technology.

2. SUPERNET Update

The contract for Alberta SUPERNET, which will provide high-speed network connectivity to all learning institutions within three years, was signed on July 24. Information about when the build will occur in each jurisdiction will be available this fall. Stakeholder Technology will be the first point of contact

about SUPERNET for K-12 jurisdictions and post-secondary institutions. Timely information will be provided through this newsletter, on a project web site that will be launched in September, and at JTC events such as the one planned for October 26. Additional information will be provided in the September 7 newsletter. More information: Erwin Loewen (Erwin.Loewen@gov.ab.ca).

3. ICT Parent Brochure

<<<http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/ict/default.asp> >>

This brochure provides parents with a brief background on the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Program of Studies. Items in the brochure include: Why is the ICT program not a stand-alone course; How did Alberta Learning develop the ICT outcomes for kindergarten to grade 12; What is the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Program of Studies; What are the ICT outcomes, and; What support is government giving to schools to implement technology?

4. Online Elementary Mathematics Resources

Alberta Learning expects to offer web-based elementary mathematics concept lessons online later this fall. These online lessons correlate with the Grade 6 mathematics program of studies in Alberta, and will be available to teachers, students and parents at home and in school via the Alberta Learning web site. The Flash 5 plug-in is required to view/use these lessons. In January 2001, Alberta Learning's Deputy Minister approved new standards for electronic information exchange <<http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/technology/software/software_standards.asp>> to take effect on September 1, 2001, which will require the minimum browser to be Microsoft Internet Explorer version 5.5 or above. This browser will support the Flash 5 plug-in. There are no minimum requirements for hardware other than it must be sufficient to support software such as Internet Explorer 5.5.

5. Web Awareness Workshop Materials

<<<http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/technology/nr/WebAwareness.asp>>>

The current Web Awareness Workshop materials will be revised by the Media Awareness Network (MNet) by the end of September. The current materials may continue to be used until the next versions are available.

Alberta Learning has a limited number of Web Awareness packages which include the current CD-ROM. For copies, please contact Veera.Gonsalves@gov.ab.ca or (780) 427-9001.

6. ALERT: Inappropriate Web Site Update

The Media Awareness Network (MNet) has issued the following alert:

"The site www.kidsvista.com is now a pornographic site. The original www.kidsvista.com site has let their domain name registration lapse and the name was picked up by and turned into a pornographic site."

7. The CEO Forum School Technology and Readiness Report

<<<http://www.ceoforum.org/downloads/report4.pdf>>>

Through case studies of best practice classrooms, analysis of existing research and consultation with education experts, the CEO Forum sought to identify educational objectives that technology can help to achieve for the benefit of all education stakeholders. This final report reflects five years of studying the impact of education technology, and several key findings are the result, including: education technology can improve student achievement; technology can have the greatest impact when integrated into the curriculum to achieve clear, measurable educational objectives; assessment is not currently aligned with educational objectives, or adequately measuring 21st century skills; measurement and continuous improvement strategies have not been widely implemented in schools and districts.

8. LibraryNet

<<<http://www.schoolnet.ca/ln-rb/e/index.html>>>

LibraryNet is a cooperative venture of Canada's public libraries, library jurisdictions and agencies, librarians and Industry Canada. It produces an e-mail newsletter, LibraryNet Monthly, with information on connectivity in libraries worldwide, with an emphasis on Canadian public libraries. An archive of previous newsletters is available on LibraryNet's web site: <<<http://www.schoolnet.ca/ln-rb/e/lnmonth/index.asp>>>. To subscribe to LibraryNet Monthly, simply enter your e-mail address in the online subscription form located on LibraryNet's homepage.

9. LINKS:

- * Alberta Learning-Technology: <<<http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/technology/>>>
- * TELUS Learning Connection: <<<http://www.2learn.ca/>>>
- * Alberta Computers for Schools: <<<http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/cfs/>>>

=====

TECH.NEWS EDITORIAL TEAM

The tech.news editorial team consists of:

Pat Redhead (Pat.Redhead@gov.ab.ca); Bonnie Brooks (Bonnie.Brooks@gov.ab.ca); Brent McPhee (Brent.McPhee@gov.ab.ca).

tech.news is a bi-weekly e-mail newsletter of interest to Alberta's Jurisdiction Technology Coordinators.

To subscribe to tech.news, please send an e-mail to: tech.news@gov.ab.ca. To unsubscribe, please send an e-mail to: tech.news@gov.ab.ca, and indicate your wish to unsubscribe in the subject line.

Send your queries or suggestions to: tech.news@gov.ab.ca. Next edition: Friday, September 7, 2001.