

Technology and High School Success Initiative Participant Newsletter

January
2009

Important Note Regarding Report Due Dates

A number of inquiries have been received regarding the due dates for the various reports required as part of this project. The due dates listed in the original call for proposals were adjusted when the final grant agreements were developed. The reporting due dates as indicated in your grant agreements are as follows:

- Status report – Due June 1, 2008 (this report has been submitted by all jurisdictions)
- Year 1 interim report – Due August 31, 2009
- Year 2 interim report – Due August 31, 2010
- Final Report – Due November 30, 2010

Templates will be provided for all reports. Expect the template for the year 1 interim report to be distributed in May, 2009.

Please consult your grant agreement, schedule 'A', terms of reference, item 4 for details. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding the reporting process.

Dates for Spring 2009 Event – May 5 & 6, 2009. Please note change of date

The Spring 2009 Grant Recipients' Meeting will be held on **May 6 at Mount Royal College in Calgary**. Once again, Technology and High School Success participants are invited to the optional **Professional Learning event on May 5**. Look for more information as we finalize the agenda. See you in Calgary!

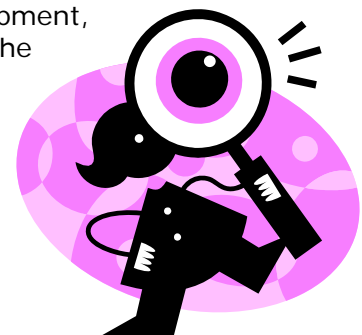


Research Update

The Provincial research team is pleased to report that ethics clearances have been secured from both the University of Alberta and the University of Calgary. With this development, project leads can expect to be contacted by research team members in the next week or two. Site visits are expected to commence in March.

If you have any questions about the research layer of the Technology and High School Success project, please contact:

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780-492-6332.
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Student Engagement Webinar Series

Cheryl Lemke of the Metiri Group will be offering a webinar series to participants in the Technology and High School Success and Emerge initiatives. The series will consist of **3 webinars followed by a face to face session** at the spring professional learning event on May 5, 2009. The goals of the series are to increase teachers' understanding of the research link between engagement and student learning, build the capacity of teachers in measuring student engagement, develop teachers' skill in self-assessments of classroom engagement and develop the teachers' capacity to interpret and use the resultant data to inform their work.

Cheryl will also provide the following materials to participants:

- **Self-assessment tools** for teachers for reflection on classroom practices related to engagement (i.e., content, process, product indicators)
- **Practice guides** highlighting research on classroom practices that work to increase student engagement
- **A template for teacher analysis and interpretation of data;** and the use of data and research to inform decision making

Dates:

- Session 1 – February 23, 2009, 4:00 – 5:30 PM
- Session 2 – March 24, 2009, 4:00 – 5:30 PM
- Session 3 – April 15, 2009, 4:00 – 5:30 PM
- Face to face event – May 5, 2009

To register, please click on this link:

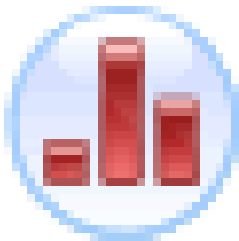
<https://phoenix.edc.gov.ab.ca/surveys/web/surveys/NMZQ7R/>



Technology and High School Success Website

The Technology and High School Success website, which is accessible to the public, provides general information on the project, a list of project participants, project events, resources and contact information. The Technology and High School Success website is available at <http://education.alberta.ca/admin/technology/techsuccess.aspx>.

Online Response System



You want to try out using a student response system, but you don't want to make the big investment just yet. You can try out student responders with your class with Polleverywhere.com. Poll Everywhere is a simple text message voting application that works well for any live audience. People vote by sending text messages to options displayed on-screen. The poll that is embedded within the presentation or web page will update in real time. They even have a web interface for voting from your computer or smartphone.

A basic account is free and can handle up to 30 responses. Questions can be multiple choice or free text format. Try it out:

<http://www.polleverywhere.com/>

Professional Learning Opportunity for Leaders

Leading for Today's Learners, Part 2

Improving instructional practices and performances
through classroom observations and conferences

The Galileo Educational Network Association, in conjunction with Alberta Education, is presenting a series of 2-Day workshops for Educational leaders that will build on the work started by the group of learning leaders that attended last years' Leading for Today's Learners workshops.

In this year's workshops leaders will have the opportunity to collaborate with other principals to:

- Develop clear images of effective 21st century instructional practices
- Design effective strategies for providing teachers with timely, constructive feedback through an instructional conference
- Practice conducting observations and conferences (between the two sessions)
- Document teacher and student learning (between the two sessions)
- Analyze collected evidence to identify emerging patterns and trends

Dates:

EDMONTON

Dates: January 21, 2009 and March 11, 2009

Place: Radisson Hotel Edmonton South,
Gateway Blvd.

Registration Deadline: January 12, 2009

GRANDE PRAIRIE

Dates: January 22, 2009 and March 12, 2009

Place: Grande Prairie Inn

Registration Deadline: January 12, 2009

CALGARY

Dates: January 26, 2009 and March 16, 2009

Place: TBD

Registration Deadline: January 12, 2009

To register:

- Email galileo@ucalgary.ca, OR
- Phone Stacy Jackson at 403-220-8942



Project-based Learning Video

Last October, Cheryl Lemke shared a video with us during her session. This was a video describing the architecture project being completed as part of the Geometry program at Mountlake Terrace High School taught by Eva Reeder. The video is hosted by the George Lucas Educational Foundation.

Video:

<http://www.edutopia.org/mountlake-terrace-high-school>

Articles by Eva Reeder:

<http://www.edutopia.org/eeva-reeder>

Internet Resource for Students

The Media Awareness Network, who provides the Internet Safety resources for teachers, has developed a new classroom resource entitled "Passport to the Internet". This resource, an Internet literacy tutorial, helps students in Grades 4 to 8 develop the critical thinking skills they need to apply to their online experiences. It enables them to use popular online tools and Web sites in a secure and ethical manner, and to their full potential.

Using simulations of the most popular Internet environments, this interactive resource teaches students key skills relating to:

- online safety
- authenticating online information
- recognizing online marketing ploys
- protecting their privacy
- managing online relationships
- dealing with cyber bullying



Passport to the Internet

Student tutorial for Internet literacy (Grades 4-8)

PASSPORT TO THE INTERNET INCLUDES:

- an interactive online tutorial
- an extensive Teacher's Guide with detailed instructions, backgrounders, and classroom activities and handouts

Further details available at:

<http://www.media-awareness.ca/english/catalogue/products/descriptions/passport.cfm>



Alberta Students "Speak Out!"

Speak Out is an opportunity for Alberta's youth to share their experiences and ideas and to help the people who make decisions about our schools understand the issues that are important to them. Students can make a difference by getting involved and helping to define the issues and identify the solutions that will make education in Alberta even better.

This month, Speak Out has a technology focus. Be sure to take the survey that is part of the monthly contest. Also, look for the discussion forum on technology. Any technology issue can be

discussed in this fully moderated forum. Give your students a chance to join in the provincial dialog on education and technology.

Please visit the Speak Out site at:

<http://speakout.alberta.ca/>

Great Online Video Resource



Every year in California, the exclusive TED (Technology, Entertainment and Design) conference features some of the world's best thinkers sharing their ideas. Over the years, TED has built up a considerable video library of these "TED Talks." Everyone can view these videos online at: www.ted.com.

Take some time to browse the site. If you're anything like me, several hours can vanish here as you take in the wonderful ideas being presented at this one of a kind conference. TED talks can also be downloaded as podcasts from the iTunes store. Here are a few of my favourites:

- David Bolinsky: "Fantastic voyage inside a cell"
http://www.ted.com/index.php/talks/david_bolinsky_animates_a_cell.html
- Johnny Lee: "Creating tech marvels out of a \$40 Wii Remote"
http://www.ted.com/index.php/talks/johnny_lee_demos_wii_remote_hacks.html
- Dave Eggers: "Once Upon a School"
http://www.ted.com/index.php/talks/dave_eggers_makes_his_ted_prize_wish_once_upon_a_school.html
- Sir Ken Robinson: "Do Schools Kill Creativity?"
http://www.ted.com/index.php/talks/ken_robinson_says_schools_kill_creativity.html

Good Ideas - The \$14 Steady Cam

Many of the projects in the Technology and High School Success initiative include a media component. Teachers who have worked with handheld student video know that it can be very shaky. Students can use a tripod, but that anchors the camera to one location. The answer is a **steadycam**, a device that holds the camera and prevents shaking. These devices are expensive, usually over \$1000. In the second TED talk listed above, Johnny Lee showed us interesting things to do with a \$40 video game controller. He also has designed a surprisingly effective steadycam that can be built out of hardware store supplies for under \$20. This device will allow your students to capture much smoother video while the camera and operator are in motion. Check out Johnny's design:

<http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~johnny/steadycam/>



Tech.News

tech.news a monthly newsletter targeted to technology leaders in school jurisdictions and post-secondary institutions. Produced by Alberta Education's Stakeholder Technology Branch, the newsletter includes information on new technology-related initiatives, upcoming events, and information on new resources.

To subscribe to tech.news, please send an e-mail through your school jurisdiction, post-secondary institution or other stakeholder organization e-mail account to tech.news@gov.ab.ca, and enter "Subscribe to tech.news" in the subject line.

Send your questions or suggestions to Wendy Nero at Wendy.Nero@gov.ab.ca.

Technology and High School Success Contact Information

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