

Emerge One-to-One Laptop Learning Project Newsletter

October
2008

Fall Professional Learning Event and Community of Practice Event

This event is being held at the Coast Edmonton East Hotel and Conference Centre in Sherwood Park on Monday, October 20 and Tuesday, October 21, 2008. Registration will close on **Friday, October 10, 2008**. [Click Here to Register](#). Click to view the [program details](#) and [agenda](#) for the Professional Learning Day. Click to view the [program details](#) and [agenda](#) for the Community of Practice Event.

Year 2 Emerge Project Team Meeting

On September 22, 2008, an e-mail was sent to project leads requesting a meeting with all project teams. If you have not set up a meeting with Karen Shipka, please contact her directly at Karen.Shipka@gov.ab.ca as soon as possible.

The meeting will take approximately one hour and should include as many members of your project team as possible. Karen would like the opportunity to meet with each team to see how things are going and to listen to your thoughts and ideas for the upcoming year. There are three ways to schedule the meeting:

1. VC meeting room
Supernet users dial in on: 6006@199.216.149.3
Internet users dial in on: 139.142.188.3##6006
2. A phone meeting
Toll-free Dial –in number 1-866-792-1317
Local Dial-in 780-409-9282
Conference ID# 3872
3. Face-to-Face Meeting

Thanks to those who have already set up a meeting.

News from Alberta Education

Last spring, the Emerge One-to-One Laptop Learning Project entered into a partnership with Microsoft Education and Microsoft Partners in Learning. Through this partnership, Emerge participants have been able to access a number of software titles, as part of the Emerge toolkit. These have been made available from Microsoft, for the duration of the project, at no cost to participants.

In addition to the software, Microsoft has provided funding for professional development. This sponsorship has enabled the Emerge Project Team to engage international experts to support Professional Learning Events and online webinars.

Webinar Series Topics:

Assessment for Learning Series – Dr. Anne Davies **STARTING SOON**

In this series, participants will learn simple and powerful ways to involve students in assessment from the very beginning. The series will build on key concepts and will include time for audience members to share ideas and ask questions. The webinars unfold over a number of weeks to give participants an opportunity to learn by doing and get feedback on their in-class experiences.

Webinar Dates:

October 14, 2008, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM
November 25, 2008, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

February 17, 2009, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
April 16, 2009, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
New Time

[Click here to register](#)

Building Self-directed Behaviour in All Students – Ed Coughlin (Metiri Group)

With the availability of new, compelling virtual learning resources, self-directed learning behaviour has never been more important. Despite an explosion in the cognitive sciences related to self-directed learning and the educational practices that can promote self-direction, few educators really understand how to build this crucial digital-age skill. This series will first explore the science related to self-directed learning, which instructional practices build self-direction, and which practices tear it down. Additional sessions will explore strategies for boosting self-direction in the classroom at three stages of the learning process. The final segment will look at the linkage between rich, authentic work and self-directed learning behaviour.

Webinar Dates:

October 28, 2008, 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM
December 3, 2008, 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

February 4, 2009, 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM
March 26, 2009, 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

[Click here to register](#)

Universal Design for Learning with Kathy Howery

Webinars will focus on bringing the principles of Universal Design for Learning to life in the one-to-one environment. Participants will learn how can we leverage the diversity in the classroom and the power of digital media so that we create flexibility in what students are expected to learn (multiple means of representation), how they are expected to demonstrate their learning (multiple means of expression) and why they are learning it (multiple means of engagement).

Teachers will learn how to differentiate their approach to learning and their instructional methods in ways that are not possible without digital media. Together we will look for new ways to provide resources, instruction and assessment so that all learners can be successful, self-aware and self directed learners. Participants will learn the importance of teaming and collaborative practices in creating universally designed, accessible classrooms.

Webinar Dates:

October 24, 2008, 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
November 18, 2008, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

January 27, 2009, 2:00 AM - 4:00 PM
April 7, 2009, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

[Click here to register](#)



Powerful Learning in the 21st Century Classroom with Jeff Stockton – GENA

A number of approaches can be described as inquiry-based learning, including project-based learning, problem-based learning and design-based learning. This webinar will provide participants with an introduction to inquiry-based learning, examine the three approaches, explore examples from Alberta classrooms and review the criteria required for successful, powerful 21st century learning.

Webinar Dates

Date: October 6, 2008 from 4:00 – 6:00 PM

[Click here to register](#)

Curriculum Series

Grade 7 Language Arts and Social Studies

Engaging Students in Canadian History - Neil Stephenson and Candace Saar

Webinar Dates:

Designing engaging inquiry based work for 21st Century learners - September 22, 2008
Enlisting experts and expertise to help foster deep understanding - September 29, 2008

Assessment to improve critical thinking and student self-directed learning - October 20, 2008
Cultivating historical and inventive thinking - October 27, 2008

[Click here to register](#)

Grade 8 Social Studies and Language Arts.

Engaging Screen-agers in a Study of the Renaissance - Amy Park and Candace Saar

Webinar Dates:

Designing engaging work for 21st century learners - September 25, 2008
Enlisting experts to ensure high quality work - October 9, 2008

Assessment that fosters critical thinking and deep understanding - October 23, 2008
Fostering a collaborative community of learners in the classroom - November 6, 2008

[Click here to register](#)

If you have any questions regarding the online series please direct them to Karen.Shipka@gov.ab.ca.

New This Year

Videoconference Virtual Meeting Room

Videoconferencing is becoming more prevalent in education, both as a teaching tool and as a way to facilitate meetings when the participants cannot get together physically. Sometimes, getting participants together for a videoconference meeting can be just as challenging as setting up a face-to-face meeting.

To help simplify the process, a virtual “meeting room” has been set up for participants in the Emerge One-to-One Laptop Learning Project. This virtual space can be used for planned Project Lead meetings or impromptu discussions on a first-come, first-served basis. Any H.323 compliant videoconferencing system can access the meeting room by using the dialling strings provided below.



Dialling strings for the virtual meeting room:

- Dialling from within Supernet (All Alberta Schools are connected to the Supernet)
6006@199.216.149.3
Set your connection speed to 1024k or higher
- Dialling from the Internet
139.142.188.3##6006

Virtual Office Hours

Karen Shipka, Project Manager, will be maintaining virtual office hours in the Videoconference Virtual Meeting Room. She will be available to answer any questions that project participants may have about individual projects or the initiative as a whole. **Karen's virtual office hours for October to December 2008 will be held Mondays from 8:00 to 9:00 AM.** She can be reached by dialling into the Videoconference Virtual Meeting Room as described above.

Interesting Reading

Case Study

Forest Ridge School of the Sacred Heart – Washington State

Innovative School Enhances Student Learning, Teacher Productivity with Digital Notes

"There's a relationship, a synergy, that develops between teacher and student with OneNote ... and because of this, we're seeing some exciting things in the classroom that we never would have expected."

—John Phillips, Director of Educational Technology, Forest Ridge School of the Sacred Heart

Laptops have been part of the classroom experience at Forest Ridge School of the Sacred Heart since 1996. Nevertheless, teachers were still using traditional, time-consuming methods for creating lesson plans, organizing paperwork, giving quizzes, and grading homework. Students spent the majority of their class time taking notes rather than engaging in the lessons at hand. Forest Ridge wanted to provide its students and teachers with an interactive tool that would help them excel at their work by streamlining teaching processes, enhancing organizational capabilities, and creating more dynamic opportunities for collaboration between students and teachers.

Click here to [read more](#) or view the [case study video](#).

New Canadian Resource

Canadawiki Now Available for Student Research

Northern Blue Publishing is happy to announce a new open release of Canadawiki, Canada's own Web portal with an all-Canadian focus. This release of Canadawiki is available for personal and student use only. Click here to visit [Canadawiki](#).

Digital Citizenship

Students are growing and learning in a far different world from the one that many of their teachers experienced. Often teachers are bogged by social networking, blogging, e-commerce and many of the other elements of the emerging digital world. As a result, many adults do not know what types of behaviours are appropriate and lack the expertise to teach these behaviours to their students.



der Technology Branch

Digital Citizenship is a concept that helps prepare students for functioning in the digital world in a safe and responsible way. More than just a set of guidelines for avoiding online dangers, teaching digital citizenship helps students, teachers and parents understand their rights and responsibilities as well as developing the skills and knowledge required for engagement in the digital world, be it through a computer, a smart phone or any other technology.

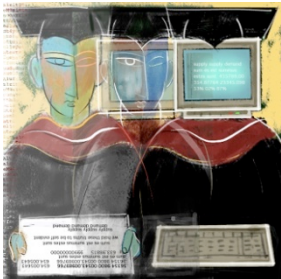
At the Emerge Summer Institute, Mike Ribble of Kansas State University made a keynote presentation on this topic. Mike identified nine elements that define digital citizenship:

1. Digital Etiquette *electronic standards of conduct or procedure*
2. Digital Communication *electronic exchange of information*
3. Digital Literacy *process of teaching and learning about technology and the use of technology*
4. Digital Access *full electronic participation in society*
5. Digital Commerce *electronic buying and selling of goods*
6. Digital Law *electronic responsibility for actions and deeds*
7. Digital Rights and Responsibilities *those freedoms extended to everyone in a digital world*
8. Digital Health and Wellness *physical and psychological well-being in a digital technology world*
9. Digital Security *electronic precautions to guarantee safety*

More information on digital citizenship as well as some activities to use with students is available on Mike's website at <http://www.digitalcitizenship.net/>.

Metiri Emerge Project Website

Cheryl Lemke of the Metiri Group and Jennifer Lock, our research team, maintain a project website where teachers as well as project leads and principals can access a number of valuable resources to use in the classroom. Research articles in focused areas will provide you with valuable information on the latest trends in education. The website can be found at <http://www.metiri.com/alberta/>.



The surveys (MTIPS, Engagement and SLI) are ready to be completed for Fall 2008. Just a reminder for project leads to submit the research consent forms for students, teachers and administrators who are new to the Emerge project. Students new to Emerge (whole class) will complete the Engagement and SLI surveys in Fall 2008 and Spring 2009. Classes with a few students new to the laptops have the option to have those students complete the Fall 2008 surveys if they wish to obtain baseline data on those students. Teachers and administrators new to the Emerge project are asked to complete the MTIPS survey in Fall 2008 and Spring 2009. For students, teachers and administrators who are continuing with the Emerge project, they will complete surveys in Spring 2009.

Tech.News

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

Archived copies of the 2008/2009 school year's tech.news are available on Alberta Education's website at <http://education.alberta.ca/admin/technology/research/technews.aspx>.

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, suggestions, or article submissions to Wendy Nero at Wendy.Nero@gov.ab.ca.

Alberta's ECS-12 Distributed Learning Forum: Discovering the Possibilities

October 20 to November 3, 2008: Online Distributed Learning Forum

Following the public consultation in May and June 2008, as part of the Discover Phase of Alberta's Distributed Learning Strategy, education stakeholders and ministry staff identified nine key success pillars towards successful distributed learning in Alberta. These key success pillars will be used as a framework to discover the possibilities that might exist within a provincial approach to distributed learning. From October 20 to November 3, 2008, participants will have the opportunity to discuss some of the distributed learning possibilities that were developed by the expert working groups and steering committee and will engage in a discussion around the implications of various distributed learning possibilities on our education system. Online conversations will set the stage for the live Distributed Learning Forum on November 4, 2008. A preliminary summary of what we heard during the public consultation process in May and June 2008 can be found on the Distributed Learning Forum Online Community at <http://www.arpdc.ab.ca/dlforum>.

November 4, 2008: Alberta's ECS-12 Distributed Learning Forum (live)

Following online conversations from October 20 to November 3, 2008, interested participants will attend the live Distributed Learning Forum at one of the eight videoconference locations to:

- Identify short-term activities that need to take place, regardless of possible futures; and
- Provide long-term recommendations to be considered within a larger system-wide policy framework.

In the meantime, interested participants are encouraged to explore Alberta's ECS-12 Distributed Learning Forum Online Community website at www.arpdc.ab.ca/dlforum/ to:

- Read the preliminary summary of what was heard during the comprehensive public consultation in May and June 2008;
- Register to attend the November 4, 2008 live DL Forum at your preferred regional location; and
- Join in the online discussion to discover possibilities of how distributed learning might take place in Alberta in the future and explore possible ways to enable learning to happen independent of time and/or location.

Background

The purpose of Alberta's ECS-12 Distributed Learning Forum is to make recommendations toward a provincial approach to distributed learning to ensure that Alberta students have equitable access to high quality learning opportunities and choices that are independent of time and/or location. Participants will discuss strategies for teaching and learning practice, governance models and leadership, technology solutions and resource development models.

Who? ECS-12 Alberta School Superintendents, principals, teachers, parents, educational stakeholders

When? November 4, 2008

Where? Conference main site:
Oasis Edmonton Conference Centre, 10930-177 Street, Edmonton, Alberta
Six Designated Regional Videoconference Sites [limited seating]:
Visit ARPDC <http://www.arpdc.ab.ca/dlforum> for details.

Cost? There is no participant cost to attend.



