

## Technology and High School Success Initiative Participant Newsletter

September  
2008

### Fall Grant Recipients' Meeting

**Monday, October 20, 2008:** Optional Professional Learning Day offered in conjunction with the Emerge One-To-One Laptop Learning project

**Tuesday October 21, 2008:** Technology and High School Success Grant Recipients' Meeting

The Coast Edmonton East Hotel (formerly the Best Western Sherwood Hotel and Conference Centre), Sherwood Park, Alberta



**The Fall 2008 Grant Recipients' Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 21, 2008,** at the Coast Edmonton East Hotel in Sherwood Park. All project leads, team members and participating teachers are all invited to this event. Monday, October 20, is an optional professional learning opportunity being offered in conjunction with the Emerge One-to-One Laptop Learning project.

The agenda tentatively includes sessions on critical thinking, program sustainability, measuring engagement, project sharing, developing effective professional learning programs, Technology and High School Success initiative update and an introduction to the research team.

**Please remember to bring your laptop and a copy of your project plan.**

**Registration opens on September 16.** Registration and the tentative agenda can be accessed online at <http://timewiseevents.com/emerge> .

**See you in Sherwood Park.**

### 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 Technology and High School Success initiative. This virtual space can be used for planned 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)  
3008@199.216.149.3  
Set your connection speed to 1024k or higher
- Dialling from the Internet  
139.142.188.3##3008



### Virtual Office Hours

Brad Clarke, Project Coordinator, will be maintaining virtual office hours in the Videoconference Virtual Meeting Room. He will be available to answer any questions that project participants may have about individual projects or the initiative as a whole. **Brad's virtual office hours for September to December 2008 are Wednesdays from 2:00 to 4:00 PM.** He can be reached by dialling into the Videoconference Virtual Meeting Room as described above. Outside of these hours, Brad can still be reached by e-mail or phone.



### Digital Citizenship

Students are growing and learning in a far different world from the one that many of their teachers experienced. Often teachers are boggled by social networking, blogging, ecommerce 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.

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*

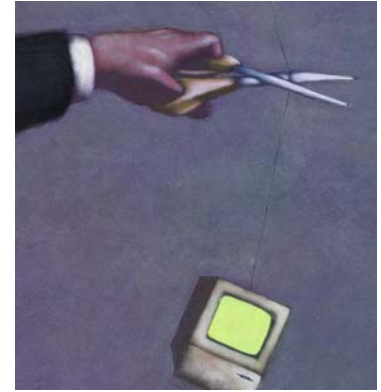
More information on digital citizenship as well as some activities to use with students is available on Mike's website at <http://www.digitalcitizenship.net/>.

## Wireless Best Practices

Many of the projects in the Technology and High School Success initiative include the installation of wireless networks. As wireless use in schools expands, network administrators, teachers and students are coming face to face with some of the unique challenges presented by wireless deployment. The low cost and easy deployment of today's wireless equipment has sometimes resulted in poor planning and difficulties in providing support to the end users.

Stakeholder Technology Branch has prepared a best practices guide for IT directors and network staff who are responsible for deploying and managing wireless networks. This guide provides insight to all aspects of using wireless in schools both for those new to wireless and those building on an existing network. The guide is available online at

<http://education.alberta.ca/media/822010/wirelessbestpracticesguid.pdf>.



## Research Call for Proposals

A call for proposals was issued to design and conduct research in conjunction with the Technology and High School Success initiative, investigating effective uses of technology to improve student engagement and success in high school. Proposals were accepted from Alberta post-secondary institutions and the evaluation process has reached its final stages. The successful proponent will be announced shortly.



## 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>.

## Metiri Website

Cheryl Lemke of the Metiri Group, has prepared a website to support her work on developing program evaluations. This page includes the templates and samples from the May event, as well as links to relevant research. The website can be found at <http://www.metiri.com/AEHS/>.

## 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](mailto:tech.news@gov.ab.ca), and enter "Subscribe to tech.news" in the subject line. To unsubscribe, enter "Unsubscribe to tech.news" in the subject line of your e-mail message.

Send your questions, suggestions, or article submissions to Wendy Nero at [Wendy.Nero@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Wendy.Nero@gov.ab.ca).

# Technology and High School Success

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