

Technology and High School Success Initiative Participant Newsletter

October
2008

Fall Grant Recipients' Meeting

Register now!

Monday, October 20, 2008: Optional Professional Learning Day

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



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, a 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 is open now. The online registration form and agenda can be accessed at <http://timewiseevents.com/emerge> .

See you in Sherwood Park.

Learning Opportunities – Upcoming Webinars

We are pleased to offer participants in the Technology and High School Success Initiative the opportunity to participate in these exciting professional learning opportunities being offered as part of the Emerge One-to-One Laptop Learning project. THSS participants can register in the following webinars:



1 **Assessment for Learning Series - Dr. Anne Davies**

At the Summer Institute, Dr. Anne Davies presented participants with practical information for the new school year with assessment for learning. Participants will learn simple and

powerful ways to involve students in assessment from the very beginning. A follow-up series of webinars is being offered to 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 (12:00 pm – 2:00 pm)

2 **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 (4:00pm – 5:30pm)
December 3, 2008 (4:00pm – 5:30pm)
February 4, 2009 (4:00pm – 5:30pm)
March 26, 2009 (4:00pm – 5:30pm)

Spots are limited, so register soon! The registration form is available at <https://phoenix.edc.gov.ab.ca/surveys/web/cgi-bin/qwebcorporate.cgi?4UGGJH>

Please do not register in webinars other than those listed above, as they are not open to THSS participants.

IT Leadership Research

Dr. Maurice Hollingsworth has published a report examining IT leadership in Alberta. Focusing on three jurisdictions that had been identified by Superintendents and IT Directors from across the Province as demonstrating excellence in IT/ICT leadership, Dr. Hollingsworth identified four characteristics common to effective IT leadership:

- Leadership Skill and Vision;
- Policy and Budget Expertise;
- IT Expertise; and
- Knowledge of Effective Learning Environments.

Dr. Hollingsworth also identified some common characteristics of jurisdictions that foster effective IT leadership. These include:

- District leadership recognizes the importance of IT integration into education;
- IT planning is centralized;
- IT leaders have a senior leadership role as opposed to a coordination or support role;
- IT leaders have a staff that includes technical, clerical and professional education personnel;
- The role of the IT leader encompasses three pillars: educational knowledge, IT expertise and leadership skill; and
- Senior leadership exhibits a high level of education.

Dr. Hollingsworth's complete report can be accessed on the Alberta Education website at <http://education.alberta.ca/media/845012/excellence%20in%20it%20ict%20leadership.pdf>.



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.

Dialling strings for the videoconference virtual meeting room:

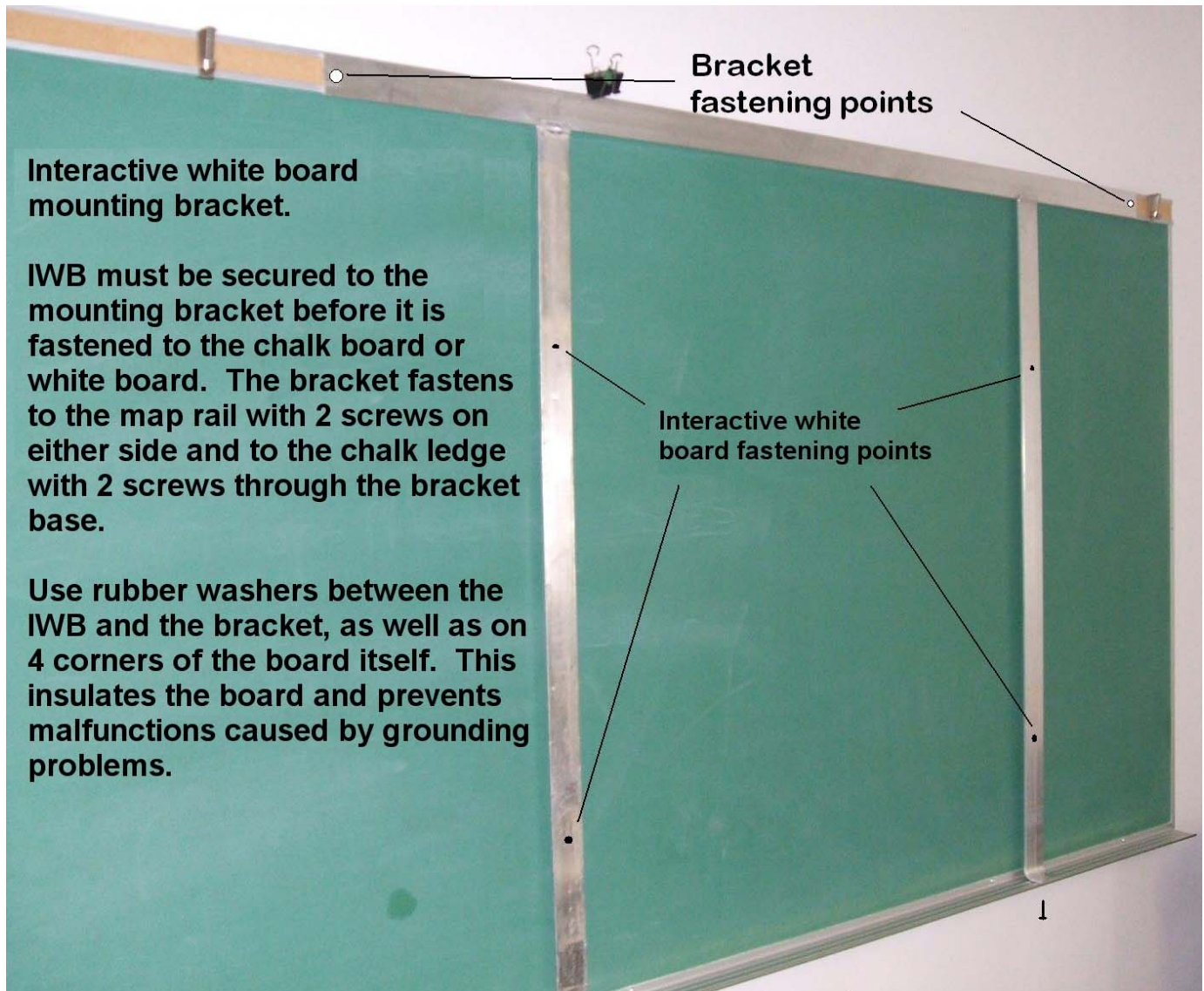
- Dialling from within Supernet (All Alberta Schools are connected to the Supernet)
3008@199.216.149.3

Set your connection speed to 1024k or higher

- Dialling from the Internet
139.142.188.3##3008

Good Ideas – Interactive White Board Mounting Bracket

Interactive white boards are powerful tools for transforming learning and teaching in classrooms. Occasionally however, IWBs need to be mounted over existing surfaces such as white boards or chalk boards. This requires the installer to drill holes for the mounting screws, permanently damaging the existing surface. Fort Vermilion School Division has come up with a solution to securely mount their new IWBs without damaging the surface below. Modifying a design from Prairie Rose School Division, personnel in FVSD developed and mass-produced a custom mounting bracket. This bracket secures the board, but allows for repositioning or removal without damaging the surface below.



Thanks to Kathryn Kirby of Fort Vermilion School Division for sharing the bracket description and photo.

If you have any good ideas you would like to share with THSS participants, please send an email to Brad Clarke:

bradley.clarke@gov.ab.ca.

Emerge Websites

The Technology and High School Success project has partnered with the Emerge One-to-One Laptop Learning project in order to allow THSS participants to access the professional learning opportunities being offered to the Emerge community of practice and to provide for networking between the two project streams. Many THSS participants have asked for more information about the Emerge project.



The Alberta Education website for Emerge can be found at <http://education.alberta.ca/admin/technology/emerge.aspx>.

One-to-One Alberta, the community of practice website is located at <http://www.1to1alberta.ca/>.

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/>.



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>.

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. 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.

Technology and High School Success

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