

IN THIS ISSUE

- Nancy's notes
- Content corner
- News mix
- Feature article
- SMART Showcase
- School profile
- Product spotlight


 EDCompass

Best Practices

November 2007

A note from the editors

Educators employ best practices every day. In this issue of EDCompass™ newsletter, we've gathered best practices from teachers like you on how they are using SMART products to achieve teaching and learning goals. You'll also read about a new research study that concludes the use of interactive whiteboards positively impacts student achievement. And learn how to start using the SMART Learning Marketplace, our new content subscription service.

Do you have any comments about the newsletter or any of the articles featured in this issue? If so, we'd like to hear from you. Please e-mail your feedback to education@smarttech.com.

EDCompass newsletter editors



Classroom practices at their best

June's Best Practices Contest produced so many entries that we can't post them all. Instead, we chose the best 25 and we'll post 5 a month from now until March. Check the [education solutions website](#) to see if yours made it onto the list and to learn new tips from your peers.

Nancy's notes



You tell us

How many times have you thought that you would run things differently if only you were in charge? I suppose there is a little bit of an armchair quarterback or backseat driver in all of us. Most of this desire to give input comes because we see things that could be improved, and we truly want to help.

At SMART, we openly solicit our customers' suggestions and feedback, and we make it easier than you might think. Go to the Help command in Notebook software and you will see an item called Customer Experience Program. It gives you three choices – notably, Submit feature request. Using this feature, you can immediately and directly send your comments to our product development team.

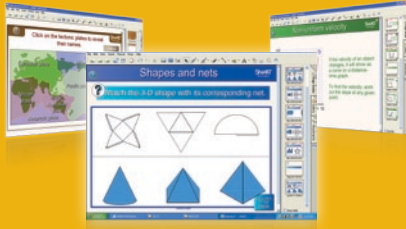
We often encounter people who seem excited to have the opportunity to share their thoughts, not realizing that the means to do so was always at their fingertips.

Those of you who prefer to help us in a less direct way can enable the function labeled Feedback tracking ON. This feature gives us direct insight into how you use Notebook software on a daily basis, impacting future development activities.

Whichever way suits you the best, we trust that you will get involved in helping us create an even better experience for you, using Notebook software with your SMART Board interactive whiteboard. Just tell us what you think.

Nancy Knowlton is the CEO of SMART Technologies.

Content corner



Notebook software lesson activities

Here is a sampling of the hundreds of high-quality **lesson activities** available on the education solutions website. Each lesson activity is correlated to local curriculum standards and created by teachers or SMART's team of curriculum resource developers.

To support you in creating your own lesson activities, we've provided a host of resources to help you get started. You can find these tools through a link at the bottom of every lesson activity download page or through the **Teacher's Hub**, our one-stop-shop for resources. SMART-created lesson activities in French and Spanish are also available.

Check out our most popular English, history and math lesson activities for November.

Pairs of Angles

Math students in grades 4–6 will learn about the different types of angles and how they are related.

Using Images 1

English students in grades 7–9 will learn how to use images while presenting.

The Wall Street Crash – Causes

History students in grades 10–12 will understand the causes of the Wall Street Crash.

News mix

Researchers conclude interactive whiteboards produce significant results

A new report by the **Education and Social Research Institute** at Manchester Metropolitan University, UK, indicates that increasing students' exposure to interactive whiteboards significantly and positively impacts student achievement. The report, "Evaluation of the Primary Schools Whiteboard Expansion Project," is based on a two-year study of the former Department for Education and Skills' (DfES) Primary Schools Whiteboard Expansion project (PSWE).

From September 2004 to December 2006, researchers studied the impact interactive whiteboards had on students in math, English and science subjects. Over 7,000 primary students in 20 local authorities were evaluated, and more than 60 percent of interactive whiteboards in the study were SMART Board™ interactive whiteboards.

The overall findings over the course of two years were significant, especially in math and science. Most students in sixth-grade mathematics made the equivalent of 2.5 to 5 months' additional progress. In second-grade mathematics, high-attaining females made additional gains of 4.75 months. Most of the students evaluated in second- and sixth-grade science made greater progress with two years' exposure to interactive whiteboards, and some students made as much as 7.5 months' additional progress. To read the entire study, visit www.becta.org.uk.

Students' progress was measured by national testing at the second- and sixth-grade level. The report itself refers to Key Stages 1 and 2. Key Stage 1 is equivalent to K–2 and Key Stage 2 is equivalent to grades 3–6.



SMART products enrich education

For the past three years, as more teachers experiment with technology, many are saying they are seeing results in the classroom. They are finding that students are more motivated to learn. Educators at three schools (below) reveal their best practices and technology successes.

- **Highland Village Elementary School** achieves better test scores as science goes digital
- **Eastern Elementary** hits a high-tech home run for a special needs class
- **Southridge School** is solving the learning equation with interactive classroom technology

News mix continued

Teachers share their best practices

When it comes to SMART products, no one communicates their benefits better than you. The following two elementary teachers share their successes with the SMART Board interactive whiteboard. You can read these and others examples on our website.

I use my SMART Board interactive whiteboard as a method of engaging my students in class. I particularly like to scan homework pages in Notebook collaborative learning software and make correcting work an interactive activity. My students enjoy going to the interactive whiteboard to show their classmates how they solved a particular homework problem. I am able to circulate the room freely and help those who need it while the students work together to correct their work. Using the SMART Board interactive whiteboard in class, especially during math, has increased participation greatly. Everyone wants a chance to answer a question and show what they know.

Tanya Matheson, fifth-grade teacher
Harkins Elementary School
Miramichi, New Brunswick, Canada

The SMART Board interactive whiteboard has revolutionized the way I teach vocabulary. Gone are the days when the children look at a list of words, discuss them, look up the meanings in the dictionary and copy them for the test. Now, the students interact with the words and write them on the SMART Board interactive whiteboard. They highlight and circle them in sentences, and eagerly discuss the meaning. If they're still stuck, the students link out to online dictionaries for the definition and further clarification from pictures on the Internet. The students no longer dread learning new words. In fact, they look forward to it. And they retain the meanings, which is the best a teacher can ask for.

Diane Wheeler, third-grade teacher
Boothwyn Elementary School
Boothwyn, Pennsylvania, United States

Feature article

Assessing the Senteo way

The pressure on K-12 teachers to better assess their students has increased with the federal government's implementation of higher standards and focus on accountability. To that end, teachers are seeking out more reliable methods to provide that assessment. Many education experts believe that a focus on continuous evaluation and assessment achieves positive results for teachers, students and parents. In an environment focused on measuring achievement and accomplishment, administrators and teachers welcome any instructional invention that helps them to assess on a continuous basis. [Read the full article.](#)



Content corner continued

SMART-accredited software

The SMART Software Accreditation Program includes 150 multimedia content and software titles from 55 companies – and the list is growing!

The program recognizes content and software based on their level of compatibility with SMART Board interactive whiteboards and Sympodium™ interactive pen displays.

Consider these new SMART-accredited-software titles for your next lessons:

Maps 101 is a subscription-based online resource for secondary students that provides access to maps, atlases and lesson plans. Content and resources are correlated to state standards.

ClozePro activities help elementary students develop reading, comprehension and vocabulary skills. Type or paste in text, and choose some letters or words to remove. Your students can then fill the gaps by clicking on the correct items in the pop-up window.

Online resources

The Music Lab, created by the San Francisco Symphony, is an animated and highly interactive website for students of all ages to hear, learn and have fun with music.

National Women's History Project hosts a comprehensive compilation of women's history resources that recognize and celebrate the diverse and historical accomplishments of women.

Virtual Field Trips take your students on a virtual field trip to learn about a variety of topics, including learning about your brain and exploring Greek and Roman architecture. You can also create your own virtual field trip with the help of a handy toolkit.

SMART Showcase School profile

Edgerton Elementary a leader in their district

Students at Edgerton Elementary School in Kalispell, Montana, were filled with excitement when they saw a SMART Board interactive whiteboard in each of their 22 K–5 classrooms, and in their library and music room. This completed the school’s mission to make Edgerton a leader in their district and to equip students with the proper tools to achieve success in a global technology-driven economy.

SMART Board interactive whiteboards were first introduced to Edgerton three years ago as a pilot project. Four interactive whiteboards were brought in, and four teachers were selected to use them in their classrooms. “Those four teachers were like kids in a candy store, putting in countless hours of their time collaborating to plan and create lessons,” says Rebecca Dahl, former principal at Edgerton Elementary. “They would invite teachers into their classrooms or wheel the SMART Board interactive whiteboard into other classrooms so teachers could observe the board in action and the enthusiastic response from the students.”

Today, with a SMART Board interactive whiteboard in every classroom, Students are more focused and teachers are able to streamline their lesson planning. Brad Nikunen, a fourth-grade teacher at Edgerton, says his students are thriving in every subject area. “I see motivated, engaged and eager students in my classroom.” Whether I present a pre-planned or impromptu lesson using the SMART Board interactive whiteboard, my students are engaged, and when I have engaged students, learning is the easy part!”

Nikunen says the SMART Board interactive whiteboard has revolutionized his teaching style. “It is such an interactive and exciting way to teach. I like to use the SMART Recorder to record a math algorithm and then let the video loop while students are working on that particular skill. Kids also love to record their solution.... It’s a fun way to use the interactive tools in Notebook software.”

Nikunen’s students enjoy using the technology so much that he remembered a day when he returned to the classroom after being absent, and one student said, “We didn’t use the SMART Board interactive whiteboard all day yesterday. I am so glad you’re back!”

Sharing knowledge

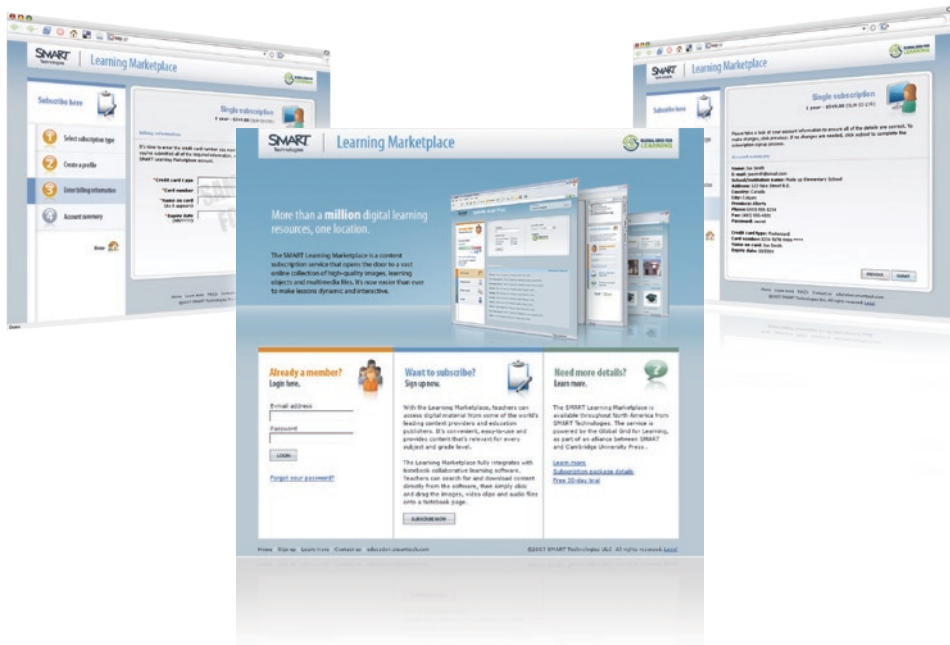
As a SMART Showcase School, Edgerton Elementary has become a destination for neighboring schools to visit and learn how SMART products are impacting teaching and learning. They have even been contacted by a college student from Western Montana College in Dillon, Montana, who was writing a report on technology in education and wanted to learn more about Edgerton’s success with SMART Board interactive whiteboards.

To gain Showcase School status, administrators at Edgerton had to ensure teachers at the school got professional development on technology in education. Since the 2006–2007 school year, staff have been focused on maximizing the use of SMART Board interactive whiteboards. Teachers meet every week to share ideas and learn new skills, tips, tricks or lessons. The meetings became popular and quickly built school-wide enthusiasm for the SMART Board interactive whiteboard. Teachers are now looking for new ways to engage their students with videos, websites and sounds, and are exploring just how interactive they can get using the SMART Board interactive whiteboard.

As a school that takes great pride in their innovative and interactive teaching methods, Edgerton has demonstrated their commitment to improving students’ performance with the SMART Board interactive whiteboard. The tool has become a natural part of each classroom, and students and teachers are reaping the benefits and spreading their enthusiasm.



Product spotlight



SMART Learning Marketplace now available!

We've just launched the **SMART Learning Marketplace**, our new content subscription service that will help bring the world to your classroom and take your lessons beyond the confines of a textbook. The Learning Marketplace will give you access to a world-class collection of more than one million, regularly updated and copyright-cleared digital resources from renowned publishers like Cambridge University Press, Encyclopedia Britannica, the Bridgeman Art Library and SCRAN. Powered by Cambridge University Press and the Global Grid for Learning, the Marketplace has the largest and most comprehensive collection of digital education resources available.

Free trial

Sign up now for a free 30-day trial of the Marketplace, and explore all the exciting and dynamic resources available to enhance your lessons. You'll have easy access to a growing number of high-quality images, video clips, audio files, text documents and manipulatives, from museums, top education publishers, and technology and software educators around the world. Sign up today – the 30-day trial is offered only for a limited time.

Full integration with Notebook collaborative learning software

You can access the Marketplace directly from Notebook software. Perform a search right from the Gallery or from the SMART Learning Marketplace website, and download the content directly into your Notebook file. Images, video and audio files, and manipulatives can be dragged directly onto a Notebook page, allowing you to create compelling multimedia lessons that will hold your students' interest. It's that easy!

You need to have Notebook software 9.7.1 to access the Marketplace. If you haven't updated to this version, you can **upgrade your software** from our website.

Quick facts

What do you get with the SMART Learning Marketplace?

- Access to over one million learning resources
- Classroom safe, copyright-cleared images, video clips, audio files, text documents and manipulatives
- Professionally developed resources from trusted content providers
- Historically accurate and locally relevant content
- Content added continuously
- Seamless integration with Notebook software
- Annual subscription
- Ability to download 6,000 MB of content per year, per school or 1,000 MB of content per year, per individual
- Access to the Marketplace on any computer or interactive whiteboard
- Ability to easily search for content by subject, file type and grade level

Which publishers' content will you have access to?

Our growing number of world-renowned publishers includes Cambridge University Press, Cambridge-Hitachi, Encyclopedia Britannica, Bridgeman, Reuters, SCRAN, Intel® skool™ Learning Technology program, digitalbrain, Intuition, 1BEM, Froguts, TriEs, Core Learning, National Extension College, the Workshop in2out, Learning Light and Epic.

How much does it cost?

A one-year single subscription to the Marketplace starts at US\$239 and a school subscription starts at US\$1,599. Visit SMART's website to find a reseller near you.

Testimonials

The Marketplace poised to bring success to District 16

Teachers and administrators at School District 16 in Miramichi, New Brunswick, Canada, are eager to start using the SMART Learning Marketplace, which will help build on the success the district is already celebrating. Designated the first SMART District in North America, Miramichi is the best-scoring district in New Brunswick on fifth- and eighth-grade math and second-grade language arts standardized tests. They attribute part of this success to the 427 SMART Board interactive whiteboards that have been integrated into the 27-school district. Joey Savoy, technology mentor at District 16, says the wealth of content and manipulatives that the SMART Learning Marketplace offers is a phenomenal resource for teachers.

“The database found in the SMART Learning Marketplace is unbelievable!” says Savoy. “As an educator, it is important for me to keep my students engaged in their learning, and the Marketplace will allow me to do just that. No matter what subject or grade level, the Learning Marketplace contains extensive content for both teachers and students that will enhance any lesson, project or presentation.”

Rick Hayward, former principal at Nelson Rural School and technology mentor for District 16, thinks the Learning Marketplace will be a valuable resource to the district’s 7,000 students and the 436 teachers. “As a former principal, I would ensure that part of my library budget is directed towards a subscription to the SMART Learning Marketplace,” says Hayward. “It provides reliable material that is of the highest quality and enables students and teachers to create and share presentations with the knowledge that they are not violating copyright issues. I think the Learning Marketplace will be a very significant teaching platform for education institutions around the world.”

You can visit District 16’s website to learn more about their active involvement with SMART and the implementation of SMART Board interactive whiteboards throughout the district.

Tips and tricks



Downloading high-quality images

To download images with the highest resolution from the SMART Learning Marketplace website, search for the image that you need and select Add to Notebook.

If you’re already in Notebook software, you can access the Marketplace directly from the Gallery. Once you find the piece of content you’re looking for, you simply drag it onto your Notebook page.

Searching for content

To refine your search, remember to select the type of content you would like to search for, whether it’s images, audio and video, or manipulatives. This will help to speed up your search and ensure you find the type of content you’re looking for.



Countdown to Notebook 10

Feature of the month

Shape Pen

In the new version of Notebook software, you can quickly create perfectly drawn shapes, freehand! For example, when you draw an impromptu shape on the SMART Board interactive whiteboard, the freehand shape tool will recognize it and perfect it. Now, your shape is an object and can be manipulated like any other. You can fill it with solid or graduated color, and change the transparency and thickness of the lines.

Keep watching this monthly column for more new features coming out in Notebook software 10.



Up next

Watch for the next issue of EDCompass newsletter titled Differentiated Learning, coming out mid-December. In this issue, you’ll find new lesson activities for the holiday, best practices in the classroom and the next generation of SMART Board 600i interactive whiteboard system.

Stay tuned

A regular column will appear from December to March 2008 in the News Mix section of the newsletter, highlighting one of the many resources available to you in the SMART Learning Marketplace. Keep an eye on this column for updates.

© 2007 SMART Technologies ULC. All rights reserved. EDCompass, SMART Board, Notebook, Symposium, smarttech and the SMART logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of SMART Technologies in the U.S. and/or other countries. All other third-party product and company names are for identification purposes only and may be trademarks of their respective owners.