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# Welcome back to the classroom

August 2007

### A note from the editors

Welcome to the back-to-school edition of *EDCompass*<sup>™</sup> newsletter! In this issue, you can enter our Lesson Activity Contest, learn how an early education center is using SMART products, and read tips and tricks, a best practice and more.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our lesson activity survey over the summer. Your feedback will help us provide high-quality, curriculum-based content that enables teachers to engage and motivate students.

Welcome back to the classroom. We hope you have a great 2007–2008 school year!

**EDCompass newsletter editors**

## Teacher's Hub



New to using SMART products? Over the coming weeks, we're launching the Teacher's Hub – a single destination for all the resources you need to get started with your SMART Board interactive whiteboard. Keep watching our [education solutions website](#) for more details.



## Turned on to Learning

**I have had an extraordinary experience** over the last few weeks – I took a young girl with me on a business trip that was virtually around the world. We started out with some business meetings in North America. We then traveled to two African cities, two Indian cities and two South American cities for meetings with educators.

This young girl has just graduated from high school and is about to go to business school. I thought that some firsthand experience with what the corporate world looks and feels like would help get her off on the right foot.

Now, one might think that spending almost four weeks on the road with an 18-year old could be a little challenging – on both sides. Well, that couldn't have been further from the truth. I can report that she was excited and involved the whole way along, and I could not have enjoyed her company more.

Some of the best times were when we talked about our experiences at the end of the day. She asked me what certain things meant, what people did and how they prepared for their careers and earned their positions. I was impressed by her observations and the way in which she looked at things and asked questions.

I saw this young girl blossom on this trip. She has always been a positive and outgoing individual, but something happened that took her from a recent high school graduate to a young woman, fully prepared for university and beyond.

I saw the power and hope of education alive and well. The girl's teachers and parents should be proud of what they have done for her. I hope that there are millions more like her around the world, turned on and energized by learning and looking forward to what is next in life. Now, let's make sure that all children have the opportunity to be all that they can be.

**Nancy Knowlton** is the CEO of SMART Technologies Inc.

# Spotlight

## SMART Lesson Activities

Created by educators for educators, SMART lesson activities run for 5 to 15 minutes and are correlated to local curriculum standards. To search for activities on the education solutions website, select **United States** or **Canada** on the lesson activities page, and type the word *smart* in the keyword search box. SMART lesson activities in French and Spanish are also available. Take a look at the following activities and get inspired.

### Vowels

K–3 students can identify and write all the vowels of the alphabet.

### Volume

Students in grades 7–9 can learn the formulas for calculating the volumes of various shapes.

### Acceleration

Students in grades 10–12 can discuss the connection between acceleration and gravity, and learn about the four laws of motion.

## Have you tried the Lesson Activity Toolkit?

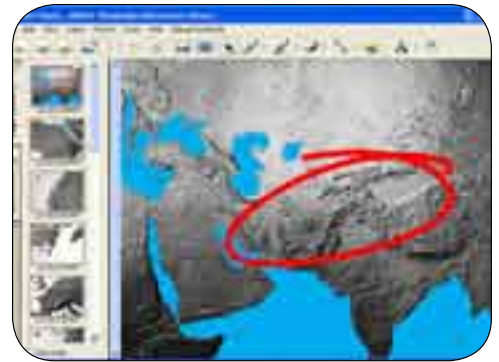
The Lesson Activity Toolkit is a collection of easily accessible tools and templates to help you build high-quality lessons that are more interactive. Adding interactivity to lessons can lead to increased student engagement and improved learning outcomes, and we want to make creating lessons as easy as possible for you. The pilot version includes directions for creating activities, graphics and tools for downloading.

We encourage you to test-drive the toolkit and provide us with your feedback on everything from the overall design to its practical applications in the classroom. Visit the education solutions website to find more information about the pilot version of the **Lesson Activity Toolkit** and to take the survey.

# Contests

## Lesson Activity Contest

Do you create instructional materials using Notebook™ software? Enter SMART's Lesson Activity Contest, and you'll have the opportunity to share your lesson activities with other educators. You could win a Canon® PowerShot™ SD630 digital camera, and admission to a SMART Master's event. In addition, you'll be recognized on SMART's education solutions website and in *EDCompass* newsletter.



Read more about the contest on the **Lesson Activity Contest** page, and go to the **Terms and Conditions** for information on eligibility, submission requirements and contest regulations.

## Thank you for your best practice entries

In the June issue of the newsletter, we announced the Best Practice Contest. Many of you sent in your best practices and received the new Curriculum Resource CD. Thank you for participating! Starting in the fall, a rotating selection of five best practices will be highlighted on the **education solutions website** when the newsletter is published.

Here is just one of the great best practices we received from a third-grade teacher:

Every morning, our first job is to check the temperature. Each week, a different student goes to the window and checks the thermometer, then goes to the SMART Board interactive whiteboard and records the temperature on two different thermometers in Notebook software – the interactive flash one, which is graduated in one degree increments and a static one, which is graduated in two degree increments. This gives students practice in being able to count by ones and twos. The student then clicks a *weather today* Internet link on our thermometer page, and the weather.ca link tells us what the actual temperature is! The students love this opening morning activity.

Ray Hoger  
St. Patrick's School  
Medicine Hat, Alberta

# Summer's out. Technology's in.

## Professional advice on how to make the most of your SMART Board interactive whiteboard

Where's my classroom? Who's my teacher? How do I find my locker? Students returning to school surge through the doors and leave behind the breezy days of summer. Freshly sharpened pencils and the clack of new binders quickly replace water parks and bicycle bells. But for teachers, beginning a new year is a complex process. By the time the first buzzer sounds, most teachers have already spent weeks preparing for that whirlwind day – setting up the classroom, refining lesson plans and getting technology products up and running.

Whether you're just starting with a new product or using existing ones, you're probably looking for resources that are effective but easy to work with. You want to make the best use of your digital tools without getting overwhelmed. **Read the full article.**



## News from SMART

Here are some announcements SMART made at the National Education Computing Conference (NECC) this past June.

### Marilyn Baker Awards

During an awards ceremony at NECC on June 25, we celebrated the first annual Marilyn Baker Awards. Recognized for their efforts were five veteran educators who are committed to using technology, such as SMART Board interactive

whiteboards, to make a difference in their classrooms. Candidates from across North America were nominated by other educators, and winners were selected by Marilyn Baker and SMART. The recipients are listed below. You can read more about **Marilyn Baker**, the **recipients** and the **awards** on our website.

- Gale Ferrington, Delhi Charter School (Delhi, LA)
- Ann Joyce, Our Lady of Lourdes School (Washington, MO)
- Jessica Sabino, Howell Elementary School (Springhill, LA)
- Christine Hudock, Benjamin Middle School (Chicago, IL)
- Joan Badger, Van Walleghem School (Winnipeg, MB)

### University of Virginia Study

In their interim findings, researchers at the University of Virginia have observed that SMART Board interactive whiteboards, when used with appropriate pedagogy and digital resources, can lead to improved student learning outcomes and quality of life for teachers. The study, now entering its third year, examines how to prepare teachers to effectively incorporate technology into their daily teaching in a way that fosters greater understanding among students. Lead researcher and associate professor at the university, Joe Garofalo, points to results demonstrating that the majority of students in a class taught with SMART Board interactive whiteboards outperformed students taught without them.

Garofalo and his team at the University's Curry School of Education also observed an improvement in the quality of life of the teachers who use SMART Board interactive whiteboards. Results show that using Notebook software enables pre-service teachers to organize and plan comprehensive lessons more efficiently, and lessens their anxiety over implementing classroom activities and lessons.

"Throughout the study, we have found that student teachers believe that pupil observation, interpretation and overall learning were facilitated by SMART Board interactive whiteboards and Notebook whiteboarding software," says Garofalo. "The teachers love using SMART Board interactive whiteboards, and many have said that they wouldn't take a job at a school without them."

### SMART Learning Marketplace

The **SMART Learning Marketplace** is a new content subscription service that dramatically increases the learning resources available for lesson creation. This Web-based service will offer access to more than one million professionally developed, copyright-cleared, multimedia learning resources from trusted content providers around the world. Content in the SMART Learning Marketplace is delivered through the Global Grid for Learning, as part of a new North American alliance between SMART and Cambridge University Press.

## Spotlight continued



### Free online resources for your classroom

#### **NCTM: Illuminations**

Find lessons, standards, tools and Web resources for pre-K–12 math educators compiled by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

#### **Federal Resources for Educational Excellence**

More than 1,500 teaching and learning resources for all major subject areas are available from dozens of federal agencies. When you sign up for the RSS feed, you can get **new resources** delivered to you several times a week.

Search for more **K–12 online classroom resources** for all subject areas.



## Showcase School Profile

SMART Board interactive whiteboards are changing the way three- to five-year old students are learning at Auburn Early Education Center (AEEC), a public Title I school in Auburn, Alabama. This award-winning kindergarten learning center has SMART Board interactive whiteboards in the 32 classrooms, the media center, the music room, the computer and science labs, two speech therapy rooms, a conference room, the counselor's office and in each of the common areas.

### Inspiring students

Using the SMART Board interactive whiteboard has meant the 460 kindergarteners at the school are excited to perform routine tasks, which are now whole new activities for them, and they're eager to get up to the interactive whiteboard to practice. "What can be abstract to young children now seems very clear," says Dr. Lilli Land, principal at AEEC. She watched a boy last year trying to write his name on the SMART Board interactive whiteboard, but he kept writing the letter e backwards. The teacher drew the proper letter e just above his on the screen and asked him if he could tell the difference between the two, but he couldn't. Then, she rotated his e to the correct position so that it looked like hers, and it was only then that it made sense to him and he said, 'Oh! My e was turned the other way,' and he finally understood.

The school also maintains a preschool special education program, which serves 96 children and includes children who have varying special needs and Individualized Education Plans. Students now do all the morning activities, which the teacher used to do with a paper and pencil, on the SMART Board interactive whiteboard, such as checking in for attendance and doing a lunch report. "The students are confident in their abilities to use the interactive whiteboard, and they are very motivated by this new form of technology," says Land.

### Promoting confidence

Through the students' interactions with the SMART Board interactive whiteboard, their self-confidence with technology is elevated. "The children feel proud of their abilities to manipulate and be successful on an activity using the SMART Board interactive whiteboard," says Land. Even the lower performing kindergarteners interact with ease on the SMART Board interactive whiteboard.

As a Showcase School, AEEC welcomes neighboring schools and other visitors to learn about the SMART Board interactive whiteboard. During a recent visit of 15–20 educators, a kindergarten student did a demonstration for the group on the interactive whiteboard. He was so proud that all of those grown-up people were there to watch him. The visitors were amazed that he was able to manipulate objects on the interactive whiteboard.

Over the year, teachers and students at AEEC have all benefited from using the SMART Board interactive whiteboards. Land says she is curious to hear what will happen in this new school year as students' confidence using the SMART Board interactive whiteboard grows.

## Tips and tricks

### When teaching on your SMART Board

interactive whiteboard and using Notebook software, always keep the Floating Tools and the Screen Capture toolbars handy. You never know when you will need to capture something on the screen – be it a website or an image – that you want to incorporate into your lesson.

### Teachers at FCDS work on multiple

workstations, and they are encouraged to add lessons they intend to use in the classroom that day or over several days to the My Content folder. However, many teachers work on their own computer and would want to use My Content as well. We learned that they could use My Content on their workstation, save it as a Gallery item and then bring it into My Content on their interactive whiteboard using the Add to Content feature. This saves time and is a convenient feature for the teachers to use.

**Carole Tobias**

**Academic technology coordinator  
Forsyth Country Day School (FCDS)  
Lewisville, North Carolina**

### Comments?

If you have any questions or comments about this or any other issue of *EDCompass* newsletter, please e-mail [education@smarttech.com](mailto:education@smarttech.com).

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