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EDCompass

Discovery

November 2006

Welcome to this issue of the **EDCompass newsletter**. This month we discuss the potential behind facilitating discovery. We've included some lesson activities and resources for you to use in your classroom and suggested some SMART accredited software. As usual, we have some training opportunities and a tip from one of SMART's education consultants.

– **EDCompass copilots**

Announcements



SMART Board software Version 9.5 for Linux operating systems

Do you currently work with a Linux® operating systems? SMART Board™ software version 9.5 is now available for you. Please visit www2.smarttech.com/st/en-US/Support/SBS/SBSv95Linux.htm to download your copy. You will receive Notebook™ software along with other SMART Board Tools. You can also download how-to articles and quick reference guides to help you along the way.



Discover and Learn

You only have to watch a very young child learn about fingers and toes (fascinating things that they are) to see what discovery learning is all about. These bodily extremities start out so far away, but come into sharper and sharper view over a very short period of time. Seeing

a baby recognize the existence of these limbs and then become familiar with their functions can be both remarkable and entertaining.

No one has to tell the child about fingers and toes. Natural curiosity kicks in, and off he or she goes. Some small amount of guidance from adults helps the child learn to manipulate these tools to their fullest advantage through the years, but much of the learning is constructed through experimentation.

This is obviously a very simplistic likeness to what takes place at a more advanced age and in the supported environment of a classroom that actively promotes discovery learning.

I have always thought that one of the most important outputs of an education system is to teach children to know how to learn. The constructivist style of learning means that children learn from experience how to organize data and information in meaningful ways. The relationship between bits of information is a critical part of the constructivist approach as these young learners attempt to make sense of a myriad of information.

It's always easier to simply tell a child what to do, but in the long run that may not be the best way to have the learning stick. I'm reminded of the Chinese proverb that goes like this:

Tell me, I'll forget
Show me, I'll remember
Involve me, I'll understand

That deep understanding from being involved is what discovery learning is all about. Through enough discovery and construction of their own early learning, children can develop a learning style that allows them to solve problems and extrapolate from examples.

Nancy Knowlton is the president and co-CEO of SMART Technologies Inc. Her bio is available online at

www.smarttech.com/company/aboutus/bios/exec_knowlton.asp.

Spotlight

Lesson activities

Try these investigative lesson activities with your students.

Discovery of Tutankhamen's Tomb

Explore the tomb of Tutankhamen. Learn about the punishments that were thought to come to tomb robbers, and explore the debate over the rights to excavate the tomb.

Investigating Buddhism

Investigate the Buddhist religion and present findings on the SMART Board interactive whiteboard. The class marks the presentations according to a set of criteria.

Learning about Nutrition

Become familiar with the Food Pyramid and categorize foods by brainstorming and using pictures.

Online resources

Help your students explore and discover with these websites.

DiscoverySchool.com

Find hundreds of original lesson plans, all written by teachers for teachers.

<http://school.discovery.com/lessonplans>

AskA+ Locator

The AskA+ Locator is a database of high-quality AskA services designed to link students, teachers, parents and other K-12 community members with experts on the Internet. www.vrd.org/locator

Exploratorium

The museum of science, art and human perception.

www.exploratorium.org

SMART Accredited Software

Consider these SMART accredited software titles for your next lesson.

Health

Core Learning Health series

Math

Cabri™

Cross-Curricular

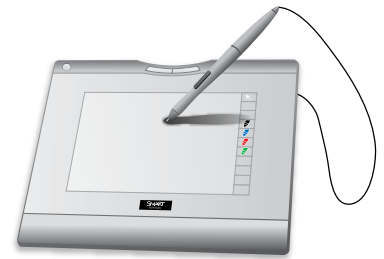
BrainPOP®



AirLiner wireless slate

A classroom is a place for discovery and learning. In many ways, educators have moved away from being the “sage on the stage” centered at the front of the classroom, and have transitioned into “guides on the side.” Students have more freedom to explore their interests while teachers help them learn and digest information. The AirLiner™ wireless slate facilitates this type of learning. As the teacher, you can control software

applications from anywhere in the classroom while students ask questions or participate on the SMART Board interactive whiteboard at the front of the room, giving you more flexibility. The AirLiner wireless slate can also help create a collaborative learning environment. Facilitate the class from the SMART Board interactive whiteboard and pass AirLiner wireless slates to the students, giving them some control of the topic at hand.



Don't forget that you can customize the buttons and replace the underlay on your AirLiner wireless slate. The underlays are printed sheets that fit under the durable plastic cover. These can be downloaded from www2.smarttech.com/st/en-US/Products/AirLiner/Underlays.htm.

You have the following choices of underlays:

- Lined underlays help students keep their writing within the lines
- Grid underlays are especially useful when drawing or working on math problems
- Colored underlays make it easier to tell which AirLiner slate is being used, so multiple users can be distinguished when their writing appears on the SMART Board interactive whiteboard

Here at SMART, we are currently working on several informative documents that discuss integrating the AirLiner wireless slate into the classroom, including a case study from Greenbriar, Virginia. Look for these on www.education.smarttech.com in early 2007.

Students excel at Hall Memorial

Hall Memorial is a small fourth- to eighth-grade rural school in Willington, Connecticut that is all about discovering new ways to improve student learning outcomes. Like many rural schools, Hall Memorial doesn't have much money for technology and had to search for technology funding. In 2002, they found it in the form of a Blue Chip School Grant.

They started out with one SMART Board interactive whiteboard, which quickly drew interest and excitement from teachers, students and parents. Teachers who were traditionally isolated in their classrooms developed a professional education committee to share their ideas in a collaborative environment. Principal David Harding also created a student technology committee that surveyed students about SMART Board interactive whiteboards. The results showed that students felt more engaged and excited about learning. They wanted to interact with the SMART Board interactive whiteboard and found lessons easier to understand because they could see exactly what the teacher was talking about.

SMART Board interactive whiteboards were integrated into every classroom along with a laptop computer for each classroom. “Now, our art teacher, our music teacher, our shop teacher – everybody uses a SMART Board interactive whiteboard,” says Harding. He believes this has increased engagement and improved performance. He also says that adding technology such as wireless cameras, scanners, digital cameras and subject-specific software that students use with the SMART Board interactive whiteboards has made a difference.

Learn more about Hall Memorial's successful integration in the winter 2007 issue of *i.e* magazine. Visit www.education.smarttech.com/subscribe for more information.



Training and events

SMART Master's events

SMART Master's events are affordable, in-depth sessions held at scheduled times and locations across North America. They are designed to help educators learn how to use the SMART Board interactive whiteboard to improve their daily work. Each full-day session is led by a SMART trainer who works with SMART products daily. These events are offered on the following days in December.

Dallas, TX	December 5, 2006
Houston, TX	December 12, 2006
Arlington, VA	December 13, 2006

To register for any of these sessions, please visit www.smarttech.com/trainingcenter/masters/events.asp.

Subject-specific events

Advanced, subject-specific professional development events are designed for experienced users or those who have previously attended a full-day SMART Master's session. These half-day sessions can help teachers who want to maximize the use of the SMART Board interactive whiteboard in their particular subject. Participants will learn how to use and enhance existing resources to create and present dynamic lessons related to the featured subject. The following subject-specific events are available in December.

Social studies	Dallas, TX	December 6, 2006	8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Math	Dallas, TX	December 6, 2006	1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Science	Houston, TX	December 13, 2006	8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Math	Houston, TX	December 13, 2006	1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Science	Arlington, VA	December 14, 2006	8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Math	Arlington, VA	December 14, 2006	1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

To register for any of these sessions, please visit www.smarttech.com/trainingcenter/masters/events.asp.



Tips and tricks

Khoi Trinh, Education Consultant, Toronto, Canada

Long math questions can often be complex and confusing. To make them easier, consider writing each line of the equation in a different color. Your students can easily refer to the colors when they want further explanation from you about the steps of an equation. For example, a student might ask, "In the blue line, I do not understand why you divided the coefficient by 2. Can you explain?" And you can respond in a more effective manner.



SMART Exemplary Educator profile

Jean Oswald is a teacher from Wildwood Elementary School in Mahtomedi, Minnesota, who specializes in library media. She teaches both library and technology skills to students from kindergarten to second grade, helping them discover the information available at their fingertips. All 25 classes come through her library every week, allowing her to use her SMART Board interactive whiteboard to teach these fundamental skills.

"My goal is to have each student interact with the SMART Board

interactive whiteboard. This way I can meet them at their learning style whether it is auditory, kinesthetic or visual."

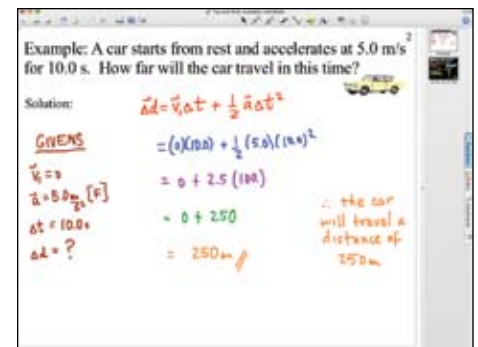
Jean also incorporates the AirLiner wireless slate and SMART Ideas™ concept-mapping software in her classes.

"I use SMART Ideas software to create pathfinders and Web quests on such areas as the Dewey Decimal System, alphabetical order, input and output computer devices, author and illustrator studies, and reference materials. Because I see many different classes each week, and the classes are often back-to-back, file management of my lessons is extremely important. I use SMART Ideas to house all my lessons and interactive activities for a unit in one SMART Ideas file. Lisa DeRoy, SMART's education consultant in my area, showed this idea to me. I have just started using the AirLiner this year and love it! It frees me up to walk around the room and truly be a 'guide on the side.'"

Mahtomedi is in the midst of a district wide initiative. Jean works closely with the technology integrationist at Mahtomedi School District to offer staff training on the SMART Board interactive whiteboard. Introductory and intermediate SMART Board interactive whiteboard training events were conducted over the summer.

In addition to being a SMART Exemplary Educator, Jean is also a Discovery Educator Network STAR member and presented at both the 2006 Minnesota TIES Education Technology Collaborative and the Wisconsin Council Teachers of English.

If you would like to learn more about the SMART Exemplary Educator program, please visit www.education.smarttech.com/see.



Comments?

If you have any questions or comments about this or any other issue of the EDCompass newsletter, please e-mail education@smarttech.com.

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