

## Emerge One-to-One Laptop Learning Project Newsletter

January  
2009

### News from Alberta Education



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#### Happy New Year!

The Provincial Research report will be released in January and it is exciting to share the results of the EmERGE projects, not only with all of you but with the senior executives at Alberta Education. I also had an opportunity to share the EmERGE project with a number of technology directors from across Canada in November. The spotlight is on all you and I want to thank you for all the hard work you have put into this project to date and the continuous dedication you have toward this project.

As we enter into the 2009 school year I want to remind you that the research team is trying to collect the year 2 data so that you will have it in a timely fashion. Please ensure that the fall surveys are completed before the end of January. Detailed information is available below in the "News from the Research Team" section.

### New Internet Resource for Students

The Media Awareness Network, who provides the Internet Safety resources for teachers, has developed a new classroom resource entitled "Passport to the Internet". This Internet literacy tutorial helps students in Grades 4 to 8 develop critical thinking skills to apply to their online experiences. It enables them to use popular online tools and Web sites to their full potential in a secure and ethical manner.

Using simulations of the most popular Internet environments, this interactive resource teaches students key skills relating to:

- online safety
- authenticating online information
- recognizing online marketing ploys
- protecting their privacy
- managing online relationships
- dealing with cyber bullying



## Passport to the Internet

Student tutorial for Internet literacy (Grades 4-8)

PASSPORT TO THE INTERNET INCLUDES:

- an interactive online tutorial



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- an extensive Teacher's Guide with detailed instructions, backgrounders, classroom activities and handouts

Further details available at: <http://www.media-awareness.ca/english/catalogue/products/descriptions/passport.cfm>

The Media Awareness Network has provided the Emerge One-to-One participants with an opportunity to field test this resource with students. We are seeking your input as we consider this resource as an addition to the Web Awareness resources currently licensed by the ministry. Access to this resource will be available during the months of January and February. If you would like to learn more, or to field test this classroom resource, please email [Karen.Shipka@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Karen.Shipka@gov.ab.ca) for access information.

## Assessment of Student Digital Artifacts

A webinar is scheduled for January 13, 2009 at 3:30 pm, hosted by the Emerge evaluators. The webinar will be focused on the assessment of student digital artifacts. You will be introduced to an artifact rubric that you could use, or modifying for your use.

To preview the rubric, access it from the site:  
<http://www.metiri.com/AE/Webinars.html>

Webinar January 13, 2009 at 3:30 PM.  
Enter as guest: <http://metiri.acrobat.com/albert09/>  
Call in Number: 1-888-296-6500;  
Participant code: 322454#



## News from the Research Team

Thank you to educators for completing MTIPS and/or administering the student surveys for year two baseline data collection.

The Emerge Research Team had planned to have baseline data collection for year two completed by December, 2008. Given the low response rate on the completion of the surveys, we will keep the survey system open until January 30. If you need to complete the educator survey and/or if your students need to complete the student surveys for baseline data please do so on/before January 30, 2009.

Just a reminder that students new to Emerge (whole class) were to complete the Engagement and SLI surveys in Fall 2008 and then they will complete these surveys again Spring 2009. Classes with a few students new to the laptops have the option to have those students complete the Fall 2008 surveys if they wish to obtain baseline data on those students. Teachers and administrators new to the Emerge project were asked to complete the MTIPS survey in Fall 2008 and will complete them again in Spring 2009. Students, teachers and administrators who are continuing with the Emerge project will complete surveys in Spring 2009.

## Spring Community of Practice



The Community of Practice Event will be held May 5-6, 2009 at Mount Royal College in Calgary. The date was changed from May 4-5 due to venue availability. If you have pre-booked substitutes please make sure

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you update your request. The professional learning day, held on May 5, will feature workshops based on the webinar series that have been offered throughout the year. You can still register for the webinar sessions listed in this newsletter. Agenda and details for both days will be available soon.

## Authentic Learning – Dr. Sharon Friesen (Galileo Education Network)

The term "authentic learning" is relatively recent, frequently associated with 21st century learning environments; however, the idea of learning in contexts and inquiry approaches such as problem-based, project-based or design-based learning are much older. Authentic learning allows students to explore, discuss and meaningfully construct concepts and relationships in contexts that involve real problems and projects.

### Webinar Dates:

Session 1: January 13, 2009 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Session 2: January 20, 2009 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Session 3: January 27, 2009 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Session 4: February 24, 2009 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

[Click Here to Register](#)



## Student Engagement – Cheryl Lemke – Metiri Group

The **goals** of the series are to increase teachers' understanding of the **research link between engagement and student learning**, build the capacity of teachers in **measuring student engagement**, engage teachers in **self-assessments** of classroom engagement and develop the teachers' capacity to **interpret and use the resultant data** to inform their work. Ms. Lemke will also provide the following materials to participants:

- Self-assessment tools for teachers for reflection on classroom practices related to engagement (i.e., content, process, product indicators)
- Practice guides highlighting research on classroom practices that work to increase student engagement
- A template for teacher analysis and interpretation of data; and the use of data and research to inform decision-making

Session 1 – February 23, 2009, 4:00 – 5:30 PM

Session 2 – March 24, 2009, 4:00 – 5:30 PM

Session 3 – April 15, 2009, 4:00 – 5:30 PM

[Click here to register](#)

## Assessment for Learning Series – Dr. Anne Davies

February 17, 2009 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

April 16, 2009 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

[Click here to register](#)

## Building Self-directed Behaviour in All Students – Ed Coughlin (Metiri Group)

February 4, 2009 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

March 26, 2009 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

[Click here to register](#)

## Universal Design for Learning with Kathy Howery

January 27, 2009 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

April 7, 2009 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

[Click here to register](#)



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## Webinar Recordings:

The webinar sessions have been recorded and are available at the sites listed below.

### Assessment for Learning:

Please go to <http://www.annedavies.com/webconference.html>.

You will see a box for you to type in the username and password.

Username: connections

Password: training

### Universal Design for Learning:

Session 1 can be access at: <https://illuminate.srv.ualberta.ca/education/>

Click on the Recordings Tab, locate the recording called KathyHowerymeeting.

Password: Emerge

## Interesting Reading

A growing body of research suggests potential benefits of the participatory culture, including opportunities for peer-to-peer learning, a changed attitude toward intellectual property, the diversification of cultural expression, the development of skills valued in the modern workplace, and a more empowered conception of citizenship. Access to this participatory culture functions as a new form of the hidden curriculum, shaping which youth will succeed and which will be left behind as they enter school and the workplace. An article on this topic is available online at [www.1to1alberta.ab.ca/resources](http://www.1to1alberta.ab.ca/resources) or [\*Confronting the Challenges of Participatory Culture: Media Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.\*](#)

## eBooks from Tech&Learning

### Latest eBook



### [An Administrators' Guide to Interactive Learning: Whiteboards and High Performing Digital Classrooms](#)

Students today are interactive learners. They spend much of their time at home engaging with information and people online, creating content, learning and sharing ideas. In classrooms that value student creativity, students are encouraged to create original content and share the results using a variety of technology tools. Classrooms that offer opportunities to engage students in interactive learning often achieve better results. [This eBook](#) provides guidance on planning for technology use, addressing the needs of the district's stakeholders, and describing the technologies that work and the support that makes them effective and cost-effective solutions.



Helpful Tips from **SMART**<sup>™</sup>



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Looking for some helpful tips on using SMART technologies? Visit the SMART training centre at <http://smarttech.com/trainingcenter/tutorials.asp> and browse their 2-minute tutorials.



## Alberta Students “Speak Out!”

Alberta's Student Engagement Initiative targets students in high school. "Speak Out" is an opportunity for Alberta's youth to share their experiences and ideas and to help the people who make decisions about our schools understand the issues that are important to them. Students can make a difference by getting involved and helping to define the issues and identify the solutions that will make education in Alberta even better.

This month, Speak Out has a technology focus. Be sure to take the survey that is part of the monthly contest. Also, look for the discussion forum on technology. Any technology issue can be discussed in this fully moderated forum. Give your students a chance to the provincial dialog on education and technology.

<http://speakout.alberta.ca/>