

## Welcome Back!

I hope you all had a wonderful summer and are rejuvenated, rested and ready to tackle a new school year. The energy at the Summer Institute in Calgary certainly indicated an enthusiasm that could be felt the moment you walked in the room. I want to wish you every success in Year 2 of the Emerge One-to-One Laptop Learning Project.

### Fall Professional Learning and Community of Practice Event

The fall event will be held at the Coast Edmonton West (formally the Best Western Inn and Conference Centre) in Sherwood Park on October 20 and 21. Once again, there will be a professional learning day (October 20) that will provide hands on sessions in targeted areas. The Community of Practice event (October 21) will build on the learning opportunities and will give participants to dedicated time to collaborate with peers and put “Community” into “Community of Practice”.

**Detailed Program and Registration is available at**

<http://quest.cvent.com/i.aspx?5S,M3,4c195494-f26f-44ef-ae18-7270c2b86b21>



### Additional Professional Learning Opportunities

Emerge Project team is hosting a number of professional learning opportunities for teachers. Sessions will feature a combination of online webinars and face-to-face sessions in conjunction with professional learning events. Topics include:

#### Assessment for Learning Series - Dr. Anne Davies

At the Summer Institute, Dr. Anne Davies presented participants with practical 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)

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

With the availability of new, compelling virtual learning resources, self-directed learning behavior 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)

**Universal Design for Learning – Kathy Howery**

Webinars will focus on bringing the principles of Universal Design for Learning to life in the one-to-one environment. Participants will learn how can we leverage the diversity in the classroom and the power of digital media so that we create flexibility in what students are expected to learn (multiple means of representation), how they are expected to demonstrate their learning (multiple means of expression) and why they are learning it (multiple means of engagement).

Teachers will learn how to differentiate their approach to learning and their instructional methods in ways that are not possible without digital media. Together we will look for new ways to provide resources, instruction and assessment so that all learners can be successful, self-aware and self directed learners. Participants will learn the importance of teaming and collaborative practices in creating universally designed, accessible classrooms.

**Webinar Dates:**

October 24, 2008 (2:00 pm. – 4:00 pm.)

November 18, 2008 (9:00 am. - 11:00 am.)

January 27, 2009 (2:00 am. - 4:00 pm.)

April 7, 2009 (9:00 pm. – 11:00 am.)

**Powerful Learning In The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Classroom - Jeff Stockton ( Galileo Education Network)**

A number of approaches can be described as inquiry-based learning, including project-based learning, problem-based learning and design-based learning. This webinar will provide participants with an introduction to inquiry-based learning, examine the three approaches, explore examples from Alberta classrooms and review the criteria required for successful, powerful 21st century learning.

Date: October 6, 2008 from 4:00 – 6:00

**Grade 7 Language Arts and Social Studies****Engaging Students in Canadian History - Neil Stephenson and Candace Saar**

This series of four workshops held on Mondays from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm.

1. Designing engaging inquiry based work for 21st Century learners  
September 22, 2008
2. Enlisting experts and expertise to help foster deep understanding  
September 29, 2008
3. Assessment to improve critical thinking and student self-directed

learning - October 20, 2008

4. Cultivating historical and inventive thinking - October 27, 2008

### **Grade 8 Social Studies and Language Arts.**

#### **Engaging Screen-agers in a Study of the Renaissance - Amy Park and Candace Saar.**

The four webinars that will be offered will be:

1. Designing engaging work for 21st century learners  
September 25, 2008
2. Enlisting experts to ensure high quality work - October 9, 2008
3. Assessment that fosters critical thinking and deep understanding  
October 23, 2008
4. Fostering a collaborative community of learners in the classroom  
November 6, 2008

Participation is encouraged for the entire series.

**An email will be sent with the registration link on Wednesday October 17.**

## **News from Alberta Education**

### **Digital Resources Pilot Project**

At the Summer Institute, Kathy Howery presented details about the Digital Repository Pilot Project. This pilot project allows teachers and students participating in Emerge to access a number of Alberta Education approved resources (textbooks) in digital format for the 2008/2009 school year. All classroom teachers that have been registered will receive a user ID and password from the Learning Resources Centre (LRC) the week of September 15<sup>th</sup> allowing them access to the Emerge Digital Repository located at the LRC website.

If staff changes after the IDs have been issued, principals will be able to add/delete users as required. Attached to this email is a copy of the Emerge Digital Repository Tip Sheet. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at [Karen.Shipka@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Karen.Shipka@gov.ab.ca).

## **News from the Research Team**

The Metiri Emerge project website [www.metiri.com/alberta.html](http://www.metiri.com/alberta.html) has been revamped for convenience. There are a number of really good reading materials, as well as a wealth of teaching resources available on the site. Updated versions of the surveys that will be administered this year are also available on the website.

Research Activities for 2008-2009 school year include:

- Students new to the laptop (whole class) complete surveys in Fall 2008 and Spring 2009;
- Students continuing with the laptops complete surveys in Spring 2009;
- Classes with a few students new to the laptop have the option to have those students complete the Fall 2008 survey if they wish to obtain baseline data on those students;

- Teachers and administrators new to the project complete the surveys in Fall 2008 and Spring 2009; and
- Teachers and administrators continuing on in the project complete surveys in Spring 2009.

Detailed information is available from Jennifer Lock at [jvlock@ucalbary.ca](mailto:jvlock@ucalbary.ca) or Cheryl Lemke at [clemke@metiri.com](mailto:clemke@metiri.com).

## Distributed Learning Resources Branch Highlights

### ***New Learn EveryWare Resources***

The following Learn EveryWare distributed learning resources are now available or are scheduled for availability by the end of September 2008. Most resources are available in an online and print format.

***Mathematics 4:*** An A-pack will be available in September 2008, with the B-pack following in November 2008. This resource will be available in a print and online format.

***Mathematics 5:*** An A-pack will be available in September 2008, with the B-pack following in November 2008. This resource will be available in a print and online format.

***Social Studies 6:*** This DVD resource contains electronic pages of the textbook *Many Voices 6* with embedded notes, multimedia, line masters, or other additional information to guide a distributed learning student. This resource will also be available in a print format.

***Mathematics 7:*** This DVD resource contains electronic pages of the textbook *Math Makes Sense 7* with embedded notes, multimedia, line masters, or other additional information to guide a distributed learning student. This resource will also be available in a print format.

***Social Studies 8:*** This distributed learning resource is available in print format and as PDFs on Tools4Teachers.

***Biology 20:*** Online distributed learning courses are available. Print courses will be available by the end of September.

***Chemistry 20:*** Online distributed learning courses are available. Print courses will be available by the end of September.

***Physics 20:*** Online distributed learning courses are available. Print courses will be available by the end of September.

***Biology 30:*** An online field-test course is available.

***Chemistry 30:*** An online field-test course is available.

***Physics 30:*** An online field-test course is available.

***Social Studies 10-1:*** An online course will be available in September 2008, with the print course following in January 2009.

***Social Studies 10-2:*** An online course will be available in September 2008, with the print course following in January 2009.

***Social Studies 20-1 and Social Studies 20-2:*** Field-test courses are being developed through a secure wiki. Teachers interested in gaining access to this wiki should contact Merlin Flock, Resource Manager, Humanities, Distributed Learning Resources Branch, by e-mail at [Merlin.Flock@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Merlin.Flock@gov.ab.ca).

All online resources and courses are available through the [Tools4Teachers](#) website. Check the website regularly as new resources are being posted there. These resources are available free of charge to all teachers in the province. The Social Studies 6 and Mathematics 7 Learn EveryWare resources are available from the Learning Resources Centre.

**Contact Info:** For further information, please contact Terri Reid, Director, Distributed Learning Resources Branch, by e-mail at [Terri.L.Reid@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Terri.L.Reid@gov.ab.ca) or by phone at 780-674-5350. Dial 310-0000 for toll-free access.