

# Pridwin Preparatory School for Boys

Case Study, South Africa



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Pam Nicolaidis, deputy head

## South African school uses SMART Board interactive whiteboards to integrate ICT

Founded in 1923 in Johannesburg, South Africa, Pridwin Preparatory School for Boys is an independent school for students between the ages of five and thirteen. It has a reputation for academic excellence and for equipping its students with life skills that enable them to succeed in a world dominated by technology.

Each boy is encouraged to develop his leadership potential and interact closely with his community while studying subjects including English, French, Zulu, science, social studies, math, art, design and technology, and computer science. Learning becomes relevant and exciting for students when the curriculum is integrated. Computer skills learned during information technology classes, for instance, overlap with other subjects.

The school acquired its first SMART Board™ interactive whiteboard in 2003, and teachers found it provided the platform for all these integration strategies. As deputy head, Pam Nicolaidis, says: "No school that prides itself on its abilities to prepare students for the modern world of work can afford to be without interactive whiteboard technology."

"It's an outstanding way to teach young boys, who often have both a short attention span and a keen interest in technology. In addition, because it's interactive, it makes the relationship between teacher and students much closer" explains Nicolaidis.

Nicolaidis is clear about why they chose SMART's product over others. "We chose the SMART Board interactive whiteboard because we believe that, on all counts, it provides the best functionality and ease of use."

Pridwin first used the SMART Board interactive whiteboard for teaching math and computer literacy, but soon it was being used for languages, science, history, geography, music and sports coaching. The school has 14 SMART Board interactive whiteboards currently in use and plans to install one in every classroom during 2007.

"While we've not measured the effectiveness of our SMART Boards in formal academic or statistical terms," says Nicolaidis, "in the two years since I've been using a SMART Board, I've seen an approximately 10 percent increase in the average marks for the boys I have taught. We're also seeing a significant

### Challenge

Create classrooms for 21st-century international students

### SMART Solution

SMART Board interactive whiteboard

### Result

Students are captivated by high-tech interactive lessons and lesson planning is streamlined

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improvement in the way the boys prepare their projects and present them in class. Their work is structured better and their presentation skills are improving.

“In addition, our parents tell us that the children prefer those classes in which they can work with SMART Boards. Obviously, they like being able to make the board work through touch, but mostly they like the fact that the interactive whiteboards work in the way that children operate these days – through buttons and icons and instant feedback.”

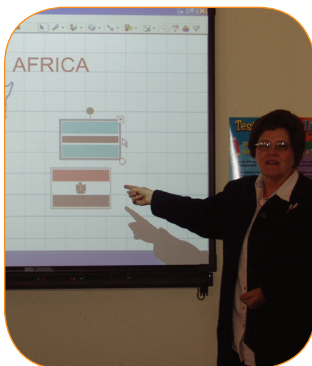
The dynamic subject content available through Notebook™ collaborative learning software and SMART Ideas™ concept-mapping is also attractive to the students.

“Being able to illustrate my lessons on the Victorian era with pictures and sound

made the era come alive for the boys,” Nicolaidis says. “Without exception, their comprehension of the subject was quick and wide-ranging – and interest levels in the lessons themselves were high.

“In geography lessons in which the boys made SMART Board presentations to the class, they tried much harder than would otherwise have been the case – as though they wanted to live up to the board.

“In other words, the SMART Board is enhancing our teaching capabilities by enabling the whole teaching process to compete as successfully for the children’s attention as their entertainment technologies such as DVDs, mobile phones and the Internet.”



The SMART Board interactive whiteboard enhances teaching capabilities and collaboration in the classroom.

## About SMART

SMART Technologies Inc. is both the industry pioneer and global education market segment leader in easy-to-use interactive whiteboards and other group collaboration tools. The award-winning SMART Board interactive whiteboard is the most widely installed interactive whiteboard in the world. Many school jurisdictions have standardized on the product, which is used to provide interactive learning opportunities and enhance student achievement in more than 330,000 classrooms spanning every U.S. state, every Canadian province, every Local Authority in the UK and in more than 100 countries worldwide. SMART products also include interactive pen displays, interactive digital signage, wireless slates and software. Using SMART products, groups can access and share the information they need to meet, teach, train and present. SMART’s education customers include New York City Board of Education (U.S.), Oxford University (UK), Kobe City Board of Education (Japan), Barnier Public School (Australia), University of Ottawa (Canada), United World College (Singapore), Stephen-Hawking-Schule Neckargemuend (Germany), Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind (U.S.) and Harvard University (U.S.).



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