

# EDCompass newsletter

News and resources for educators using SMART products

[education.smarttech.com](http://education.smarttech.com)

## IN THIS ISSUE

- [Nancy's Notes](#) ..... 1
- [Classroom Content](#) ..... 2-4
- [News](#) ..... 2-4
- [Feature Article](#) ..... 3
- [SMART Showcase School Profile](#) ..... 4
- [Product Spotlight](#) ..... 5-6

## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

### Welcome to the November issue of EDCompass™ newsletter!

Implementing technology in the classroom is just one step toward improving student learning outcomes. When you add professional development into the mix, you're setting yourself up for success – ensuring you get the most out of your products each and every day, while your students get the most out of their classroom experience. Our new issue is filled with information about professional development opportunities and related resources from SMART. It highlights best practices in this area and provides examples from other teachers who use professional development and social networking to advance their skills and enhance their professional lives.

You may have noticed that we've changed the look of the newsletter. If you have any comments about it or any of the information featured in this issue, we'd love to hear from you. Please e-mail your feedback to [education@smarttech.com](mailto:education@smarttech.com).

## NANCY'S NOTES

### Giving them a chance



One of my favorite things to do is visit classrooms. I love to see how the diligent development of children helps them to take their rightful place in the world – educated and socialized. The emphasis that a country, state or community puts on educating its young is a good indication of its vibrancy and outlook.

I visited an elementary classroom this past week, and I was struck by the eagerness to participate and learn that is inherent in most children. Teachers have the power to either enhance or dampen that natural curiosity. Children love to show what they know, and strong teachers bring out their will to do so.

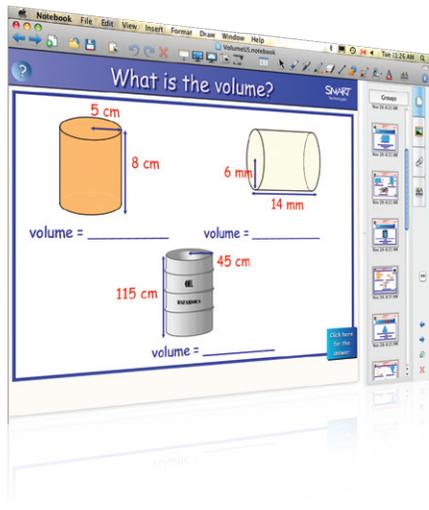
World economic stability has been rocked in the last couple of months in an unprecedented fashion. Things turned on a dime, and now great uncertainty exists about how and when everything will return to normal. People are concerned about their jobs and their financial futures as businesses retrench, housing prices plummet and credit tightens.

But life in the classroom goes on through all this turmoil. Great uncertainty doesn't shake education – it reinforces the need for it. Many students today will work in careers that have not yet emerged. The only type of preparation that makes any sense in this context is one that is broad and based on solid fundamentals.

For me, education is all about giving children a chance – a chance to show what they can make of themselves, no matter the circumstances into which they have been born. Setting conditions in the classroom to enable these children to thrive as individuals and collaborators is all they need. We hope that you find our products help you do just that.

[Nancy Knowlton](#) is the CEO of SMART Technologies.

## SMART Notebook lesson activities



Find hundreds of high-quality K–12 lesson activities on our [education solutions website](#). Each lesson is correlated to local curriculum standards and created by classroom teachers or SMART’s own curriculum resource developers.

Try one of the following lesson activities during your next math or English class.

### [Volume](#)

Math students in grades 7–9 can learn the formulas for calculating volume and then determine the volume of various shapes.

### [Forming paragraphs](#)

Grade 10–12 English students can learn how to construct meaningful paragraphs by connecting sentences with transitional words and phrases.

### SMART Notebook tip – layering

See Joe Scrivens, one of SMART’s curriculum resource developers, demonstrate advanced layering techniques in SMART Notebook software.

In this seven-minute video on SMART’s YouTube channel, Joe provides step-by-step instructions to help you create dynamic, interactive lesson activities. [Watch the video](#) and use this feature in your next lesson!

## Professional development and SMART

Professional development is key to ensuring you are making the most of your SMART products. SMART offers a variety of programs and resources to help you build and share your education technology knowledge.

### SMART education consultants

There are a growing number of SMART education consultants in North America and around the world. Their mission is to support you and your use of SMART products to maximize student achievement. Education consultants share tools, resources and best practice strategies. They also help you develop professional learning communities to collaborate with other teachers using SMART products. [Contact SMART](#) to find an education consultant in your area.



### SMART user conferences

SMART user conferences are organized throughout North America by our many education consultants.

These conferences provide opportunities for you to connect with other educators, learn tips and tricks for using your SMART products and discover new ways to support whole-class and learner-centric teaching. If you’re in the Dallas area, check out our next SMART user conference on January 10, 2009, at Bishop Dunne High School. [Registration](#) opens on December 1, 2008. Space is limited, so be sure to check back to sign up!

### Peer Educator program

The [Peer Educator program](#) supports you as you share your SMART product knowledge with other educators. We give you the tools to lead a workshop on developing SMART Notebook lesson activities, including a complete package of workshop materials. Peer Educators are officially recognized with a certificate and with a letter written to their school or district.

### SMART Exemplary Educator program

Our [SMART Exemplary Educator program](#) recognizes educators around the world who use SMART products in innovative and effective ways to improve learning outcomes. SMART Exemplary Educators are committed to developing effective educational technology practices and sharing their knowledge with other educators on a global level.

### Trade Show Teacher program

The [Trade Show Teacher program](#) is exclusive to SMART Exemplary Educators and offers them the opportunity to attend a national education conference with SMART. Trade Show Teachers share their lessons with trade show audiences and demonstrate how they use SMART products in their own classrooms.

## Professional development cited as key to successful SMART product implementation

Researchers at the University of New Brunswick recently completed work on a year-long SMART-sponsored study investigating the impact of interactive whiteboard usage in a K–12 environment. The report outlines the positive effects appropriate and adequate professional development has on teaching and learning during a school-wide implementation of SMART products.

Their findings, as summarized in our [research brief](#), include the following:

- 95 percent of teachers reported using their SMART Board™ interactive whiteboard on a daily basis to present instructional content or engage students in learning activities
- Teachers unanimously agreed that SMART Board interactive whiteboards are a benefit in their classrooms, and 85 percent strongly agreed
- 81 percent of teachers said that having access to a SMART Board interactive whiteboard enhanced their ability to differentiate instruction

Read the [full report](#). For more studies, visit the [research page](#) on our website.

## Find SMART on Facebook

SMART now has a Facebook page, and you can join our growing community of fans. If you're not already a fan of SMART, it's quick and easy to become one. Just follow these steps:

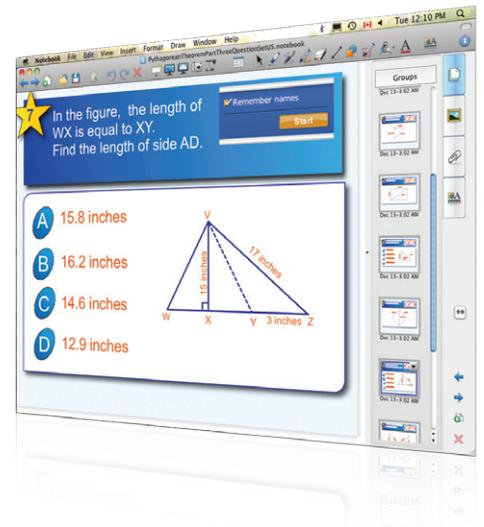
1. [Join Facebook](#) (if you haven't already) and log in
2. Search for SMART Technologies in the search box
3. Become a fan

Once you're a fan of SMART, you can receive updates, watch videos of our products in use, start a discussion with other educators and learn about new contests to win products for your school.

[Become a fan](#) of SMART today and keep the community growing!



## Senteo question sets



You can find a database of Senteo™ question sets on our [education solutions website](#). Each set includes 10 questions that are correlated to local curriculum standards and are compatible with a matching SMART-created lesson activity on the same topic.

Try one of the following Senteo question sets with your language arts, social studies or math students.

### [Adventurous Vocabulary – Good and Bad](#)

K–3 language arts students can test their ability to use adventurous and wide-ranging vocabulary related to the concepts of good and bad. Find the [lesson activity](#) that complements this question set.

### [Slavery, Part One](#)

Social studies students in grades 7–9 can test their knowledge of important events in the history of slavery from 1500 to 1800 CE. Find the [lesson activity](#) that complements this question set.

### [Pythagorean Theorem, Part Three](#)

Grade 10–12 math students can practice using the Pythagorean theorem. Find the [lesson activity](#) that complements this question set.

## FEATURE ARTICLE

### 21st-century hallways

"I really believe that true PD happens in small chunks. That's what social networks like Twitter and Plurk and Ning provide – small bits of real feedback, right there at the exact right time. Teachers have always talked and shared their ideas in the hallways of their school between classes. Well, now those hallways have gone online," says Lori Reed, a 20-year veteran third-grade teacher from Kress Independent School District in Kress, Texas. Social networking, she adds, connects her to people and resources that help her do her job better. [Read the full article](#).

## SMART-accredited software



[SMART's Software Accreditation Program](#) includes more than 300 multimedia content and software titles from over 80 companies. The program recognizes titles based on their level of compatibility with SMART Board interactive whiteboards and Sympodium™ interactive pen displays.

Consider the following SMART-accredited titles for your next language arts, social studies or math lesson.

[SpellingCity.com](#) is a free spelling tool that can help you make teaching spelling more exciting. With online spelling games, reviews and quizzes, your students can memorize weekly spelling words while having fun.

[Ignite! Social Studies](#) offers lessons that are well suited to your interactive whiteboard, covering topics such as the early history of Japan, the scientific revolution in Europe and early American history. Ignite! Learning's science and math titles are also SMART-accredited.

[Glencoe Algebra 2 – Interactive Classroom](#) is a unique teaching tool for secondary students that enables you to present dynamic lessons for every chapter of your mathematics text. Glencoe's Algebra 1, Pre-Algebra and Geometry Interactive Classroom are also SMART-accredited.

## Beta test SMART Notebook SE

Have you downloaded the SMART Notebook SE (Student Edition) beta? This new software was created for the way your students interact with information. It gives 21st-century students a learning tool that capitalizes on their overall technology use and reflects the way they think and organize ideas. SMART Notebook SE is ideal for whole-class, collaborative and student-centered environments in which teachers guide students through a process of inquiry, discovery and sharing. Students can also use the software's scheduling and organizing features to keep track of homework assignments and due dates, take notes and highlight important concepts. The application runs on student desktops, laptops, ultra-mobile PCs, PDAs or tablets. Find out how to [download the beta!](#)

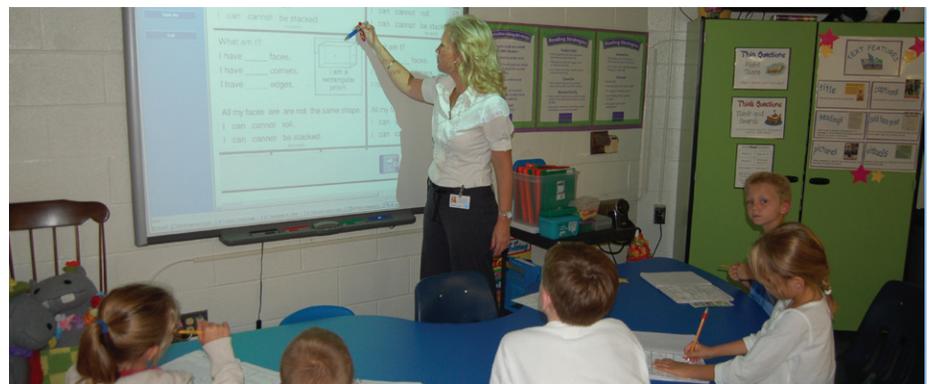
## Find out more about the SMART Table

In last month's issue, we introduced you to the SMART Table, the world's first multitouch, multiuser interactive table for primary education. That article generated a flurry of excitement and requests for more information. [Sign up](#) now to receive regular updates on the table, and [join the conversation](#) with educators around the world who are just as excited as you are to start using it in the classroom. You can also check out this [YouTube video](#) to see how the SMART Table can transform the way students learn together.



## SMART SHOWCASE SCHOOL PROFILE

### Maryland teachers in harmony with technology



Fifth-grade teacher Carla Fowler is now a confident and proficient user of the SMART Board interactive whiteboard. And no one is more surprised by that than she is. "Technology was just not my thing in the beginning," says Fowler, who teaches at [Mount Harmony Elementary School](#) in Owings, Maryland. Last year, she and several other teachers at the school received SMART Board interactive whiteboards in their classrooms. For Fowler, the reality of teaching with the board was a little daunting. [Read the full article.](#)

# Break the sound barrier with SMART Audio

## Fast facts



Did you know increasing levels of classroom noise are hindering students' ability to receive, comprehend and retain information? Research shows that in many American classrooms, students with normal hearing abilities only understand three out of four words read aloud to them from a list\*. HVAC systems, airplanes, lawnmowers and hallway commotion are just a few of the factors that are making it increasingly difficult for students to hear the lessons they are being taught.

And ambient classroom noise isn't only affecting your students. Many teachers are suffering from vocal strain and fatigue as a result of their efforts to be heard throughout the classroom.

That's where SMART Audio comes in. Our new classroom amplification system ensures your lessons won't be drowned out by extraneous noise. It combines wireless student and teacher microphones, speakers, a receiver and sensors to help you effectively deliver your lessons while enhancing student participation and engagement.

The teacher microphone is worn around the neck, so it gives you the freedom to move around as you teach, while transmitting your voice through the four speakers. The handheld microphone enables your students to add their voices to classroom discussions, answer questions and present their work.

When you're playing multimedia files, just connect SMART Audio to your portable MP3 player, DVD player or other multimedia system to broadcast them to the entire class. The Recorder feature in SMART Notebook software can also be used in combination with SMART Audio. This enables you to record your voice during a lesson and save it for future playback.

SMART Audio lifts your voice above daily classroom noise, helping you keep your students focused on learning. Visit the [SMART Audio](#) page on our website to discover more about the system's benefits. You can also watch our online [demo](#) to see how SMART Audio can enhance teaching and learning in your classroom.

\*Acoustical Society of America, 2000

- Works with SMART Notebook software. Use SMART Recorder to record students' voices or other sounds during a lesson so you can play them back later.
- Installs easily into most classroom environments. SMART Audio includes four high-quality ceiling- or wall-mounted speakers.
- Distributes sound evenly throughout the room
- Uses infrared wireless technology, so other wireless devices can't interfere with the system
- Enables the student and teacher microphones to be used at the same time. The dual channel ensures that microphones have high sound quality and will not interfere with each other.
- Adds flexibility to your lessons. Both the teacher and student microphones are lightweight and wireless, allowing for total freedom of movement.
- Includes rechargeable batteries and wall-mounted chargers for both the student and teacher microphones
- Connects easily to portable MP3 players, DVD players and other multimedia devices
- Comes with a standard two-year warranty

## Contest results

In previous issues, we told you about the SMART Audio and SMART Document Camera contest held from May 1 to October 30, 2008, on the SMART Exchange. We asked you to share stories about how you use or would like to use SMART Audio and the SMART Document Camera. Every month, our selection panel chose three entries with the most interesting, inspiring or innovative ideas, and rewarded their authors with SMART audiovisual prize packages.

Here is a sampling of the fantastic entries we received:

A teacher from Oklahoma explains how using SMART Audio and the SMART Document Camera in her sixth-grade social studies class would enhance a unit on ancient Egypt and mummification.

[View the submission.](#)

A first-grade teacher in Virginia plans to use the products in her science class to capture the magic of sprouting seeds.

[View the submission.](#)

An elementary reading coach sees many applications for the two products, including using SMART Audio's student microphone to improve fluency and build phonemic awareness – especially for ESL students.

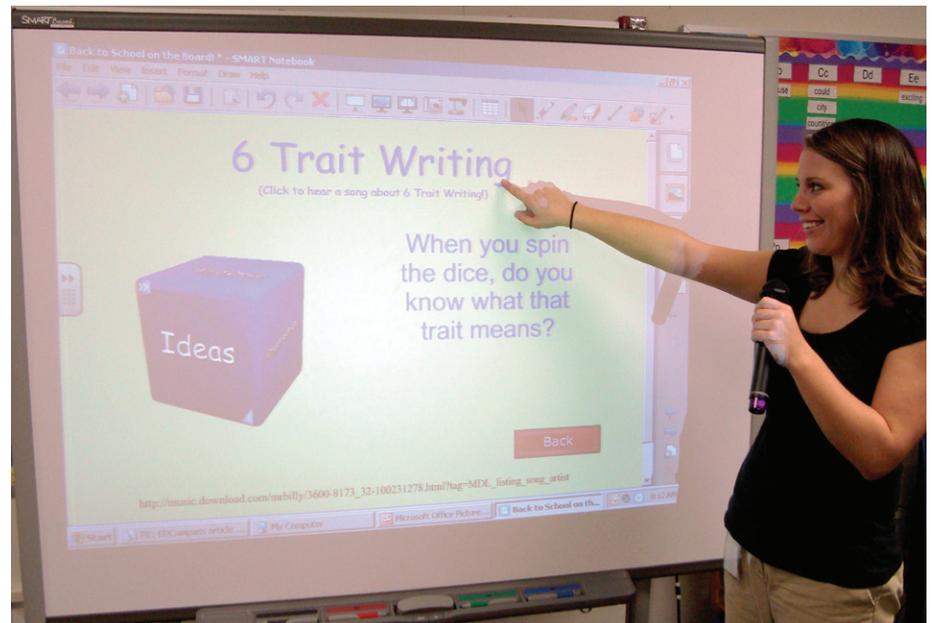
[View the submission.](#)

The contest is now closed, but you can visit the [SMART Exchange](#) to see all the entries we received. Be sure to check back on the SMART Exchange for news about other exciting contests.

## Up next

Watch for the next issue of EDCompass newsletter highlighting SMART's content and resources offering, with a spotlight on the SMART Learning Marketplace.

## SMART Audio in a Wisconsin classroom



Your students can spend up to 70 percent of their class time involved in listening activities. So making sure students can hear what they're being taught is the first step in developing their listening skills, improving their oral comprehension and strengthening their critical thinking abilities. When your students hear clearly, they are more likely to understand assignments, follow directions and participate in discussions.

Just ask Stephanie Albers. Since she started using SMART Audio in her classroom, she has noticed positive improvements in her students' behavior.

"My students feel cool when they get to use the microphone, so participation with different things has increased, which is nice to see. My kids want to participate more, and they are definitely engaged in the lessons."

A third-grade teacher at Westwood Elementary School in De Pere, Wisconsin, Albers has used SMART Audio every day since it was installed after she won it in the SMART Audio and SMART Document Camera contest.

And although she has used an amplification system before, what she finds makes SMART Audio so much more useful in her classroom is that it works with the recording feature in SMART Notebook software. Albers has been taking advantage of SMART Recorder to create videos, add audio components to lessons and record her instruction for future use.

"With my absent students, I find that it's helpful to record the lesson, and then I can show them it. We've recorded actual little movies on our SMART Board, and we've made different things and linked them to sounds to help us learn."

Could she go back to teaching without SMART Audio? Albers says she could, but "it wouldn't be to my kids' or my benefit, I don't think. It's just an essential tool in our classroom."