

EDCompass newsletter

News and resources for educators using SMART products

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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

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

If you teach students in early education, one of your objectives is to prepare them for a lifetime of learning. You have the opportunity to develop bright, curious and engaged students who have a positive connection to not only what they learn but also the way in which they learn. In this issue, you can read about teachers who are using SMART products to help achieve this goal. Educators at Tedder Elementary, featured in the [SMART Showcase School profile](#), discuss their school's focus on technology – from the first day of prekindergarten, all students are engaged by its infusion into every aspect of the school day. This month's [feature article](#) includes advice and stories from educators about how to best incorporate project-based learning into the early learner classroom. And in our [product spotlight](#), we introduce you to SMART Slate, our new version of the AirLiner™ wireless slate.

As always, if you have any comments about the newsletter or any of the information featured in this issue, we'd love to hear from you. Please e-mail your feedback to newsletters@smarttech.com.

NANCY'S NOTES

The Capacity to Learn

Nowhere do we see the pure joy of learning as visibly or as often as in an early education classroom. Small achievements occur on an hourly or daily basis. Confidence and pride are built when young students know they are learning and succeeding.



One of the greatest pleasures of watching these young children is seeing how much they want to share their learning processes. They are so pleased to show what they know and are discovering. They keep trying – even if they offer a wrong answer or can't quite accomplish something. Their determination to succeed is almost endless.

Eagerness and determination are qualities we try to take advantage of when we create products. Whether it is the SMART Board™ interactive whiteboard, the SMART Slate, SMART Response or the SMART Table, our goal is to put tools in these young children's hands that will let them participate, demonstrate, collaborate and enjoy.

Magical things happen with the SMART Board interactive whiteboard. And by adding a SMART Response system to the classroom, young learners are able to participate in regular assessments that help them and their teachers know how well they are learning and advancing.

Our more recently introduced product, the SMART Table, was created to help young children learn through collaborative activities. Working together to accomplish a goal is not something that comes naturally to young children, so activities that encourage cooperation and conversation aid in the development of a critical foundational skill.

Finally, injecting fun into the learning process ensures that children remain engaged and motivated. And for us, that's serious business we enjoy.

Nancy Knowlton is the CEO of SMART Technologies.

SMART Notebook Lesson Activities



Find a comprehensive database of [K-12 lesson activities](#) on the SMART Exchange. The activities are correlated to local curriculum standards and created by classroom teachers or SMART's team of curriculum resource developers.

Try one of the following SMART Notebook lesson activities during your next language arts, science, social studies and math class.

Go Words

First-grade language arts students can learn how to identify common word strings.

Animals Adapt to Survive

K-3 science students can explore how animals adapt to their habitats.

Three Types of Communities

Third-grade social studies students can learn about rural, urban and suburban communities and then write about the type of community in which they live.

Coins and Bills

K-3 math students can practice adding and comparing sums of money.

Share Your Insights to Win



Educators choose the SMART Board interactive whiteboard more than any other interactive whiteboard in the world. To learn more, we asked teachers, administrators and technology directors from all over North America what they like about SMART products. We then videotaped their responses and posted them on SMART's website. [Find out](#) what they had to say.

Take part in the contest

You can put your own video together, describing how the SMART Board and SMART Notebook software are making an impact on you and your classroom, for a chance to win SMART products for your school. Submit your video to SMART's TeacherTube channel by 11:59 p.m. MST on November 27, 2009. You could be one of three winners to receive a [SMART Response interactive response system](#), complete with 32 handheld remotes, a [SMART Document Camera](#) or [SMART Audio classroom amplification system](#).

Find out how to participate in the [Share Your Insights Video Contest](#). We're including the winning videos in the January issue – yours could be one of them!

SMART Table Contest Winner

Congratulations to Christine Carlson, peer coach at Mahtomedi School District in Minnesota. This summer, SMART held a contest for a select number of SMART Exemplary Educators, and Christine's concept for a SMART Table application, called Narrow it Down, was the winning entry. Her idea is to allow students to practice asking questions and making inferences while playing a guessing game. SMART software developers will now work with Christine to transform this idea into a real application for the SMART Table – we'll share it with you in the newsletter once it's available for download.

This Month's Poll

What SMART products are used in your school's early education classrooms?

Beta Test SMART Notebook Express

SMART Notebook Express is a new web-based version of SMART Notebook software that enables anyone, anywhere, to open, edit and share lesson activities and content without logging in or downloading software.

Visit the [SMART Notebook Express page](#) on our website to find out how to start using the first release. After you've tried it out, [take our survey](#) and tell us what you like and don't like. And if there are other features that would help you share and present your lessons, let us know.



Your feedback is helping us continue to shape this product – visit the SMART Notebook Express page often to see what new features we've added. And watch for the product spotlight in the January issue, where you'll learn more about how SMART Notebook Express can help you in your classroom.

Reader Survey Winners

Thanks to everyone who completed our reader survey. Your feedback will help us continue improving the newsletter to better meet the needs of thousands of educators across North America.

From the hundreds of educators who participated in the survey, Pamuela Galletti from John Muir Elementary School in Martinez, California, and Lynn Hassey from Notre Dame Secondary School in Burlington, Ontario, Canada, have been randomly selected to each win a SMART Response interactive response system, complete with 32 handheld remotes, and a user license for SMART Notebook Math Tools. Congratulations!

FEATURE ARTICLE

Little Kids. Big Learning.



Young students can learn through projects. That's been Sandy Armstrong's experience. Throughout her 17 years teaching kindergarten, she's been an advocate and practitioner of project-based learning (PBL). Armstrong, a SMART Exemplary Educator who teaches at the Auburn Early Education Center in Auburn, Alabama, is often asked by teachers new to PBL how to embark on this education journey. [Read the full article.](#)

SMART Response Question Sets

Find a database of [SMART Response question sets](#) on the SMART Exchange. Each set includes 10 questions that are correlated to state and provincial curriculum standards.

Try one of the following SMART Response question sets in your next language arts, social studies or math class.

"Wa" Words

First-grade language arts students can test their ability to identify the letter string "wa."

Which Region?

Second- and third-grade social studies students can test their knowledge of different places based on their weather and landscape.

Using Models

K-3 math students can test their knowledge of standard models (algebra tiles).

SMART-Accredited Software

Hundreds of [SMART-accredited titles](#) have been recognized for their level of compatibility with the SMART Board interactive whiteboard and SMART Notebook software. Here is one to try with your early education students.

The TeachSmart® Learning System by Hatch® offers more than 1,000 research-based, standards-linked literacy, math, social studies and science activities for early education. The software includes powerful product and online support features. [Check it out!](#)

Upcoming Webinars from SMART



Educators won't want to miss out on today's webinar, Digital Content for Digital Natives: Engaging Today's Tech Savvy Students. Speakers will delve into how a greater emphasis on digital content can boost student engagement and ensure faster uptake of classroom technology. [Register now](#) for this webinar!

Today's session is part of an ongoing series of webinars we are offering this fall and winter. Beginning at 3:00 p.m. EST, each 60-minute webinar includes an expert panel discussion followed by an online Q & A session. Though the series is designed for administrators and technology directors, teachers will find much in these sessions relevant to their practice. If you take part in any webinar in this series, you'll receive front-of-the-line access to SMART virtual trade shows and the chance to register early for SMART's popular Learning Matters seminar at FETC in January 2010. Check out the other topics that will be covered in this series:

- Creating Classrooms for Everyone: How Interactive Technology Supports Universal Design for Learning – Tuesday, December 8
- Create. Teach. Learn. Assess. Enhancing Teaching and Accelerating Learning with Technology in 1:1 Environments – Wednesday, February 24, 2010

You can also watch SMART's previous webinars with our complementary [on-demand viewing](#).

Second Issue of *SupportLink* Now Online

Check out the new issue of [SupportLink](#), our newsletter that gives you the latest information about SMART's service and support offering. This issue offers tips for getting more effective technical assistance and accessing the wide range of information within SMART's extensive knowledge base. You can also find focused advice on specific topics including software licensing and cleaning the surface of your SMART Board interactive whiteboard. This issue also discusses SMART's professional development continuum and the latest free learning resources.

If you're not already subscribed to *SupportLink*, [sign up now](#) to receive future issues of this newsletter, six times a year.

New White Paper Examines Teacher Stress

SMART recently released a new white paper titled "Reducing Stress in the Classroom: How interactive whiteboards and solution-based integration improve teacher quality of life." It examines the causes of teacher stress and finds that effectively integrating interactive whiteboards into instruction can help reduce it. The paper also offers practical tips on purchasing and successfully implementing interactive whiteboards and other technology products in the classroom. [Read the white paper](#).

SMART SHOWCASE SCHOOL PROFILE

Engaging Learners at Tedder Elementary



At [Tedder Elementary](#), even the youngest learners are technology veterans. From prekindergarten to the fifth grade, the students at this SMART Showcase School have mastered the use of the latest classroom technology products to help them better tackle content and curriculum. One of 139 elementary schools in Broward County Public School District in Florida, Tedder Elementary is a model for the many ways technology can raise levels of student interest, excitement and engagement. [Read the full article](#).

Learning Takes Flight with the SMART Slate



If you teach early education students, your classroom is probably bustling with activity. Your students are constantly on the move – exploring learning centers, making artwork or participating in activity circles – which means you’re always on the go, too.

With the SMART Slate, you can bring the interactivity of your SMART Board interactive whiteboard with you, wherever you are in the room.

The SMART Slate, which begins shipping this month, is a new version and new name for the AirLiner wireless slate. It enables you to interact wirelessly with your SMART Board interactive whiteboard from up to 30' (9.1 m) away. The slate's dynamic capabilities offer you flexibility in the classroom, no matter what grade or subject you are teaching.

Its battery-free, tethered pen offers you accurate and precise writing and mouse capabilities – you can open files, manipulate content, write in digital ink and save. Basically, everything you can do on your SMART Board, you can do on the SMART Slate.

Give your lessons wings

With the SMART Slate, you can transition from one activity to another while keeping learners at the center of your lessons. Your students have the freedom to participate from anywhere in the classroom.

You can walk around the room as you use a SMART Notebook lesson activity to teach the whole class, or divide students into smaller groups to complete math or reading races – one group can work at the SMART Board while another works on the wireless slate. You can also use the SMART Slate to provide a student with additional one-on-one support.

The SMART Slate is a great tool for encouraging students to share. If your learners are gathered in a circle, you can pass the slate around, enabling each student to contribute an idea, drawing or word to the lesson.

With the SMART Slate, you can give your lessons wings and let your students soar.

Fast Facts



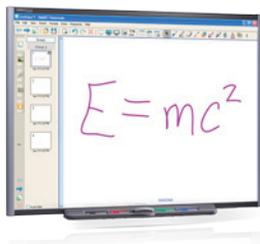
- **Precise** – The battery-free tethered pen is smooth and precise, enabling you to interact with your SMART Board content accurately and quickly
- **Intuitive** – The SMART Slate is easy for even young students to use, so it can be incorporated into any lesson. Its shortcut buttons are customizable, and its pen has an eraser on one end.
- **Wireless** – The SMART Slate has Bluetooth® capabilities, providing you with a reliable, wireless connection to your SMART Board interactive whiteboard
- **Robust** – Each wireless slate is made with high-quality materials, making it ideal for even the most active classrooms. Its battery lasts for a full 24 hours of continuous use, and it can be fully charged overnight in under 7 hours.
- **Easy to hold** – Ergonomic, lightweight and portable, the wireless slate and its tethered pen are easy for you and your students to use
- **Versatile** – A SMART Board user can write at the same time as a SMART Slate user
- **Ideal for every classroom** – The SMART Slate can be used for any grade or subject to make lessons engaging and hands-on
- **Customizable** – The SMART Slate includes customizable underlays, which fit under its plastic cover. Each underlay has icons that guide you to on-screen shortcuts. Simply touch an icon with the slate's pen to choose the tool you want, such as pen, eraser, right-click or screen capture.

Why Bluetooth?

The SMART Slate uses Bluetooth technology, which enables technology devices to connect to each other wirelessly. SMART chose Bluetooth for many reasons, including the following:

- **Standardized** – Bluetooth technology is used in thousands of products, including gaming devices, audiovisual equipment, cell phones, medical equipment and computers. Because the technology is widespread, it's been thoroughly tested and is supported throughout the world.
- **Automatic** – With Bluetooth, you don't have to set up a connection or press a button to get started. When two or more Bluetooth-enabled devices are 30' (9.1 m) from each other, they will automatically begin communicating.
- **Low interference** – Other wireless devices don't interfere with Bluetooth technology. Because it uses a technique called frequency hopping, which divides the data and transmits it to a multitude of different frequencies, it has high resistance to interference.
- **Low energy consumption** – Bluetooth uses low power wireless signals, which require very little energy and use less battery or electrical power as a result
- **Multiple device capability** – You can connect up to seven Bluetooth devices within a range up to 30' (9.1 m)

Up Next



Watch for the next issue of *EDCompass* newsletter, where the topic of discussion will be science, technology and math instruction in K–12 classrooms.

What Teachers Say



We talked to Lori Reed, a third-grade teacher at Kress Elementary School in Texas, about how our previous version of SMART Slate, the AirLiner wireless slate, gives her freedom in the classroom.

EDCompass Why do you use the AirLiner wireless slate in your third-grade classroom?

Lori I can't imagine teaching without one after having used my AirLiner wireless slate for four years. The slate allows me to step off the teacher stage and puts the students on the stage, actively constructing their learning using a SMART Board. I'm standing on the sidelines spotting their moves with my slate. Using the slate saves steps – I'm not constantly back and forth to the board turning a page, clicking a box or writing something.

EDCompass What impact does it have on teaching and learning?

Lori The slate is an integral tool for seamless teaching and learning. I can go where the questions are and still maintain classroom control. Using it makes the lesson flow smoothly from one activity to the next, but most importantly, it enables me to step away from the interactive whiteboard and give control of the learning back to the students.

EDCompass How does the wireless slate work with students in younger grades?

Lori I can be anywhere in the classroom as the need arises and still assist the student at the board, facilitate class discussion or simply turn to the next Notebook page. During center time, I can be at the back table with a reading group while another small group is using the SMART Board for an activity. I can keep an eye on both groups at the same time and redirect the group at the board if needed by using my slate. I never have to leave my seat and can continue on with my reading group.

Learn more about how Lori Reed uses the AirLiner and other SMART products in her classroom – read the [Kress Elementary case study](#).

Attend a PD Plus event

You have one last opportunity to receive training on the AirLiner wireless slate – attend a full-day SMART PD Plus event on our wireless slate, and you'll receive one for your classroom. Training takes place in December in Denver, Philadelphia, Orlando and Dallas. [Register today](#).