A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome

"Once children learn how to learn, nothing is going to narrow their minds. The essence of teaching is to make learning contagious, to have one idea spark another."
– Marva Collins

As Marva Collins suggests, you can influence each student's will to learn and inspire continued learning. With that in mind, make it your goal to foster enthusiasm in every student this school year.

We filled this issue with articles, back-to-school lesson activities and best practices that will energize you for the new school year, which will in turn get your students excited about learning. Be sure to read this month's product spotlight on pages 5 and 6, where we highlight mixed reality, SMART's latest 3D offering that will make your lessons pop.

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

THIS MONTH'S POLL

What new technology products will you have in your classroom or school this year?

NANCY'S NOTES

Just One Thing

Many years ago when I was learning to play basketball, I had a great coach. You won't find him mentioned anywhere for the games or championships he won or the players he developed. But he was great for me. He spent a lot of one-on-one time with me, starting each session with the one thing that we were going to focus on that day – most often, for a number of days.

I remember thinking how much better a player I would be if I could just learn that one thing. I stayed focused and applied all my concentration to the task at hand. I can distinctly remember times when he would proudly announce that I had learned whatever it was and that we would be moving on to something new – a new *one thing*.

I recount this story to share my personal philosophy today. I focus on learning that new *one thing*, even as I juggle multiple equally important priorities. For me, it has become a habit, a way of thinking about my personal development.

As you start a new school year, what is the one thing on which you will focus that will, through time, become an acquired skill, allowing you to focus on a new *one thing*? With competing priorities and unending demands, how do you move what you do today to a new level of competence with confidence?
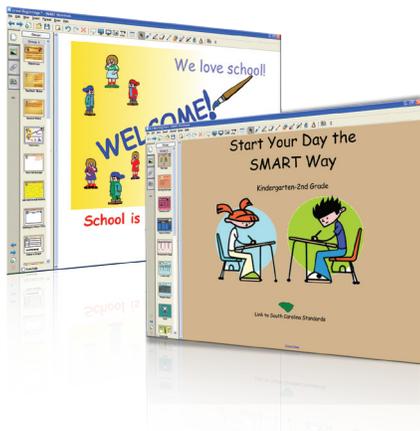
You do it one thing at a time. What starts with one thing can quietly add up to a lot of new capabilities and accomplishments.

Have a great year with your SMART products and resources.

Nancy Knowlton **is the CEO of SMART Technologies.**

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SMART Notebook™ Lesson Activities

Find a comprehensive database of K–12 lesson activities on the SMART Exchange™ website. The activities, many of which are standards correlated, are created by classroom teachers and SMART's team of curriculum resource developers.

Here are a few back-to-school lesson activities you can customize and use to familiarize your students with the rules and routines of the classroom.

Great Beginnings: A First Day of School Welcome
Use this activity to discover your students' strengths, how they follow directions and how they interact with each other. It will give them an opportunity to have a bit of fun on the first day of school.

Start Your Day the SMART Way
Use this activity as an introduction to the classroom's daily routines.

Back to School
Use this activity to introduce your students to their classmates and teachers and to get them acquainted with the school.

Welcome Back to School!
Use this activity to familiarize your students with the basics of the SMART Board™ interactive whiteboard and to establish the rules and procedures of the classroom.

Get Trained!

Whether you're new to SMART products or have been using them for years, professional development can help you make the most of them. Take a look at a few of our latest training features and programs.

New SMART credit system
You'll now be rewarded with credits when you pursue SMART's world-class training. We'll give credits for our self-paced, instructor-led and online offerings. You can also be credited for attending training by a SMART Certified Trainer or SMART reseller – or for any course from SMART that involves a final assessment. All assessments and credits will be tracked through the SMART Learning Center (formerly the Learning Management System). You can redeem your credits for discounts on courses from SMART and use them to purchase SMART-branded merchandise.

New SMART certified programs
We've just launched two new certification programs – SMART Certified Interactive Teacher and SMART Certified Lesson Developer. Both provide you with hands-on instruction to arm you with a complete skill set and prepare you to create and deliver lessons using your SMART products.

SMART Certified Interactive Teacher
This certification includes a number of self-paced e-learning courses, live online training sessions and face-to-face interactions with a SMART Certified Trainer. Upon completion, you'll be a proficient user of a wide range of SMART products for the classroom, including the SMART Document Camera, SMART Notebook software, SMART Notebook SE (Student Edition), SMART Notebook Math Tools, SMART Podium™ interactive pen display, SMART Response™ interactive response system, SMART Slate™ wireless slate, SMART Sync™ classroom management software and the SMART Table™ interactive learning center.

SMART Certified Lesson Developer
This two-day training event is an opportunity to learn how to use SMART Notebook software and other SMART products to create professional lessons in your subject area and grade level. You'll collaborate with other teachers to assess and improve new and existing lessons according to a robust set of guidelines.

For more information on these and other training opportunities, please visit the training and professional development section of our website, or send us an e-mail at training@smarttech.com.

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What's New

We're continuously improving our products and services to help meet the needs of teachers and students. Take a look at some of our recent offerings available just in time for the new school year.

SMART Sync classroom management software now offers improved performance in wireless environments and is supported by Microsoft® Windows® 7 operating system. As with previous versions, the new SMART Sync saves time by enabling teachers to quickly connect, and remain connected, to all student computers.

We've enhanced the SMART Table interactive learning center to include new features and functionality. It now offers improved display characteristics, integration with the SMART Document Camera, built-in wi-fi supporting SMART Sync software, quieter operation and stereo sound. The SMART Table supports an increased number of customizable multitouch applications, such as Image Reveal, the first third-party application developed for the SMART Table. Watch a video demo.

The SMART Exchange website now offers content professionally created by publishers of K–12 education resources. The new content adds to the interactive, pedagogically relevant resources submitted by teachers.

SMART and the Intel skoool™ program recently launched football-themed lesson activities. The skoool football lessons include a range of engaging activities to help students improve their math and science skills. Lesson activities can be downloaded from the SMART Exchange or the skoool 1GOAL website.

Pearson and SMART have joined forces to create Investigations for the Interactive Whiteboard. With this K–5 math program, you can enhance Pearson's Investigations in Numbers, Data and Space® with animation, games and interactive learning – all within SMART Notebook. The program uses a research-based, child-centered approach to teaching math through engaging activities, discussions and problem solving. For more information on the program, visit pearsonschool.com.

Boost Your Content Creation Know-How

Aly Fox didn't instinctively know how to create engaging, effective lesson activities before she started using her SMART Board interactive whiteboard. But after some exploration and investigation, she's now a SMART Exemplary Educator, a SMART Trade Show Teacher and part of the reason Palmview Elementary is a SMART Showcase School. Read the full article.

SMART Response Question Sets

Find a database of SMART Response question sets on the SMART Exchange website. The majority of the questions are correlated to state and provincial curriculum standards.

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

Which Direction?
K–3 social studies students can test their knowledge of north, south, east and west.

Animal Adaptations
K–3 science students can test their knowledge of animal adaptations.

New Vocabulary 1
Language arts students in grades 4–6 can test their knowledge of vocabulary.

Scrambled States
Geography students in grades 4–6 can test their ability to unscramble the names of U.S. states.

Functions of the Digestive System
Biology students in grades 7–11 can test their knowledge of the human digestive system.

Population
Social studies students in grades 10–12 can test their knowledge of the most densely populated areas of the world.

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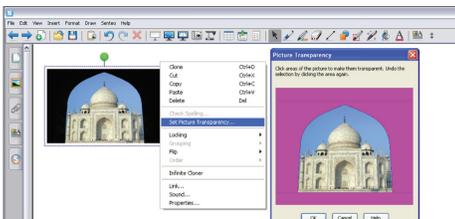
Jeff's SMART Notebook Tips

Each month in this column, you'll find new tips and shortcuts from Jeff Taylor, Product Manager for SMART Notebook. This month, Jeff explains how to set a default color to a shape and how to make areas of your SMART Notebook page transparent.

Set a default color and style

Click the Shape Tool found in the top toolbar of your SMART Notebook page and select the checkmark, X or shape you would like to modify. Click the Properties tab located along the side panel and select Line Style to adjust the color, thickness and line style of your selected shape. Click Save Tool Properties. The next time you use the Shape Tool, it will appear in your default color and line style.

Set a picture transparency

To make areas of a picture on your SMART Notebook page see through, click the picture you would like to change. Now click the arrow at the top right corner to access the drop-down menu and select Set Picture Transparency. A window will appear asking you to click areas that you would like to make transparent. Once you have made your selections, indicated by the purple highlights in the picture above, click OK and you will be able to see through that area.

Download the latest version of **SMART Notebook software**.

Go Wide – Pay Less for a Limited Time

Are you responsible for making purchasing decisions at your school or district? If not, you'll want to share this news with those who are. We already offer the SMART Podium ID422w interactive pen display to educators at a special price. But from now until October 31, 2010, this widescreen model is available at a further discount when you purchase 10 or more.

What's so special about widescreen?

Widescreen projectors and displays are quickly becoming the new standard. The ID422w is a future-proof investment that offers 20 percent more workspace over interactive displays with standard aspect ratios. It also offers a sharper picture and high-definition clarity.

Contact your local authorized **SMART reseller** to find out how you can take advantage of this offer.

Content Challenge Winners

Congratulations to all 60 winners of the SMART Exchange Content Challenge. They won over 60 SMART products with a combined value of more than US$85,000.

We'd like to recognize Becky Arnett, our grand prize winner from Cottonwood Creek Elementary School in Englewood, Colorado, for her lesson activity, **Random Writing Prompts**. Becky designed this lesson to help spark the creativity of language arts students who are looking for a bit of inspiration as they begin to write.

Visit the **SMART Exchange** website to find the names of all 60 winners and their lesson activities. As you head into this new school year, you'll find loads of ready-made lessons for all grade levels and subject areas that you can start using right away!

Building Best Practices at Kildare Elementary

From professional development for teachers to language instruction for students, educators at Kildare Elementary School in Edmonton, Alberta, are leading the way in putting education best practices into action. **Read the full article**.

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Enter a New Reality with the SMART Document Camera

Do you want to effortlessly add 2D, 3D, animated and audio-enriched content to your lesson activities? Are you looking for new ways to teach complex concepts? Well, perhaps it's time to enter a new reality – a mixed reality.

In the June issue of *EDCompass* newsletter, you met the new SMART Document Camera. Now we are pleased to tell you about an exciting new feature of the product – mixed reality. The SMART Document Camera is the first document camera designed for education that is mixed reality ready. It will give you the ability to display and explore ordinary objects and digital content within SMART Notebook lesson activities.

Discover the science behind mixed reality

So, what is mixed reality? It's a technology that enables you to interact with both ordinary objects and digital content – such as books, artifacts, graphics and audio files. You can also interact with 3D, animated and audio-enriched resources to foster deeper student engagement and understanding.

Mixed reality technology works by overlaying digital content on a physical object, such as a flash card bearing a digital marker, to generate enriched content on a visual display, such as a SMART Board interactive whiteboard. For example, rather than using poster board to demonstrate the layers of the earth, you can place a marker under the document camera to display an animated 3D image of the earth's layers that can be rotated and explored. Watch a demonstration of the new SMART Document Camera.

Add another dimension to learning

Mixed reality means that you can support tactile, visual and auditory learning – all in the same activity. It also allows you to easily provide 3D examples that can help students understand theoretical concepts and complex processes.
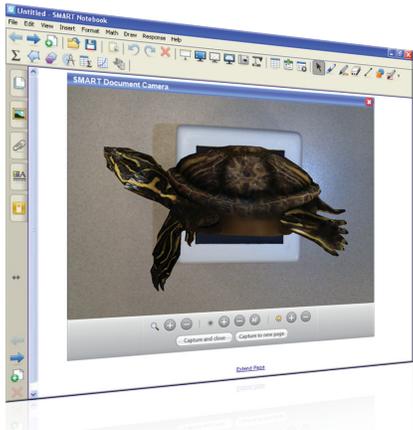
Coming soon

The new SMART Document Camera is available now and is mixed reality ready. In the spring of 2011, we'll introduce mixed reality through a SMART Notebook software add-on. The feature will be fully integrated with SMART Notebook software, and teachers will be able to download a variety of mixed reality resources for history, biology, math and other subjects. Learn more about the new SMART Document Camera on our website.

Fast Facts

- **Mixed reality ready** – Manipulate and explore 2D, 3D, animated and audio-enhanced content as well as text on your SMART Board interactive whiteboard. Simply place an object bearing a marker under the SMART Document Camera lens.

- **SMART Notebook software integration** – Explore mixed reality content right in SMART Notebook collaborative learning software. You can instantly access content from the SMART Document Camera right in SMART Notebook and display it on the SMART Board interactive whiteboard.

- **SMART Document Camera menu in SMART Notebook** – Use one menu, accessed from SMART Notebook software, to control features including screen capture, image magnification, image brightness, autofocus and image focus.

- **Capture button** – Quickly and easily capture images to a new page within your SMART Notebook lesson activity

- **Flexible viewing options** – Rotate the document camera's head and arm to view objects from different angles. The lens can also be aligned to the eyepiece of a microscope without requiring an optical adapter.

- **Sharp and detailed images** – View static and moving images in vivid detail with the 5.2x optical and 8.0x digital zoom of the SMART Document Camera. You can also direct learning by zooming in on an object's smallest detail.

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SMART Notebook software integration

It's easy to add mixed reality content to your daily lessons – just use SMART Notebook software! Our mixed reality ready SMART Document Camera is seamlessly integrated with SMART Notebook collaborative learning software, giving you a convenient way to display and explore these digital objects without losing the momentum of your lesson.
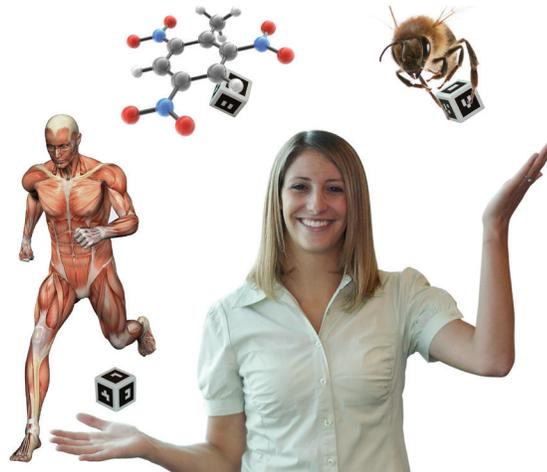
We added this feature to the SMART Document Camera to offer you more flexibility and ways to interact with your SMART Document Camera images. Now you can include animated, audio-enriched 3D content in your SMART Notebook lesson activities and enable your students to explore and manipulate them.

With SMART Notebook software integration, you can add dynamic mixed reality content to your SMART Notebook lesson activities to make them more visual, hands-on and fun!

Up Next

Watch for the next issue on grants and funding. We'll provide you with tips, best practices and resources that will help you apply for and acquire classroom technology funding.

Ask Allison

We talked to Allison Stefancic, Product Manager for mixed reality technology, about how it benefits student engagement and understanding.

EDCompass What is the pedagogical benefit of mixed reality and 3D content?

Allison It can help teachers engage students by providing an attention-grabbing, visual experience that can be seen from any angle. It helps communicate complex concepts in subjects such as chemistry, math, history and biology. Students of all learning styles – visual, kinesthetic and auditory – benefit from learning with mixed reality content. It enables manipulation, allowing users to interact in a more natural way and to truly connect with the content being explored. We've also noted that early research from Texas Instruments indicates that 3D content can help improve student retention and test scores.

EDCompass Can you give an example of how mixed reality would be used in the classroom?

Allison Rather than simply show students a flat 2D image of an anatomical heart, teachers can place a marker under the document camera to display an animated 3D image with flowing blood on their SMART Board interactive whiteboard. Students can then manipulate the cube in order to rotate, explore and interact with the model. It's a unique way to blend theory with life.

EDCompass Will mixed reality be integrated with SMART Notebook software?

Allison Yes, teachers will be able to manipulate mixed reality content in SMART Notebook. And using the software, they'll be able to create engaging lesson activities in which they can explore 3D content, write in digital ink and add labels. Everything you do can be captured in the SMART Notebook file you're working in.

EDCompass Will SMART provide 3D content?

Allison SMART will provide a sample pack of mixed reality content.

EDCompass When will the mixed reality feature be available?

Allison We are currently shipping the new SMART Document Camera, which is mixed reality ready. The mixed reality feature will be available in spring 2011 through a software upgrade.

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