

Connected Classrooms Program

NO 22 August 14, 2009

FROM THE CCP OFFICE

DIMI PAPADAKIS, DIRECTOR
CONNECTED CLASSROOMS PROGRAM

Dear Colleagues

The *3D Model* on the CCP website has been enhanced. This model began as an idea taken from a website called the "21st century classroom"; it has undergone a number of changes and is used extensively by the Program to communicate to a wide range of stakeholders. Principals who have used the model comment that it gives them, "*something to visualise when planning the installation of the Interactive Classroom*".

In the Bulletin this fortnight we feature *TLC*; a teacher professional learning and student literacy project which was presented at the recent *Connected Learning* conference.

You can also read the latest SMART Notebook 10 training news from the North Coast Region, how to participate in the *Tall Poppy Campaign* and where to subscribe to a new technology alert service from ETIS.

There is our regular project update from Interactive Classrooms, and in Learning Tools we feature Darcy Moore and the Dapto High School *OurSpace* blog for 'participatory democracy'.

With best wishes,

Dimi Papadakis



See the interactive 3D Model at:

<https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/lists/directoratesaz/ccp/model/index.htm>

Story from the Field

TLC uses CCP technologies for teacher professional learning and student literacy

TLC or the *Turrumurra Learning Community* in Northern Sydney Region presented its project *Turrumurra Community of Schools: Interactive Connections in Quality Teaching and Learning Strategies* using CCP technologies in a workshop at the recent *Connected Learning* conference.

The project, one of many *TLC* initiatives, was determined late last year by the Principals of Turrumurra High School,

West Pymble, Turrumurra, and Gordon West Public Schools prior to the installation of each of the schools' Interactive Classrooms.

Each Principal nominated a classroom teacher to join the project and to work out a sequence of literacy lessons for students in Stages 3 and 4 that utilized the new technology and elements from the three dimensions of the *NSW model of Quality Teaching*. Throughout the project, CCP technologies were used for the classroom lessons and after school by the project team for planning and preparation. All students were pre and post tested to measure their "*descriptive writing skills*".

The project aimed to:

- use NAPLAN data from all schools to identify 'authentic focus', in this case vocabulary, theme and paragraphing;
- share 'best practice' in the focus areas via VC lessons for students;
- connect the classrooms and enable Stage 3 students to receive feedback from Stage 4 mentors on their written story drafts; and
- outline the steps to achieve consistency in teacher judgment in writing assessments rubrics and how to develop deeper teacher understanding of the learning continuum from primary to high school.

Belinda Kelly, Deputy Principal, Turramurra High School, described her learning from the project, *"it was a challenging but exciting experience. I learned to accept that to be able to use this technology I needed to take it in small chunks and start with a simple idea. The interactive whiteboard software resources are highly visual and work well with Bridgit - I will always remember the gasp in the classroom when an amazing simile appeared on the interactive whiteboard from a classroom five kilometres away"*.

English teacher Veronika Cibas, also from Turramurra High School, witnessed how: *"mentoring in the project developed student confidence and our high*

expectations encouraged the students to be original in their images for the metaphors. I did learn to decrease the content of my lessons when teaching using VC – the students want to see their responses and write on the interactive whiteboard quickly".

Etienne Wenger (1998) eminent academic in the field of teacher professional learning describes 'communities of practice' in this way, *"groups of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly"*.

At the conclusion of the project not only had the TLC further consolidated its 'community of practice', students at all schools showed a measurable improvement in the identified NAPLAN areas that were the focus of the project.

Principal Bronwyn Wilson, from West Pymble Public School, said: *"the project was a fabulous learning journey for all students and teachers involved, bringing us together on many levels – taking first steps into using our CCP technologies, the improvement in descriptive writing skills, raised awareness of the importance of literacy across key learning areas, increased consistency of teacher judgment and support for transition to high school"*.

For further information contact roslyn.mccallan-jamieson@det.nsw.edu.au or belinda.j.kelly@det.nsw.edu.au

Attention teachers of Year 10, 11 and 12 Science

Participate in the upcoming *Tall Poppy Campaign* using your CCP technologies, for information access <http://www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/secondary/science/downloads/index.htm> or Ric Morante, Science Senior Curriculum Adviser, Curriculum K-12 Directorate, 02 9886 7679

New ETIS link - Technology News Alert

Do you want to keep up-to-date with the latest news, reports and tips on education, innovation and business technology? Then subscribe to the fortnightly Technology News, a new alert service produced by the Education and Training Information Service (ETIS), at the Centre for Learning Innovation. Contact hannele.hentula@det.nsw.edu.au; to see the full range of education alert services available visit http://etis.cli.det.nsw.edu.au/cli/etis/services/alert_services.shtm

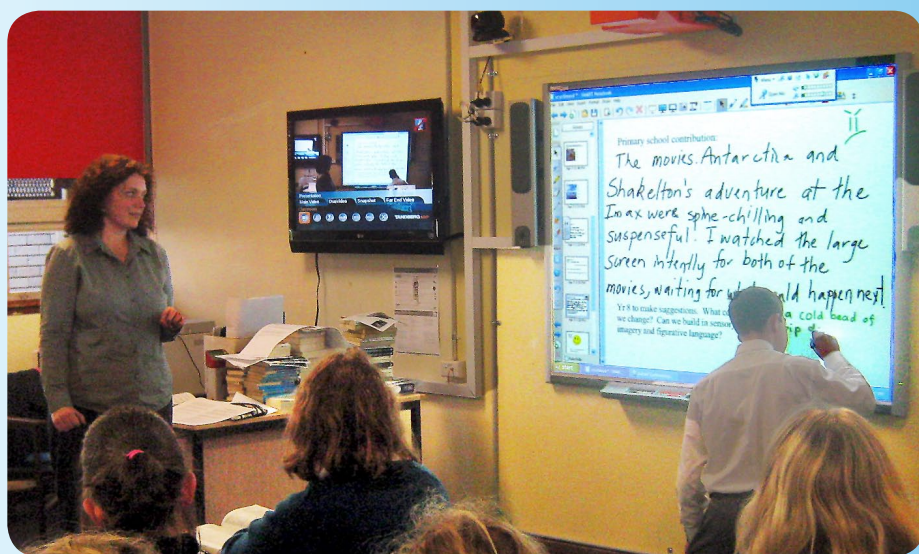
Training update for SMART Notebook 10 from North Coast Region

Philip Osborn and Robyn Robertson, both Regional Implementation Officers from the Learning Systems regional implementation team are delivering initial training and support in Smart Notebook 10 and video conferencing to schools with Interactive Classrooms on the North Coast. So far this year, the team has trained 650 staff from across the Region.

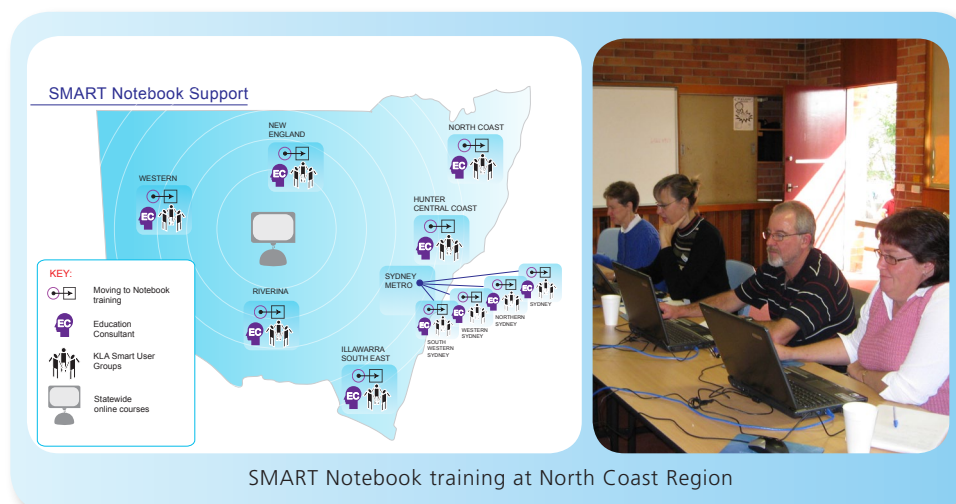
Participants who recently completed the SMART Notebook 10 Introduction session commented in an evaluation afterwards:

"Thank you for your expertise and patience", and "A positive learning environment – I feel much more confident in using these technologies to their full potential".

North Coast Region is providing additional support by installing three specialist Connected Learning Resource Centres,



Veronika Cibas with her Stage 4 English class at Turramurra High school



each with an interactive classroom and connected learning trainer. The centres are located in Lismore, Toormina and Westport.

Peter Haigh, Regional Director–North Coast, said:

"The centres are situated across the region so all schools can get the best access to the support they need".

From his perspective, John Lynch the School Education Director responsible for Information Technology in North Coast Region, remarked:

"Large schools and small schools from Tea Gardens to Tweed Heads have the opportunity to receive hands-on, relevant and exciting training that takes teachers into classrooms of the 21st century, where valuable skills can be 're-booted' using new technology".

Further details about Learning Systems training opportunities for Interactive Classrooms in North Coast Region can be accessed at <http://northcoast.det.nsw.edu.au/TEACHING/CONNECTEDLEARNING/Pages/default.aspx>

1. INTERACTIVE CLASSROOMS PROJECT

CAROLE MCDIARMID, BE

Western NSW Region ICT in Education Conference Dubbo 2009

In July 170 teachers, consultants and State office personnel attended the two-day conference; a selection of 60 workshops

and seminars were available to delegates including 21 hands-on experiences, five VC sessions from various NSW sites and a 'virtual trip' to Alaska.

Some of the evaluation comments at the conclusion of the conference cited delegate experiences, *"I found out about new ways to use our Interactive Classroom", "refreshed my current knowledge" and "please have a conference like this every year - fabulous"*.

For further information about the content in conference sessions contact darren.hope@det.nsw.edu.au

Entries closing for the "Learn Astronomy from our School Project"

So far more 60 schools have registered 2100 students for the astronomy project. Assessment criteria for project submissions and suggested content for a range of astronomy topics can be accessed at <https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/lists/directoratesaz/ccp/icp/index.htm#astro>

For further information contact: ann-marie.furney@det.nsw.edu.au

Useful ICP Links

This link on the CCP website <https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/media/downloads/intranet/lists/directoratesaz/ccp/icp/p3complete.pdf> takes you to a list of completed schools with Interactive Classrooms.

Announcing the new Interactive Classrooms Support website developed by ITD; it has training, FAQs and information for schools and TAFE,

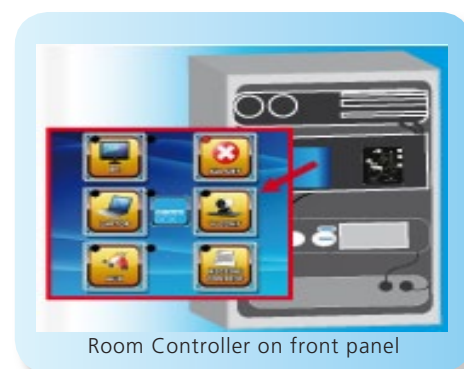
accessed at <https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/it/learnsysupport/icp/index.htm>

New feature in the Interactive Classroom

The Room Controller (RC) is being introduced as part of the Interactive Classroom (IC). It's a panel of control buttons located within the IC cabinet that provides the user with the ability to operate the projector and LCD screen functions from a single point.

All schools scheduled to receive an IC in Phase 4 will have a RC installed. Operation of the RC will be demonstrated at the time of installation and is included as part of training provided by the Regional Learning Systems teams. Sites that have purchased IC equipment through discretionary funds, or have had an IC installed in previous phases of the project, can purchase a room controller through the DET ICT Fleet Desk on 1800 654 310.

Note: FAQs about the RC can be accessed from the Interactive Classrooms Support website https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/it/learnsysupport/icp/equip_faqs.htm



Room Controller on front panel

2. LEARNING TOOLS PROJECT

PETER ROBERTS, BE

Case study: blogs for 'participatory democracy' in the high school context

Darcy Moore is Deputy Principal at Dapto High School in Illawarra and South East Region. He has dabbled in new technologies for most of his career but especially since the internet became available at DET schools.



Dapto High School Student Representative Council

(Wordle courtesy of Angela Kasimis - Learning Systems, the words are from students)

Dapto High School has more than 960 students, and has a developing culture of 'active student citizenship'.

Student leaders at the school this year, namely the Student Representative Council (SRC), seized the opportunity to participate in the DET blog trial during Term 2 with enthusiasm.

In May, Darcy and Renee Gilbert, SRC coordinator (also a Drama teacher and keen blogger) supported students to establish a 'public' blog called *OurSpace-run by you for you*. Sitting behind the SRC's willingness to gather 'student voice' or constituent contributions was, "Barack Obama's web 2.0 strategy, the students particularly liked his notion of 'participatory democracy'", said Darcy.

He explained further:

"the SRC can see how the OurSpace blog can work for students, as entertainment, as community and a place to agitate for change that benefits the student body that elected them. All posts and comments are moderated as the blog is set up as 'public'. Students with posting

rights have been able to balance common sense with deft political skills".

One powerful example of the *OurSpace* blog in action canvassed the issue of the quality of the current school uniform. A student from the SRC made a blog post highlighting his concern; this in turn led to the Principal facilitating a meeting between the uniform supplier and the student which resulted in the supplier acknowledging the matter and offering replacement uniforms and other financial concessions within a week. This student said, *"at least we are getting action. The SRC and the student body appreciate that we are being heard and our opinions validated"*.

Darcy outlined that *OurSpace* hosted stills and a video from the school's MADD (Music, Art, Drama and Dance) Night. Later in the year, Darcy re-capped,

"the SRC is intending to have students who nominate for election make brief online video speeches on the blog prior to voting as well as conducting polls on a variety of issues to gather data on what students want - again this is 'participatory

democracy' in action - students are using web 2.0 tools in a genuinely authentic manner".

At the blog trial conclusion Principal Andrew FitzSimons remarked in comments to the Program, *"this strategy has galvanised our SRC in a manner I've not observed before"*.

For information about the DET blog trial contact sylvia.corish@det.nsw.edu.au

CONTACTS

CCP INTRANET: <https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/lists/directoratesaz/ccp/index.htm>

CCP INTERNET: https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/strat_direction/schools/ccp/index.htm

ICT SERVICE DESK T 1800 338 483

CONNECTED CLASSROOMS PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Dimi Papadakis T 02 9561 8932
dimi.papadakis@det.nsw.edu.au

INTERACTIVE CLASSROOMS PROJECT BUSINESS EXECUTIVE

Carole McDiarmid T 02 6883 6362
carole.mcdiarmid@det.nsw.edu.au

SENIOR USER

Ann-marie Furney T 02 6841 3862
ann-marie.furney@det.nsw.edu.au

NEXT GENERATION EDUCATION NETWORK PROJECT BUSINESS EXECUTIVE

Trevor Smee T 02 9942 9601
trevor.smee@det.nsw.edu.au

LEARNING TOOLS PROJECT BUSINESS EXECUTIVE

Peter Roberts T 02 9244 5293
peter.roberts@det.nsw.edu.au

SENIOR USERS

Scott Thomson T 02 9942 0511
scott.thomson@det.nsw.edu.au

Sylvia Corish T 02 9561 8566
sylvia.corish@det.nsw.edu.au

EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES AND BUSINESS CHANGE MANAGERS, CCP SCHOOLS

Sue Beveridge T 02 9561 8624
sue.beveridge@det.nsw.edu.au

TAFE

Tim Hand T 02 9561 8079
tim.hand@det.nsw.edu.au

SENIOR PROJECT OFFICER - COMMUNICATIONS

Jane Hunter T 02 9561 1020
jane.hunter2@det.nsw.edu.au

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Read this bulletin on your screen for live links from the articles. The bulletin can be found on the CCP intranet site:

<https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/lists/directoratesaz/ccp/index.htm>

Please note: these links will work only from a DET worksite. If you are off-site, first login to the DET Portal (<http://portal.det.nsw.edu.au>) and then navigate your way to the CCP intranet site.

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