

Freshgrade Updates

A year ago there was quite a bit of interest and/or excitement by a number of SD 58 teachers related to Freshgrade. The road forward, however, has been somewhat bumpy. It has been difficult for teachers interested in this portfolio communication software to forge ahead due to connectivity and other issues.

There is good news on the horizon for next year. We will be continuing to offer Freshgrade as a software option to teachers in the classroom. As well, Freshgrade will be making some changes that should solve the most challenging issues encountered so far.

Freshgrade Tip by Dave Andersen, MSS

In order to keep families more informed about their child's progress, students are asked to upload any marks from assessment activities that we have done. In addition, students are asked to upload a weekly reflection every Friday detailing what we learned over the course of the week, how they feel about the learning, any upcoming due dates in the following week, and their current mark in the class.

I find this helps students be more reflective of their learning, enables me to quickly gauge how they are feeling, and communicates to families several important pieces of information.

Upcoming Pro-D

Introduction to Matific Webinar—April 4, 2017

This "Introduction to Matific" webinar will run from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm. Teachers should bring their laptop. If you do not currently have a Matific account, you will be able to get a free trial until the end of June, 2017. Please contact Janet Hohner.

Presenter: Jeff Belanger

Location: Merritt Central Elementary or online at a location of your choice. Anyone preferring to access the webinar at another location should contact Janet Hohner (johner@365.sd58.bc.ca) for the related links.

Reflex Math Webinar—April 11, 2017

This "Delving Deeper in Reflex Data" webinar will run from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm. Teachers will need to bring a laptop and have a Reflex Math account.

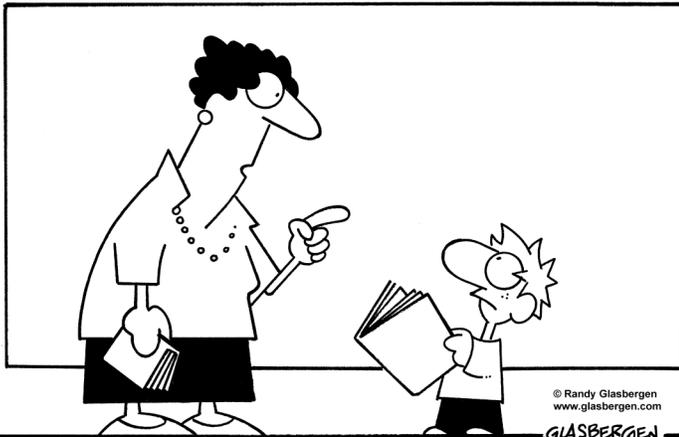
Presenter: Dana Gumm

Location: Merritt Central Elementary or online at a location of your choice. Anyone preferring to access the webinar at another location should contact Janet Hohner (johner@365.sd58.bc.ca) for the related links.

Ben's Bytes by Ben Grant

School District 58 is happy to welcome our new IT support technician Len Harris. Some of you might know Len as he has been in Merritt a long time. He previously ran his own business in Merritt, Mobile Tech. We are very fortunate to attract a technician with his knowledge and experience.

As we are entering into a whole new way of delivering software and IT tools to staff and students, our IT department will be going through a whole retooling phase. Each IT staff member is critical to this transition. Len is fully welcome to our small but dedicated IT department.



"It's called 'reading'. It's how people install new software into their brains"

Tech Updates

Technology Review

A technical team from IBM is conducting a technology review in the District and as part of this engagement has been meeting with various stakeholders to understand how technology is being used. The discussions focus around understanding how different roles are using technology, and discussing the challenges, successes and vision for moving forward. This review will help us to create a solid foundation to support students and teachers using technology in SD 58.

Surface Computers

It has been a long time coming but teachers should be seeing a set of Surface Computers in their schools soon. One bonus of these devices is that they are running on Windows 10. This means that Minecraft will be available on them by default.

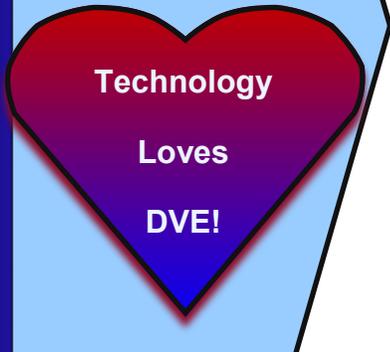
To see what one Grade 3 class in Edmonton is doing with Minecraft, go to <https://youtu.be/UMpMge3EyNc>.

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Teachers Using Technology Across SD 58

Diamond Vale Elementary has been very busy lately!



Teachers and students at Diamond Vale Elementary have been integrating technology and learning across grade levels. Here is an update from DVE Administrator Dan Duncan.

At Diamond Vale we have been using technology lately in the following ways...

- ◆ **Grade 1** - We are enjoying Headsprout and RAZ Kids.
- ◆ **Grade 4** - Our grade 4s are Coding....becoming quite proficient. We also do Buddy reading using RAZ kids with the Kindergarten, use Kahoot interactive lessons and have introduced WebQuests (for computer literacy and content learning).
- ◆ **Grade 5** - We are creating Claymation. We use an app called Stop Motion Studios and then put it all together on iMovie.
- ◆ **Grade 6** - We have been doing quite a lot of Coding—it is great for problem solving! We use Reflex Math three times a week for fifteen minutes each time to build up fact fluency and also use Mathletics to support our curriculum.
- ◆ **Grade 7** - More Coding. We have built some SWAY presentations.
- ◆ **Student Services** - We use Osmo with the iPad for word games, money skills and Tangram.



Feb. 24th Smartboards Pro-D

It was great to see the excitement of teachers attending the SET-BC SmartBoard workshop at MSS.



OneNote Classroom Pro-D

There was a terrific turnout to the Microsoft OneNote Classroom Pro-D with Mario Asta on February 24th. OneNote Classroom helps to manage student assignments, work and marks.

Brian Cargnelli made a special appearance to highlight ways he has found to incorporate OneNote Classroom into his professional practice. Since the workshop, Brian has created a number of videos which help teachers work with OneNote. For more information, contact Janet at jhohner@365.sd58.bc.ca



Tech Tip

Bingo is a super way to engage your students and help them review terms before a test. One Tech Tip is a **Custom Bingo Card Generator** that will create a class set of unique Bingo cards using vocabulary words that you provide! Thank you Kara Dawson for sharing this!

Visit: <http://print-bingo.com/bingo-cards-custom.php>

Here is an example of a Biology 11 Bingo Card

B	I	O	1	1
saphrophyte	bird	amphibian	natural selection	parasite
sponges	carbon dioxide	xanthophyll	stipe	mitosis
chloroplast	green algae	*	nucleus	decomposer
osmosis	radial symmetry	gametes	heterotroph	oxygen
proteins	mutualism	mammal	chlorophyll B	mutation

<http://print-bingo.com>

MyEd Parent and Student Portals

Students and families can use the portals to view academic progress, attendance, report cards, transcripts and more. This is yet another tool that is available which can help to increase communication between our teachers & schools and our families.

After spring break, schools will be sending home verification forms in order to clarify who is eligible for a Parent Portal account. Once that data has been returned to us and entered into the system, we will be ready to go with our parent portal accounts. The target date is May 1, 2017 with more information to come.