



# Interactive Voice



**Fun** end of  
year interactive  
resources

**SMART Bugs**  
How NSW schools are  
embracing them

**SMART Video contest  
regional winners  
announced!**

# Welcome back...

# to Interactive Voice!!

It is finally the end of the year and with the summer looming on us, it is time to tie up another year of schooling, lessons and of course interactive activity.

We are happy to announce the winners in the regional competition for the World Teachers Day SMART Competition. These winners' entries will be sent to Canada where they will be judged for the opportunity to win more prizes including a possible trip to London, England! We have also recently held another successful SMART Teachers Conference at Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College which we will talk further about in this issue.

Interested in learning about SMART BUGs? This issue, we discuss the growing interest in SMART BUGs and how you can join a BUG near you.

We also have a special Mythbusters column for you this issue, and a research and advice article written by a brilliant SMART Teacher. She will be sharing ways that she uses the SMART Board™ interactive whiteboard, and providing ideas on how to improve your lesson planning with SMART Notebook Software. Finally, we have some new tips and resources, and our school of the month case study, on Curl Curl North Primary School.

Given this is the last issue of the year, we would like to thank all of you for your continued support of [interactivewhiteboard.net.au](http://interactivewhiteboard.net.au), and congratulate you all for your constant determination to increase your knowledge on your SMART Board. We have had a number of very successful education events, which would not have been a success without your support.. So thank you!

Finally, we would like to wish you a very happy festive season and an enjoyable, long deserved break. We look forward to providing you with more exciting events and interesting news next year!

Until then have a safe, happy and relaxing holiday.

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## SMART Competition Results

The World Teachers Day SMART Competition entries closed on Sunday 5th November. Many entertaining and insightful entries were received from schools around Australia. It was amazing to watch the way in which teachers and students have incorporated their SMART Boards into their learning environment. Another evident feature was the magnitude of skills that have been developed by teachers and students of all ages. The standard was very high and every entrant must be applauded for their effort, imagination and abilities on using their SMART Board interactive whiteboards. We here at [interactivewhiteboard.net.au](http://interactivewhiteboard.net.au) thoroughly enjoyed being invited into your classroom so thank you to everyone who entered.

We are very pleased to announce the winners from Australia have just won an iPod Nano! Your entries will now be sent to SMART Technologies in Canada to be judged for the chance to win a SMART Board interactive whiteboard and possibly a trip to London, England!



## Congratulations to:

- 1** *Emerald State School, QLD*
- 2** *Dubbo South Primary School, NSW*
- 3** *North Haven School, SA*
- 4** *Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College, NSW*
- 5** *St Catherine Laboure, NSW*

## SMART Teachers Conference



### Tuggerah Lakes

Given the huge demand of the last SMART Teachers conference, a second SMART Teachers conference was held Monday and Tuesday the 13th and 14th November at Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College. Over 100 educators from the Newcastle, Central Coast and Sydney regions attended the conference day, with a further 65 attending for the second training day. The event started with a keynote address, followed by 12 different break out sessions which were conducted by SMART trainers and exemplary educators. These sessions were very successful with many educators finding them very informative and leaving with a more extensive understanding of

the capabilities of the SMART Board. The next day consisted of intensive training session, this time at Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College. This day was conducted by one of our SMART trainers from ELECTROBOARD who ran a number of workshops for all skill levels.



### Teachers Comments:

*“Thoroughly enjoyed it. Thank you”*

*“Thank you for today. it was excellent”*

*“What a wonderful, informative conference lead by very knowledgeable skilled people, Thank you, Thank you, Thank you”*

*“Thank You. The most valuable and informative conference I have attended. A must for all who are planning to install SMART Boards.”*

*“Fantastic day. Learnt so much and can't wait to get back and try and implement more into our school!”*

*“Excellent sessions- clear, well presented and extremely informative”*

*“A most informative conference. I thoroughly enjoyed and benefited from this day, many thanks to all the team”*

*“Thank you for the opportunity to be part of this learning conference”*

*“Thanks for a great 2 days, I'm amazed at the presenters expertise- I learnt a great deal and have been energised to bring SMART Boards to Numeracy”*

We would like to thank a few important people who made this event not only possible but also successful. A big thank you must go out to Wayne Matsen, Dr Doug Ashleigh, Grant Ward, Glenys Goffett, Sonya Griffith and Mark Clemson. All these exemplary educators have developed amazing skills on their SMART Boards and we are so grateful to all of them for taking the time to pass on their knowledge to other educators. A special thanks must also go out to Mr Andrew Newman, Principal of Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College who was kind enough to loan his facilities for the two days. Thank you also to everyone who attended the day. Without your support, these events would not be possible.

Are you interested in attending a future SMART Teachers conference? Keep an eye on future issues and [www.interactivewhiteboard.net.au](http://www.interactivewhiteboard.net.au) for future conferences next year!

# SMART BUGs jump through

## NSW Schools

# Feature

SMART BUGs have taken off in Schools throughout NSW giving teachers the ability to share and swap their teaching methods, ideas, resources and lessons on their SMART Board Interactive Whiteboards.

For those of you who are not aware of SMART BUGs, A “SMART BUG” refers to a SMART Board User Group – a group of teachers in a particular geographical region who meet once a semester under the guidance of one ELECTROBOARD trainer and a number of SMART exemplary teachers. These groups are held one afternoon a term straight after school and continue until all participants are ready to leave.

In NSW SMART Master, Helen Lacey, has been working closely with teachers around Sydney to hold SMART BUG events. Each event is held at a school in the allocated

region. Teachers from around the area of all experience levels are welcome to the user group session and a light afternoon tea. The meeting initially starts with an address from the hosting school who discuss how their

**“Helen Lacey has been working closely with teachers around Sydney to hold SMART BUG events”**

facility has created an interactive whiteboard support network, as well as an address from the ELECTROBOARD trainer. The involved teachers then break

out into 3 groups of beginner, intermediate and advanced. All these groups have the time to share ideas, ask questions and discuss methods. For the event, a shared folder is also created on the host schools network for teachers to bring their USB sticks and share their lesson ideas with other teachers. ELECTROBOARD also provides some new materials to upload into this folder for downloading.

So what are the sorts of concepts discussed in SMART BUGs? According to Helen, the topics and discussions range drastically in each user group meeting. Beginners groups include the basics, such as how to create and manipulate objects in notebook. The motto of the beginner groups is “there is no such thing as a silly question”. The beginner classes are the perfect





option for anyone who wants to expand their knowledge but is embarrassed to ask those basic questions. The intermediate group focuses on becoming more creative. Teachers share their Notebook files with other educators, creating awareness of the endless possibilities that the SMART Software has to offer. The advanced groups tend to push their own boundaries by creating inter-school links. This included Video Conferencing with Skype Software, discovering digital movie cameras and microscopes and developing Podcast exchanges.

These user group meetings are designed to give teachers the opportunity to share knowledge, ideas, lessons and learn from [www.interactivewhiteboard.net.au](http://www.interactivewhiteboard.net.au)

each other. Each time these groups meet, they shift to a new topic depending on the latest ideas, resources and technology available.

The SMART User Groups are becoming a popular way of gathering ideas for hundreds of interactive whiteboard users across New South Wales. These groups are also being encouraged in other states with support from the educational community. If you would like the opportunity for your school to host or become a member of a SMART User Group, email us here at [interactivewhiteboard.net.au](mailto:interactivewhiteboard.net.au) or call us at 1800 622 800. We would be happy to help arrange this with you.

For research and advice this month, we have decided that we would introduce something different. For all the past issues, we have constantly included advice pieces written about the SMART Board. While this information is interesting, more recently we have been attempting to provide you with ideas and advice that will be more relevant to your everyday activities. So, for this issue we thought who better to give you advice and ideas on planning your lessons than those SMART Teachers that are using their SMART Board on a day to day basis.

This issue, Leesa Martin from Cromer Public School has been good enough to share her SMART Board journey with us. Leesa received her SMART Board in term 1 of this year, and since then she has become an exceptional SMART Teacher, adapting to life in the classroom with a SMART Board. Leesa shares her experience below.



When Cromer PS installed its first six SMART boards, we found that within no time at all the practitioners using them had all rearranged their classroom desks into rows that faced the boards. I was no exception to this phenomenon! We felt the boards were such a vital educational tool that students needed to be directly facing them in order to fully access them during lessons. In this way our SMART board journey began...

After a few weeks, however, I felt that I had entered some kind of time warp where “chalk and talk” teaching had become the order of the day – I had an interactive whiteboard, yes, but I was the only one in my classroom interacting with it! I decided to step outside the comfort zone of teacher-directed learning and enlisted the help of Helen Lacey, from Electroboard to give me some advice on how I could use my board to enhance group work in my classroom. Her advice was extremely helpful

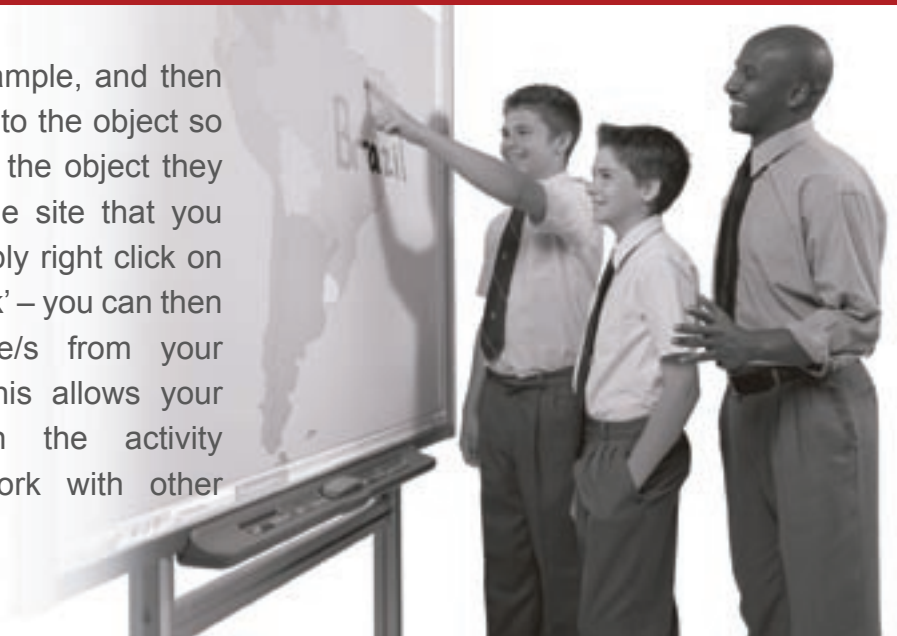
and inspiring.

A few short weeks on and my classroom has completely changed! Rows have been replaced by small groups and my SMART Board now facilitates and enhances group learning with students interacting with the board frequently throughout the day.

If you have encountered a similar experience and need an idea on how to break free, try this for a simple start...

**1** Reading groups – spend some time browsing the vast array of websites available to identify any that provide interactive reading games/experiences that would suit the level of the students in your class. (The [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk) website is a great place to start). Once found, save these sites into a specially marked folder in the Favourites file of your computer. Now make a simple notebook page that lists your reading groups on it. Underneath each group,

draw an object, a star for example, and then hyperlink one of the websites to the object so that when the students touch the object they are automatically taken to the site that you have selected for them. (Simply right click on the object and then select 'Link' – you can then cut and paste the website/s from your favourites into the link). This allows your students to work through the activity independently while you work with other groups in the room.



The same can be done with spelling, just hyperlink some extension or remediation sites to your weekly spelling lists and students instantly have a place to go to revise their learning.

These are simple ideas, nothing fancy, but I guarantee your students will love them and it will give you the confidence to try more and more ways of incorporating your SMART board into your small group learning experiences. You really are only limited by

your imagination!

At Cromer PS we are about to install six more SMART boards. Our challenge as staff is to ensure the boards are supported by best teaching practice to provide quality outcomes for all students. As a result, the rows are disappearing, as are our own inhibitions with implementing this new technology. Good luck with your own SMART board journey!

If you would like the opportunity to write the research and advice column for an upcoming issue, please write to us at [editor@interactivewhiteboard.net.au](mailto:editor@interactivewhiteboard.net.au).

## Training & Personal Development

There are a few online training courses left for the rest of this semester with more new and improved sessions coming in Term 1, 2007. The last on-line training session will be held on 5th December this year entitled Resources for Primary Teachers .

Please be advised that there will be NO training session until the start of Term 1 next year. For information on these upcoming courses, go to <http://www.interactivewhiteboard.net.au/Professional/Dev.asp>.

For more information on training, please contact our training department at [training@electroboard.com.au](mailto:training@electroboard.com.au).

### MYTH:

## The SMART Board is not interactive, but just a glorified mouse

Recently, critics of interactive technology around the world have been expressing their view that the SMART Board is not interactive, but essentially just a projection screen with a built in mouse, useful only for enhancing the use of Microsoft® PowerPoint®. This idea has been dubbed “Death By PowerPoint”. Today, in a Mythbuster’s special, we would like to take the opportunity to correct this rumour and discuss the basics of the SMART Board’s interactivity and general day to day usage.

The main purpose of the SMART Board Interactive Whiteboard is to create a dynamic learning environment in which every participant contributed to the way the lesson evolves. Participants of these sessions should leave the lesson feeling like they have learnt something.

The power of the SMART Board lies in its interactive component. This interactivity is discovered in group activities and as such requires the whole group to participate and use the board, not just the leader. There are two main lesson planning ideas which help to enhance the interactive aspect of the SMART Board.

Group break out activities are a popular way of using the SMART Board for lessons. To begin the lesson, the SMART Board will be used to explain the concept. The class will then break into groups with one group working on the SMART Board, and the other groups working on their own separate answers. Once all groups have established some answers, the class will join back together and discuss each groups answers

using the SMART Board to note these ideas. This encourages interactivity and allows the educator to use any resources available to them to demonstrate their point.

Another method commonly used to encourage interactive lessons is using the board for whole class activities. In this instance, many teachers commonly used the “Leader, Speaker, Scribe” method. The leader will lead the task, this in many cases being the teacher, with students also being allocated the speaking and writing roles. This allows the whole class to discuss, interact and see their ideas being contributed to the lesson. This is a very visual way of encouraging group work and is proven to be very effective.

Interactive whiteboard lessons can also be enhanced by interactive whiteboard resources. An abundance of these can be found online in a range of subjects and difficulty levels.

The ability to enhance group work and provide interesting visual aids to lessons are a factor of SMART Boards that makes them interesting and useful in a classroom situation. Avoid using SMART Boards for one way communication with your class and encourage feedback and full class participation when using it. This will help avoid “making lessons resemble a corporate board-meeting”.

The SMART Board interactive whiteboard has amazing potential, with its abilities only being limited by your imagination. If you feel that you are not achieving full potential, or that your classes are not interactive enough, please write to us at [training@electroboard.com.au](mailto:training@electroboard.com.au) or 1800 622 800. We would be happy to discuss training options with you. Lets avoid “Death by PowerPoint” occurring in Australian classrooms.

## SMART Board Software Upgrade Available!

The newest trend in software upgrades from SMART Technologies is no longer a full upgrade, but instead a smaller patch upgrade. Service Pack 3 (version 9.5.72.3) is available for download from [www.smarttech.com](http://www.smarttech.com) under the software downloads area. This simple upgrade is easy to install and includes a couple of powerful features...

Something Teachers' have been struggling with for a while is the ability to show two Notebooks at the same time. The solution is now available in the new software and it's called Dual Page. Under the View menu, select Zoom and choose Dual Page. Two notebook pages will now be side-by-side in the main window allowing you to show and interact with even more content.

**TIP:** *In the same Zoom menu you can also pin one of your pages in place. This allows you to set up a list of things on one side of the page and keep it there while you go through activities on the other side.*



## Where Did Your Links Go?



I know you have all experimented with linking in Notebook. You can "launch by clicking" the corner icon or the actual object. One of the problems with choosing the second option is no indication of what objects are linked on your page. The solution is Show All Links. As long as you're using the above Service Pack, have a look under the View menu for two more options:

**Show All Links** – *This will temporarily highlight a border around any objects on the page that have links.*

**Show All Links When Page Opens** – *Same as above, but the highlighted border will appear every time you open or select a page. This option can be turned on or off through the View Menu.*

## Maths games:

### Who wants to be a mathonaire?

This resource is a great maths game for the end of the year. Based off "Who wants to be a millionaire", the students have the opportunity to complete a number of maths games based off the structure of who wants to be a millionaire. The level of difficulty ranges from through the later primary through to senior years. Play with caution, the higher levels will be too tricky for the younger kids. This resource is however a great end of year game.



### Play music in the classroom without an instrument!

This resource is one very entertaining resource, and the students will love it. The virtual keyboard is just like a regular keyboard piano, playing notes in a wide range of instruments chords, also with the help of drum beats. But it is virtual!

This is a fun end of year activity for your class. The middle and top lines of the keyboard can be used as keys if you want more flexibility when changing notes. Your sound recorder can also be used to record the songs.

To get you started, the combinations of keys (on your computer keyboard) have been included for a few songs. Just be sure to click chord mode, and then play chords before attempting to play this. The instructions on how to use the board are very straight forward should you need more assistance with this one.

[http://www.bgfl.org/bgfl/custom/resources\\_ftp/client\\_ftp/ks2/music/piano/index.htm](http://www.bgfl.org/bgfl/custom/resources_ftp/client_ftp/ks2/music/piano/index.htm)

#### H-a-p-p-y B-i-r-t-h-d-a-y

A-A-S-A-F-D\_A-A-S-A-G-F\_A-A-K-H-F-D-S\_U-U-H-F-G-F.

#### J-i-n-g-l-e B-e-l-l-s

A-H-G-F-A\_A-A-A-H-G-F-S\_S-U-H-G-D\_K-K-U-G-H\_A-H-G-F-A\_A-A-A-H-G-F-S\_S-S-S-U-H-G-K-K-K-K-L-K-U-G-F\_K\_H-H-H\_H-H-H\_H-K-F-G-H\_U-U-U-U-U-H-H-H-H-H-G-G-H-G-K!\_H-H-H\_H-H-H\_H-K-F-G-H\_U-U-U-U-U-H-H-H-H-H-K-K-U-G-F.





Curl Curl North Primary School was introduced to SMART Boards at the end of 2005 when the school was able to borrow a SMART Board for a small amount of time. When the SMART Board was demonstrated to the staff at Curl Curl North, they realised immediately the array of possibilities and what an impact this sort of technology could have on the school.

Jenny Pickering, Year 6 teacher and Assistant Principal of Curl Curl North Primary School was one of the teachers who saw the importance of the move to interactive technology. In February, 2006, not long after seeing the SMART Board in action for the first time, the school had installed four SMART Boards. This was followed by another four in July, 2006. "We looked briefly at other products and at other schools, the staff felt most comfortable with the SMART software" Says Jenny Pickering, "The SMART Board was demonstrated very effectively. [We] saw the

great potential of the technology." Curl Curl North has high hopes of becoming a fully interactive school soon. "We will have 16 [SMART Boards] by Term 4, 2006".

For Jenny, SMART Boards were a big step into a technologically advanced age. While she had invested in SMART Boards, it was her energy and determination to incorporate it into her teaching routine that made it effective. Now, she has successfully introduced a method of teaching that she feels keeps her students motivated. All teachers are encouraged to use the technology where possible, "The classes without a board are encouraged to use a classroom where a board has been installed wherever possible", says Jenny. All the teachers at Curl Curl North use their interactive whiteboards in an array of ways. "The [SMART] Boards are used for teaching whole classes, for small groups of students to work on, games and activities and other interactive software, making and showing videos and animations, recording

lessons, demonstrations, using the internet and even playing music.”

## **Seeing the benefits early**

Teachers at Curl Curl North are noticing the incredible impact that SMART Boards are having on the students, their lessons and the school. “The students are very easily engaged and find the use of the SMART Board exciting and empowering, especially when they use it to show what they can do. The technology also suits students who find working with computers, keyboards and software easier than with pencil and paper. They are able to show their true abilities”. Jenny also finds that with her SMART Board she is able to plan and recall her lessons, “The SMART Board enables me to plan lessons carefully and has given me the flexibility to change and enhance lessons and activities constantly to meet the needs of the students” states Jenny, “The ability to recall work done previously is an enormous benefit as is the ability to take aside those experiencing difficulty and work with them again. As students work on the board it is easy to see where they make mistakes and why”. Jenny feels that the resources and galleries also provided by SMART Notebook Software are very helpful to use. “The gallery and resources are EXCELLENT! They are easily accessible and simple to use... I use them on a daily basis to help solve problems and explain concepts as the need arises.”

## **Creating an ICT**

### **encouraged Community**

The implementation of SMART Boards has been a vast change for Curl Curl North Primary School. The teachers have felt the impact of the change, but believe it to be a huge positive. “This has probably been the biggest change for me [as a teacher] as I now do all my lesson planning in one way or another on the SMART Board... it’s a time saver, even with the initial planning and construction of the notebook file.”

Curl Curl North has also created a strong support network amongst their community. “The introduction of the technology has made it essential for teachers to engage in professional discussions and share their knowledge not only on how to use the Boards but also on how to

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effectively use them to achieve desired outcomes.”

The school has even gained the support of the parents to create an interactive environment for their children by supporting the installation of more SMART Boards. “The parents at this school are so impressed with the SMART Board technology that they have put all fund raising efforts towards providing the school with more and more boards. They can easily see the benefits for their children.” This supportive community has as a result given teachers the confidence to implement other interactive technologies such as digital cameras to record events, ideas, student progress and outcomes. Digital scanners have also made it easy to upload work up onto the SMART Board for analysis. As well as this, Curl Curl North is fortunate to own a Digital Blue Camera and Microscope, all of which help to create a truly interactive learning environment.

Curl Curl North Primary School’s staff undertook a challenging transformation this year in the purchase of their first interactive whiteboard and from this have created a highly successful educational facility. With an innovative and open-minded array of teachers, they were able to create a fresh, modern and inviting approach to learning through the understanding of their students needs. “ICT is a simple part of life for students today. Classrooms have to compete with a vast array of technologies that students interact with now, not to mention what they will be dealing with in the future. ICTs enhance learning in so many ways that we simply cannot ignore it.”

While the staff and students at Curl Curl North are relatively new to the concept of SMART Boards, their willingness to adapt to the ICT movement has caused them to excel in their abilities and understanding of the technology. Through this understanding they have also discovered what they can do to improve the education of their students. Jenny Pickering and her colleagues at Curl Curl North have created an attitude which is vital to realising the full potential of ICT technologies. To Jenny, “the use of the SMART Board is limited only by the imagination and confidence of the teacher and the students.”