



ACTIVVIEW

News and Views on ACTIVboard

The world's most advanced interactive whiteboard system | September 2007

Simon Says...



Kia Ora

Well as you can see... we've had a bit of a facelift!

Same great stories, same interesting products but a bit of a different look.

This issue brings the announcement of two very exciting new products, a new staff member and an exciting new web conferencing partnership between ACTIVboard and Elluminate.

Also check out this issue's 'Spotlight' on Lauriston School who are back from the brink with a technological vengeance!

As always, if you have any comments or if your school is doing something interesting that we could feature in Activview, feel free to contact me on simon@activboardnz.com

Cheers Simon.



Seeing double? look again

Promethean announces multi-pen technology



In a first for the interactive whiteboard market, ACTIVboard has announced an upgrade that will allow more people to work simultaneously on the same board.

The multi-pen interface, called Activarena, will enable groups of students and/or teachers to debate, play, and work in tandem or in groups on projects, competitions and team-based activities.

Promethean is the first-ever company to enable multiple inputs on an interactive whiteboard and the possibilities are endless, taking the Activclassroom to an even more powerful level of interactivity.

Activarena will be available in New Zealand in 2008.

Could this be New Zealand's most picturesque ACTIVboard?



ACTIVboards are popping up everywhere, and not only in schools. Deep Cove Outdoor Education Centre, Fiordland has recently had a board installed to aid the work they do with Intermediate school children in the South Island.

The Deep Cove Centre is a former hostel which was used by the men who built the mighty Manapouri power station. After the power station was completed, it was gifted to the Department of Conservation which has turned it into an education centre. Children in year eight and nine

from all over the region come and stay (usually for four nights) to take part in tramping, fishing, a launch trip and to learn about marine science and environmental issues.

The board is being used as part of the indoor educational component to engage students in what they are learning as well as show DVDs and display the house rules. There are further plans to use web conferencing to add an extra dimension.

There's no argument that this ACTIVboard has one of the best views in New Zealand!

In this issue

- New pen technology
- ACTIVboard in Fiordland
- ACTIVboard around the world
- Get your V Room now
- Equico helps schools
- Staff Profile - Amy Johnson
- New relocatable AB+2
- ACTIVbits
- Spotlight On - Lauriston School
- Version 3 Resources
- Marnie's Tips

Activboard around the world



The global Activboard family is growing every day. Here's a quick glance at what is happening with Activboards in other parts of the world:

Brunei



Brunei currently have at least one Activboard in every school in the country and are in talks with Promethean on how best to implement training so as to maximise the potential of the technology.

Spain



The Spanish region of Castille-Leon has just purchased 500 Activprimary systems and is set to embed the technology throughout the region.

Middle East



There has been a huge surge in technology in schools in the Middle East with hundreds of boards being purchased for schools in the United Arab Emirates, the Sultanate of Oman, The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the kingdom of Bahrain and the State of Qatar.



V-Room: the place to be

Promethean has just announced a very exciting partnership with Elluminate, a leading provider of eLearning and Web conferencing. The implications for classrooms throughout New Zealand are enormous, meaning that classes can take part in learning communities and share lessons across multiple Activboards in the same schools, different schools or even different countries as well as invite guest speakers from anywhere in the world into the classroom.

Elluminate will allow the expansion of classrooms far beyond their four walls. A school that is already utilising the technology in America says "Elluminate has greatly enhanced our ability to deliver professional development to teachers throughout our district, as well as deliver high quality learning to virtual school students... Going forward we will be looking at using these two solutions to create room-to-room and school-to-home learning communities, bring in virtual guest speakers, support homebound students and capture classroom activity for later use."

Any classroom using an ACTIVboard will have access to Elluminate's 'V Room', a free, three-seat webconferencing solution providing high quality voice, video and data sharing for up to three simultaneous users. For more information contact murray@activboardnz.com

Equico helps schools to get 'on board'

There's no doubt that every school would love to have the latest technology in their school and the problem often comes down to funding. Equico Equipment Financing have joined forces with ACTIVboard NZ to help schools achieve their ICT goals.

Equico are the sole Ministry of Education appointed finance provider for the LEADSPACE and STELA & TELA laptop initiatives. Through these programmes they have Master Rental Agreements in place with more than 2250 schools and are the largest financier to the New Zealand education sector.

Equico are now working closely with a number of New Zealand schools to help them spread out their Activboard payments and make it affordable to have more boards than they would have originally been able to.

For more details contact murray@activboardnz.com

equico 
Equipment Financing

New member in team ACTIVboard

ACTIVboard NZ welcomes Amy Johnson, the latest addition to the team.



Young, vibrant and enthusiastic, Amy joins ACTIVboard as a Teaching and Learning Advisor, after teaching at Viscount Learning Community in Mangere in Auckland.

Viscount is a low decile, high achievement school which focuses on creating exciting, stimulating learning environments through their

use of ICT and Inquiry Learning.

Three years ago Amy began teaching with an ACTIVboard in her Year 2 classroom and was immediately hooked. She was excited by the learning opportunities the board offered her class and the high levels of engagement and stimulation.

Amy has since had an opportunity to use the board in a Year 8 class and was again excited to see the collaborative nature of the board enhance the learning in her classroom.

Amy's strengths are in Literacy and Inquiry Learning, and she is looking forward to using these skills in her job. Amy's creative and innovative approach will be a huge asset to all the schools she will be working with.

We are very excited to have Amy on board and look forward to working with her.

AB+2 on the move Schools save money with new relocatable board

Due to demand from schools, ACTIVboard has developed a relocatable system which can be moved within the classroom. Some classrooms have very limited wall space and awkward spaces to install a board permanently. This model allows greater flexibility of the use of space.



It is a new generation AB+2 with attached projector and is fixed to a special heavy duty pedestal base to provide stability. The electronics are connected via an umbilical cable to an equipment cabinet on wheels which houses all the other equipment (sub woofer, VCR/DVD, Scanner, Mic and projector controller and computer/interface)

The whole system can be repositioned to accommodate light levels in the classroom, and physical space requirements of both children and teachers. Many schools already have this new technology in place and there is a lot of interest from other schools all over the country.

ACTIVbits



Version three for Mac

Version three of Activstudio and Activprimary software is now available for Mac users. Easier-to-use than ever and with more resources than ever before, this is really exciting news. Check out the new Flipchart Builder with hundreds of customisable 'click to edit' templates.

At ULearn 07 Auckland

Make the Moment Count: student response systems for effective assessment. Breakout 1. Presenters: Marnie and Amy

Allsorts in the Classroom: a mixture of strategies for all tastes! Explore a variety of practical ways of using the ACTIVboard in the classroom. Breakout 5. Presenters: Marnie and Amy

What do a pie plate, a flip-flop hub and a rat trap have in common? Incorporate real-world context into engaging relevant learning experiences using the tools of ACTIVstudio on the ACTIVboard. Breakout 6. Presenter: Hilary

The Power of Just-In-Time Learning. Atomic Learning uses a web-based show and tell approach to answer the common questions people have when learning software: just-in-time, just-enough. Breakout 7. Presenter: Hilary

Term 4 Training Offer

Book a 3 hr training session in term 4 at your school for just \$595 and get another training session absolutely free in term 1 2008*.

*subject to terms and conditions

North Island contact: marnie@activboardnz.com

South Island contact: simon@activboardnz.com

Top Teaching Tips Booklet

If you haven't already seen it, check out Top Teaching Tips. It's a collection of tips for teachers, by teachers collected from suggestions posted on the Promethean Planet Forum. It includes practical classroom strategies from educators around the world, including



ideas from our own New Zealand teachers. Browse through and try one new idea each week – you will soon be an ACTIVboard pro! Download this Guide from the link on your homepage on KnowledgeNet.

Spotlight on...

Lauriston School proves that technology is not only for big city schools.

As a rural school of only 83 students and five teachers, Lauriston school once faced an uncertain future. Since being given the green light from the Ministry to stay open, this school has surged ahead making sure they have the world's most advanced technology for their students.

Principal Dianne Prendergast researched all the options looking for a system to suit their needs, being a small school with a range of age groups located in old buildings with high ceilings.

She decided on ACTIVboard after seeing the boards in action at a Rural and Teaching Principal's conference in Northland. She especially liked the fact that ACTIVboards are pen operated rather than touch sensitive as she believed that "fingers all over the place could play havoc with the software".

The ACTIVboard+2 is ideal for their situation with the fixed projector (no problem with the high ceilings as the projector is attached to the board) and the height adjustable stand to cope with the varying heights of students at a school like Lauriston.



Lauriston School

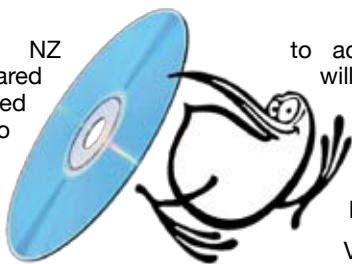
"The interactive nature of the board made an immediate and positive impact on teaching and learning at Lauriston School, with traditionally individual activities turned into fully collaborative experiences... students of all ages have welcomed the introduction of the ACTIVboard+2" says Dianne, adding "It's not only an effective learning tool which increases student motivation; the students really enjoy using the board and being more involved with the lesson. We've also showed the systems to our parents, who just think the technology is fantastic."

Lauriston School has plans to get an ACTIVboard in every classroom, showing that 'rural' doesn't mean 'behind the times' - in fact quite the opposite in this case.

New Zealand Resources for Version 3

The supplementary NZ resources for the Shared Library have been updated and are now available to download as resource packs. These include the popular maori language text and sounds collections, images from Pearson senior science and chemistry texts and New Zealand resources for literacy and numeracy. Resource Packs can be imported into ACTIVstudio3 or ACTIVprimary3 using the ACTIVresource Manager.

You will see a new link on your school's ACTIVboard KnowledgeNet home page



to access these. Other packs will be produced later and can be downloaded from the same location. If you need reminding of your school's logon details, email hilary@activboardnz.com

Visit Promethean Planet www.prometheanplanet.com/uk/ to choose other resource packs covering many primary and secondary curriculum areas. Recent new packs include: Geothermal Energy, Aesop's Fables, Africa and World Religions. More packs are being added every month, and teachers can suggest ideas for new resources.

Marnie's Tips

Version 3 has some great new functions:

V3 means fewer clicks! If you click twice on a text box you will find that it will automatically allow you to edit the text - this is one step quicker than previously!

Drag a copy - if you are wanting multiple copies of an image simply right hand click on the image, select edit followed by 'drag a copy'. This is great when teaching money, place value or showing sets for times tables.

Deleting items - did you know that you can simply select the item and then click on the rubbish bin? This is quicker than dragging the item all the way to the bin!

Containers and restrictors - this new feature allows a teacher to create activities where children get instant feedback to whether their answer is correct or not. A simple example is matching a shape to its name. If the child drags to triangle to the box labeled triangle it will stay there but if it is dragged to a box labeled circle it will bounce back. Check out the additional 'actions' too.

Flipchart Builder can be found under the New/Open tab on the dashboard. It allows you to create a flipchart by taking individual pages from previously saved flipcharts or pages very quickly. If you haven't had a go then I would suggest you do as this is another time saver in Version 3!

Did you know that you can check very quickly to see if you have the most up to date software through the support tab of the dashboard? Simply click on 'check for update' and you will get a message which will tell you if you have the latest version or whether there is an upgrade available.

If you are a new user I would highly recommend the online accreditation. This is free and gives users a good start with the basic tools of ACTIVstudio or ACTIVprimary. Sign up at www.prometheanlearning.com/uk/login/signup.php

Weblinks

Essential sites for ACTIVboard users:

Promethean Planet

<http://www.prometheanplanet.com/uk>

Promethean Learning

<http://www.prometheanlearning.com/>

NZ ACTIVboard KnowledgeNet

<http://www.activboard.knowledge.net.nz/>

REVEAL PROJECT

Research on Electronic Voting

<http://www.revealproject.org/>

ACTIVboard-friendly sites:

Famous Five Network

<http://www.famous5network.com/>

Poisson Rouge for ECE and Primary

<http://www.poissonrouge.com/>

Mapping Our World

<http://www.oxfam.org.uk/coolplanet/mappingourworld/>

Free Sound Clips & Special FX

<http://www.matthawkins.co.uk>

Fun Poetry for Kids

<http://www.fizzyfunnyfuzzy.com/>

The Art Zone

<http://www.nga.gov/kids/zone/>

ArtRage free painting program

<http://www.ambientdesign.com/artrage.html>

Graphical Dictionary online

<http://visuwords.com/>

NZ Electronic Poetry Centre

<http://www.nzepc.auckland.ac.nz/>

And just for fun...

FNO Cartoon Gallery

<http://www.fno.org/exhibits/cartoon.html>

If you know of a great site to use on the ACTIVboard, email it to hilary@activboardnz.com for sharing on our website.