

# ACTIVVIEW

## News and Views on Activboard

The world's most advanced interactive whiteboard system | April 2008

### Simon Says...



#### Kia Ora

Can you believe how fast the year has gone already?

As always there's been a lot going on at Activboard NZ. This month we welcome Claire Ross who has just joined the team.

More and more Activboards are going into NZ schools in a diverse range of situations and we are really enjoying supporting teachers and students on their technology journey.

Make sure you enter your flipchart to win an iPod Nano. For details see page one.

As always, if you have any comments or if your school is doing something interesting feel free to contact me on [simon@activboardnz.com](mailto:simon@activboardnz.com)

Cheers Simon.



## iPod Nano. Up for grabs!

Here's a chance to be rewarded for your hard work. Activboard NZ are giving away two iPods for the best flipcharts in New Zealand. There will be two categories - Year 0-6 and Year 7 and above.

#### Flipcharts must:

- have a distinct NZ flavour.
- have direct correlation to the achievement objectives in the national curriculum and these are to be displayed on the title page
- have page notes outlining how each page is used with appropriate key questions
- include an activity which is differentiated in at least two ways
- have a high level of interactivity through the innovative use of the Activprimary/Activstudio resources and tools
- be 6-10 pages and no larger than 50MB

- include a final page which has your name as the author, school name and full contact details.
- be uploaded to Promethean Planet <http://www.prometheanplanet.com/uk/> In the description box please start it off with NZ iPod competition... followed by a description of the flipchart.



#### Conditions of Entry

1. You must be a teacher in a NZ primary, intermediate, middle or secondary school
2. The flipchart must be the author's own work and in line with copyright regulations of New Zealand
3. All entries must be received no later than 11 July 2008.
4. By entering this competition, the winners give permission for their photo and name along with the name of their school to be published for marketing purposes
5. The judges decision is final.

## Maori Text recognition seals the deal for Hawke's Bay Kura

TKKM o Te Ara Hou is a decile 2 composite (year 1-15) co-ed school in Hawke's Bay with a roll of 234 students. They first heard about Activboards after their Deputy Principal came back from an ICT Hui in Rotorua. They had looked at Mimio and Smart offerings but decided there was more to it than met the eye.

After investigating Activboards they were hooked, mainly because the boards seemed to be far more user-friendly than other brands but also because there was no delay when writing on the board or using text recognition. A major advantage of Activboards for this school is the Maori language text recognition which enables teachers to write in Maori and have it recognised by the board's dictionary. Additional vocabulary can be added to the dictionary and macrons can be displayed correctly too.

TKKM o Te Ara Hou currently has eight boards in the Kura. Three in the wharekura (secondary) and five in the primary and they are set to install more this year. Their ultimate goal is to have boards in all teaching spaces, a goal which the Board of Trustees is very supportive of.

Wi Pohatu, the school principal, teaches with an Activboard. He loves the fact that he can plan for a week as well as create resources to support his teaching and children's learning. It was a tough separation, giving up his conventional whiteboard but he is now using the Activboard full time. He says he and his children are learning together which makes it even more fun.

His final comment (and we didn't pay him to say this). "Glad our DP was at the right place at the right time as we might have had Mimios instead!"

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# 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:

## Kazakhstan



President Nazarbayev

President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan delivered a lesson simultaneously to every school in the country recently. This involved 1000 Activboards being installed in just eight weeks (those schools without internet watched the lesson on TV) and some 2000 teachers being trained on Promethean technology.

Promethean was extremely honoured to be chosen as the provider. The lesson lasted 90 minutes using video conferencing and an activpen. When the President wrote, it appeared simultaneously on all 1000 boards across the country.

## Denmark



The Ministry of Education is now in its second year of a research project to assess the benefits of interactive technology in learning. The results have been encouraging and the amount of Activboards sold has skyrocketed not only in Denmark but in neighbouring Sweden and Norway.

## Global



Recent figures published by Decision Tree Consulting (an industry leading UK research company) predict that 5.3 million interactive whiteboards will be installed worldwide by 2011 – a tripling of the current figure.

# VOTING SPECIAL



This issue we have a focus on Activote - our student response system which is gaining popularity in classrooms around the country.

## Queen Elizabeth College

Queen Elizabeth College in Palmerston North has developed a school-wide literacy programme and is using Activote to support it.

Point of entry testing identified that there was a number of students who were performing below the national level for reading. To provide them with extra support, a dedicated Year 9 class was created, to enable the teacher to focus on reading during English periods.

With a number of reluctant learners in this group, Di Harper (Head of the English department) needed a tool to make the class more interactive. After consulting with us, they purchased the Activote system.

The results were extremely positive. Di says "When I saw Activote in action there was a real 'wow' factor to which I knew my students would respond well. The nature of a programme designed to raise achievement means you have to continually evaluate performance and I could see that Activote would support me in doing this."

Used with or without an interactive whiteboard, Activote enables instant engagement with every student in the class. The teacher simply creates a flipchart question slide – yes/no, multiple choice, true/false, sliding scale – and then invites students to participate in the lesson using individual response pods.

The session can be run without names for anonymity, or if it is being used for formal assessment, student names can be allocated to their pod for reporting purposes. The system guarantees involvement from the whole class because the teacher can easily see when everyone has responded.

All of the activity from an Activote session can be instantly displayed as a graph, or exported to Excel for recording and analysis at a later date.

At Queen Elizabeth College, Activote was introduced without an interactive whiteboard.

"Activote has positively changed the atmosphere in our classroom. While the students used to be quite reluctant learners, they enjoy using Activote, which has made learning fun and encouraged them to get more involved. Integrating Activote within the reading programme has helped accelerate the students' learning beyond all expectations. They are now on track to achieve the New Zealand Certificate in Education for English, where they might not have before." says a thrilled Di Harper.

## Activote DVD



The REVEAL Project is an exciting research initiative focused on the effective uses of Learner Response Systems.

Led by the Midlands Leadership Centre, University of Wolverhampton, the Project focused on:

- evaluating the use of the Promethean learner response system and the extent to which it was being used successfully in the U.K.
- exploring effective use of this technology and investigating ways of optimising its potential to develop learning
- developing digital resources for use with learner response systems

A DVD is available called "Effective Teaching and Learning using electronic Learner Response Systems". It has tips and case studies, help for those wanting to embed the use of ICT within their teaching and lesson ideas from UK classrooms.

Send us \$10.00 and we will send you a copy of the DVD and a voucher to receive \$500 off the purchase of a Promethean Activote LRS.

# New girl on the block

## Activboard NZ welcomes Claire Ross onboard.

Claire Ross is one of the latest additions to the Activboard crew as a new trainer based in Auckland. From East London to Ngunguru, her experience as a teacher for nine years (almost five of those years with an Activboard) has been diverse. She has taught all ages from new entrants up to year eight.



Claire admits to being nervous the first time she had to teach with an Activboard but being a visual and tactile learner herself she was soon drawn in and addicted in no time. She says she could not imagine going back to teaching without an Activboard in the classroom. "I think they are a fantastic resource for teaching and learning and truly create a collaborative learning environment"

Claire's areas of interest are Literacy, ICT and Art but she's a champion across the whole spectrum.

The Activboard team is growing rapidly in numbers and it's wonderful to have so much talent, knowledge and enthusiasm onboard.

## Newspapers in Education for Activboard



Great news for busy teachers! Fairfax Media NiE now produce extension flipcharts to complement their regular mini-newspapers for subscribers. The flipcharts are available for five different curriculum levels and support the monthly topics for each level. Written by teachers, for teachers, these will build to a useful library of classroom resources throughout the year.

There are already flipcharts for Science, Social Studies and English, with an exciting programme planned for the months ahead. Special editions for the Treaty of Waitangi, ANZAC Day, and the Olympics provide resources for important events, and NiE focuses on Maori culture and Te Reo ahead of Maori Language Week in July.

All New Zealand Activboard schools can access these flipcharts through our KnowledgeNet website [www.activboard.knowledge.net.nz](http://www.activboard.knowledge.net.nz)

NiE subscribers will have the added benefit of the curriculum-based resources in their regular NiE materials.

For a reminder of your school's logon, email [hilary@activboardnz.com](mailto:hilary@activboardnz.com)

## IWB conference in Melbourne

The fifth IWB conference will be held in Melbourne in August. It is the only IWB specific education conference held in this part of the world and promises to be a great one with the keynote speaker being Peter Kent.

Peter currently has a systemic role within the Australian Capital Territory for the oversight of professional development relating to teaching and learning technologies. He has published a number of articles as well as presenting at conferences all over the world. He is the author of "Quality Teaching with Interactive Whiteboards" which will be available soon and will be an invaluable resource for teachers wishing to master the use of an IWB in the classroom.

The conference will be held at Firbank Grammar School, Brighton, Melbourne, Victoria on 14, 15 and 16 August 2008

# Activbits

## Version three for Leopard



Activstudio 3.6 and Activprimary 3.6 updates were released for the Mac on 06/02/2008.

These updates are available through the dashboard of the software and introduce Leopard compatibility. To use this update you will need a previous version of

Activstudio 3 or Activprimary 3 installed on your Mac, and then apply the update.

Alternatively the latest version of the software can be downloaded from the support section on <http://www.prometheanworld.com/uk/>

## Try before you buy

If you are interested in using Activboard software but want to see what you're getting first, why not try the free trial version?

Activprimary is ideal for use in primary school classes. It won the Worlddidac Award in 2004 and 2006 - the most recognised international prize in the education sector. Great for the intermediate and secondary areas, award-winning Activstudio provides users with a complete workshop for creating lessons, presentations, training sessions and meetings. Both software packages have tools to help add interest and create different ways of learning.

For more information please contact Christine (Wed-Fri) on 09 414 0094. \$10 p&p will apply.

## Free Online Training Tutorials



Take advantage of Promethean's online training. The Level One course is FREE and has been developed to introduce

the main features of our Activprimary and Activstudio software. It provides a flexible learning environment which can be accessed at work or at home with personalised tracking and assessment as you go. A certificate of completion acknowledges the time and effort put in and is a useful addition to your CV.

Sign up at <http://www.prometheanlearning.com>

# Much more than the board

Berkley Normal Middle School is a Hamilton school which has 15 Activboards with a view towards getting one for each of the 21 homerooms in the very near future. Here is their perspective on getting interactive whiteboard technology in their school.

## The importance of support

Making a major technology purchase can be a daunting process for a lot of schools. While some teachers have embraced the ICT revolution, many find it new, frightening and loaded with jargon and 'technospeak' they have never heard before.

Berkley Normal Middle School chose Activboard because they felt they would be eased and supported into the transition from conventional to electronic whiteboard as opposed to being dropped in the deep end and left to swim.

## Teacher talk

Jill Rimmer from Berkley says "Teachers tend to pay greater attention to those who have been in the classroom, those who offer real and similar experiences. Marnie (the Activboard representative – an ex-teacher) was able to quickly



demonstrate the features of the board while relating it directly to use in the classroom. She fielded all questions confidently, speaking to us (not at us) in non-technical terms, demonstrating answers to our questions as she spoke. When we heard that she would also visit our school and train our staff in the use of the boards, we were pretty much sold."

## The Results

When asked "Have you noticed a difference in the students since you started using the boards?" Jill replied: "Other than being more focused, with higher levels of engagement and motivation; more willing to contribute and actively take part in their learning; an increase in the digital preparation of homework or assignments that are then shared at school the next day using the board - no."

Now that's what we like to hear.

# KnowledgeBase

While there is a lot of support available for using Activboard software, there are still a million practical questions about your actual Activboard that are sometimes embarrassing to ask for fear of looking like a total technophobe.

We have the answer!

Knowledgebase is a free online service which answers questions such as: What can I clean my whiteboard with? Why

is my pen not working on the board? Why can't I see my laptop image on the board? Why is the projected image so dim?

It has a huge bank of FAQs and tips for getting the best out of your board.

So help yourself by checking out knowledgebase

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

# Marnie's Tips

Group Work at the Activboard during Maths

Children find using the Activboard in groups really motivating and as a teacher it is so easy to see that the group is staying on task. Here are a few ideas that you might include in your planning for independent group work in maths:

- **Number:** play "Ordering Eggs" or 'Power Lines' from the Shared Activities or use the pre-made pages under 'Shared Flipchart Pages> Flipchart Builder'. Alternatively create a digital version of a modeling book for a group.
- **Geometry:** ask the children to make pictures from shapes in the library and record their explanations - take photos on a shape walk, download them and use the pen on top to identify them - unfold a cereal packet, place it on the board and draw around/on it to identify the net - look at angles in the environment by taking some photos of ramps, putting them into a flipchart and using the protractor on top!
- **Statistics:** try searching on Promethean Planet as there are lots of flipcharts available for many different levels. Set up a group to work at the Activboard and promote co-operative learning.
- **Algebra:** How many different pizzas can be made from these 6 toppings (you can only choose two). Search the library to find appropriate images and use the drag and drop feature so that the students can pull as many copies of the image as they like. It is a great way to problem solve activities and then to re-arrange the answers into a system: helping students to understand how to solve problems systematically!
- **Measurement:** Model strategies using the power tools; eg: ruler, compass, protractor and clock.

# Weblinks

## Essential sites for Activboard users:

### Promethean Planet

Register to access this comprehensive site  
[www.prometheanplanet.com/uk](http://www.prometheanplanet.com/uk)

### "Flipchart Fundamentals"

6 quick steps to becoming a proficient  
Activclassroom teacher

[www.Prometheanplanet.com/us/server/show/nav.942](http://www.Prometheanplanet.com/us/server/show/nav.942)

### Top Tips for Teachers

Short videos to help you get the best from your  
Activboard

[www.prometheanworld.com/uk/server/show/nav.5397](http://www.prometheanworld.com/uk/server/show/nav.5397)

## Activboard-friendly sites:

### Te Whanake online Maori learning modules

<http://tewhanake.otago.ac.nz/kakano/home.html>

### behold Search Tool – find "free to use" images

<http://photo.beholdsearch.com/>

### Mindomo online mind-mapping tool

<http://mindomo.com/>

### Wikipedia for Schools

<http://schools-wikipedia.org/>

### Elluminate - 3 for free Web Conferencing set up your own vRoom for real-time collaboration

[www.illuminate.com/promethean](http://www.illuminate.com/promethean)

### Making the Modern World Stories about science and invention

[www.makingthemodernworld.org.uk/](http://www.makingthemodernworld.org.uk/)

### International Year of the Potato 2008

<http://www.potato2008.org/en/index.html>

### Turning the Pages

### Virtual books from the British Library

[www.bl.uk/collections/treasures/digitisation.html](http://www.bl.uk/collections/treasures/digitisation.html)

### Nature's Fragrances

### And some Chemistry fun

<http://www.bojensen.net/index.html>

### Google Lit Trips

### Place-based story-telling using Google Earth

[www.googlelittrips.org/](http://www.googlelittrips.org/)

If you know of a great site to use on the Activboard, email it to [hilary@activboardnz.com](mailto:hilary@activboardnz.com) for sharing on our website.