

In this edition:

- Digital Writing
- Caulfeild iDEC
- Student Dashboards
- DreamBox
- School Websites

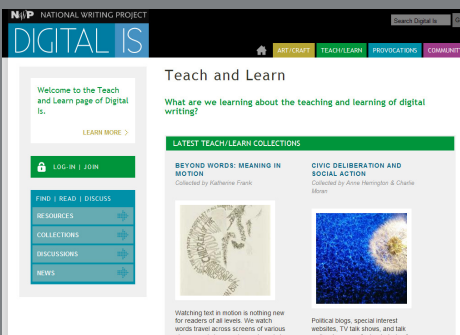
Digital Writing Taking Shape?

How is writing in a digital environment the same as writing on a piece of paper? What is different about writing on-line? Why does it matter?

These questions have been discussed over the past month by a team of teachers and administrators as we investigate the significant opportunities and challenges offered our students. What is very clear to educators is that good writing matters more now than ever. Students have access like never before to write for a variety of audiences and for a variety of purposes and the Digital Writing project is intended to provide teachers and students opportunities to explore writing in multiple modes.

Beginning in September, students and teachers will be offered the chance to learn more about Digital Writing through the creation of iWrite – SD45's Digital Writing web journal. This web journal will highlight writing from students as well as lesson ideas and lesson plans to help understand the difference between writing on-line and writing on paper.

For more information related to digital writing, check out <http://digitalis.nwp.org/>



Student Dashboards



“Access” is the key driver behind SD 45’s launch of student dashboards – an integrated communication, collaboration and content creation webpage specifically created for each student in SD45 between grades 4 – 12. The student dashboards aims to give every one of our students access to the tools they need to digitally participate with their learning.

The benefit to using this type of technology as opposed to Facebook, Gmail or other types of 3rd party solutions is that we can create a common platform for teachers to connect with students as well as a common platform for students to save, edit and share their work with their colleagues and teachers. By using a district platform we can also ensure the security for our younger users and the appropriate use of the technology for all of our users. The student dashboard represents a unique opportunity for students to begin to save and keep their best work over the year and even from year to year.



**Digital Literacy
Newsletter
(February edition
archive)**

Caulfeild iDEC – “inquiry based Digital Enhanced Community”

This June Caulfeild iDEC was approved as West Vancouver's 6th program of choice for student learning. iDEC represents the Caulfeild community's desire to enhance learning through the alignment and focus on three main principles; using an “inquiry” based learning model; embedding technology in age appropriate ways throughout K-7; and operationalizing “soft skills” and 21st century skills and attitudes.

iDEC will provide a prototype of innovative teaching and learning that supports personalized learning.

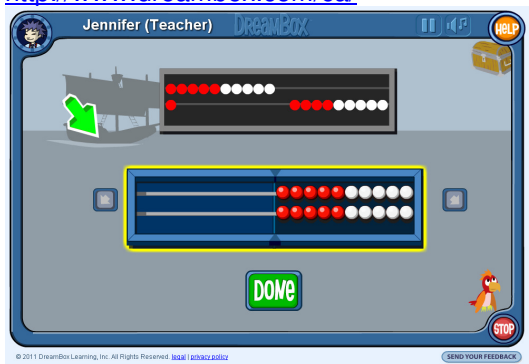
DreamBox Pilot a Success –

This spring over 15 primary classrooms piloted “DreamBox” – an “adaptive learning environment that transforms the way students engage with math.” This software based program allowed students to work at their own pace to reinforce the math concepts already taught in class.

By combining in class and at home learning, teachers reported increased engagement and a deepening of understanding with many of their students. The added benefit of the program was the appropriate use of technology to improve learning outcomes. Teachers were able to talk with students about digital literacy concepts like sharing passwords and appropriate use in a real, meaningful context.

The decision to provide DreamBox district wide will allow all students the opportunity to enhance their math understanding while also providing a platform for digital literacy opportunities.

For more information visit
<http://www.dreambox.com/ca/>



School Websites Re-Branded

Coming this September will be a “refresh” of our school websites. Parents have appreciated school websites that have current information and resources for their school community. New to the upcoming release of the website will be the ability for parents to “subscribe” to various lists, calendars and libraries and the use of “blogs” to publish school news and principal messages.

Please make sure to check the school websites for the Policy and Procedure e-forms that are available in September.

