

LEVERAGING





FEATURE ARTICLE

Using Technology to Create Investigators and Producers of Knowledge

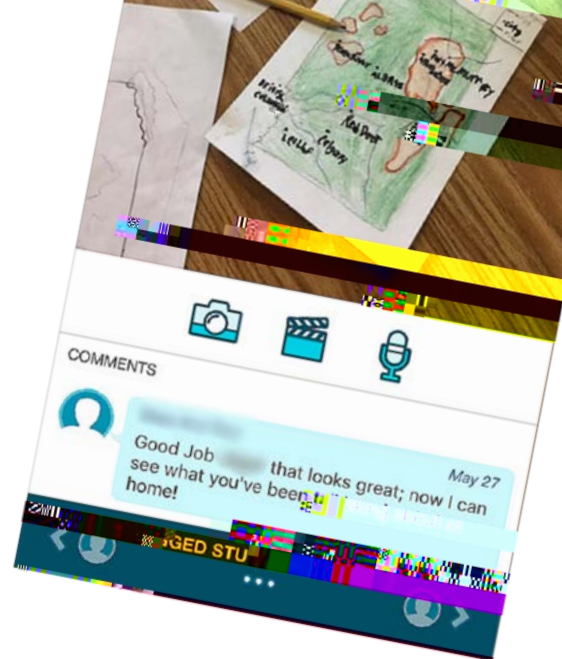
This article deals with the second of the four design elements of the division's Deeper Learning plan, Leveraging Digital. It is my hope that after reading this article, teachers will have a much clearer picture of what teaching and learning could look like in classrooms across the school division – when using the new educational technologies that are now available to teachers.



What will student learning look like in technology-rich classrooms? In Chapter Six of the book, *21st Century Skills: Rethinking How Students Learn*, Bob Pearlman provides a great definition of what learning with technology would mean in terms of student learning, “Students utilize new technology tools as investigators and producers of knowledge.”^[3] I believe that in many of our classrooms, teachers are already designing learning tasks in such a way that meets Pearlman’s concept of 21st century learning where students, “nd

with the Fresh Grade App

When an eager parent greets their child at the end of the day and asks, "What did you learn today?" the most heartbreaking words to a parent and teacher is to hear "I don't know" or "we did nothing..." I thought to myself how can a student say this? Do they not understand what they are learning? Do they not like the activities? How could they possibly not remember one part of the day, not even recess or snack? This made me want to explore my own learning and figure out a way to connect the parents to my classroom without typing out the world's longest newsletters, while at the same time capturing those true moments of joy and learning in action. When I first came upon Fresh Grade it was through a twitter post. I



Beyond the URL: some cool things to try with the Chrome Omnibox

- Anne Reimer, Learning Coach

We all know that there is a wealth of information available at our fingertips - but people often use way more fingertips than necessary to get at that information! Imagine this convoluted scenario: Sally wants to find out the definition of the word "ineciency". She opens the Chrome web browser. She then types in the word "Google" into the search bar. When the Google Page opens, she types in the search phrase "online dictionary". In the search results, she chooses one of the dictionary sites, then types in the word "ineciency". She finally finds out that it

times means "wasteful of time or energy". From opening the browser to getting the information she was actually looking for, Sally made 4 additional stops that really weren't necessary.

The scenic route to information will certainly get you there, but there are more direct routes to information that will save some fingertips. Enter the Omnibox, which in Chrome is the address bar that is so much more than a search bar. It can be a calculator, a timer, a dictionary, a more sophisticated search engine, and much more.

Pages are just a few things that the Omnibox can do. Take some time to play. Enter the following things directly into the omnibox, and see what you get. Then start harnessing the power and efficiency of the omnibox!



IN OUR SCHOOLS

at Green Valley School

GVS recently held their first ever Emoji Week for middle years students. The purpose of this event was to have students engage in activities that will help them become more aware of their feelings and behaviors (notice what they feel and how they act), and learn how to hit the pause button before reacting to a big emotion - thereby giving them time to act instead of react to their emotions. To act in ways that they choose to act, instead of reacting.

“Emoji week was a valuable addition to my Second Step / Health Lessons.”

“I’m amazed at how many students mentioned to me

The QR code to the right will grant access to a six minute video highlighting our middle years Emoji week. The video also includes QR codes that were on our website so that parents could stay abreast of what was happening with Emoji Week at GVS. We hope you enjoy our efforts as much as we enjoyed the week and putting together our video.

- Karla Kroeker
Green Valley School



The Happiness Advantage

By Shawn Achor, Crown Business, 2010

combined with meaning and purpose. It includes joy, gratitude, serenity, interest, hope, pride, amusement, inspiration, awe and love, combined with positivity in the present with a positive outlook for the future. His research describes seven principles that we can use to reset our brains for improved wellness. The first principle is the happiness advantage – we can lift our own spirits in our work and in our lives? Can we flourish in our work and in our lives? In *The Happiness Advantage*, Shawn Achor looks at the importance of happiness and a positive mind-set in fueling engagement, creativity, motivation, energy-level, resilience and productivity. For those of us concerned with wellness, this is a worthwhile read.

Achor's premise is that, whatever our current circumstance, due to neuroplasticity we can re-train our brains to be more positive and to see possibility wherever we look. We have often thought that when circumstances get better, that then we can experience happiness, Achor writes that the opposite is actually true; if we can start with happiness and positive mindset, then successful outcomes will more likely follow.

Achor defines happiness as emotions of pleasure

from the 2016 HSD
Festival of the Arts

IN OUR SCHOOLS

at Landmark Elementary School

Warkentine and Kieanna Plett, each received awards for their Heritage Fair projects! Bryce won the Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame award and Kieanna won the Young Citizen award.

Kieanna was then invited to convert her project into a video and submit it to the Young Citizens Program (www.canadashistory.ca). Participants in the Young Citizens program make a short video about their heritage fair topic, much like an evening news report or short documentary. The student videos are posted online and reviewed by a panel of judges for a chance to win a trip to Ottawa to attend the Canada's History Youth Forum. A public vote will take place from June 13 – July 1. Families, teachers, schools, and communities are encouraged to view submissions, comment on the work of the Young Citizens, and submit their vote. Vote for Kienna by using the QR Code below, or by visiting <http://go.gl/tcrqH> (URL is case-sensitive).

Learning about Canada rocks! Throughout the months of January to March, the Grade 5 and 6 students of Landmark Elementary School explored Canada's dynamic heritage and history. They each chose their own inquiry topic, engaged in research and prepared a written report and backboard. All their hard work culminated in a full day Heritage Fair on March 16 where students presented their projects, responded to questions from judges and interacted with other students, parents, and members of the public. It was a fabulous day of sharing their learning!

After our Heritage Fair, eight students had the opportunity to further their learning by attending the Red River Regional Heritage Fair on May 5 at the University of Winnipeg. Two Grade 6 students, Bryce



HSD 5-5-5
Summer Camp
Aug. 22-26, 2016

Summer Institute for
Early Career and
New Teachers
Aug. 23-25, 2016

Have a Great
Summer!

Through retirements and departures, the following principals and teachers (5+ years of service) will be leaving HSD at the end of this school year. We recognize their dedicated work, and years of service to the students and staff of the Hanover School Division.

