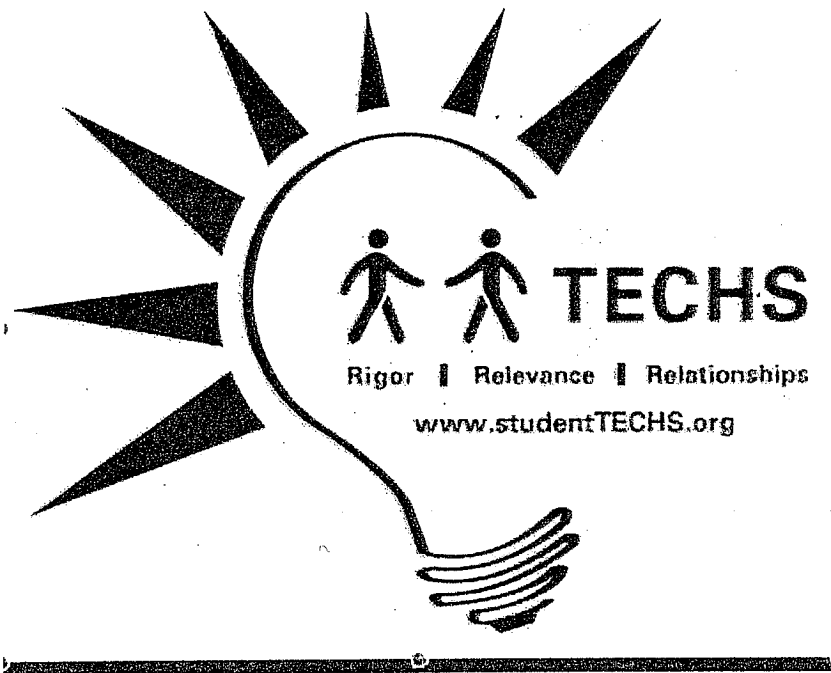


WII WHITEBOARD PROJECT

PREPARED FOR ESU 10

Kearney Nebraska



By

Litchfield TECHS Team

WII WHITEBOARD PROJECT

The Litchfield TECHS class consists of the following students:

- Melissa Bucher – 12th Grade
- Jacob Kramer – 11th Grade
- Blake Siegel – 12th Grade
- Tobin Stithem – 12th Grade
- Kevin Unick – 12th Grade

The instructor for the TECHS class is Mrs. Kathy Dobesh.

Litchfield Public Schools is very progressive in the use of technology. All TECH students have had the opportunity to work with the Smartboards in our school.

We have six interactive Smartboards. Here are some comments from teachers who currently have a Smartboard in their classroom.

- Kindergarten--Our kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Stubbs, said she and her class love it. They use it for movies and use it to learn how to read and write. The kindergarten class enjoys playing reading games on their Smartboard.
- Third & Fourth Grades--Mrs. Edwards agrees with other teachers, she loves the Smartboard. It allows for a more diverse experience in their various subject areas.
- Social Studies--Mr. Kirkpatrick says he absolutely loves it. He thinks that it is more helpful than PowerPoint because there are more applications, and it's easier to use.
- English--Mr. Park believes that the Smartboard enables him to facilitate 21st century learning objectives in the classroom.

- Business/Computer--Mrs. Dobesh believes it a great technology and by having it in school the students will get familiar with it. This will expose them to technology they may use in college and the work world.

The October 30, 2008, issue of the *Custer County Chief newspaper* featured our school and its progressive use of Smartboards. (See copy of article at end of report)

The first step in the Wii project was to watch the videos. We brainstormed about what kind of container to use for the Wii, everyone made suggestions. We decided to use a syringe container so all the parts could be in one unit. With the assistance of Mr. Eggers, our IT teacher, we assembled the LED pointer. After assembling it, we decorated it by using decorative tape in our school colors. We found out that our LED pointer worked well, and it was easy to hold and use.

After assembling our LED pointer, we worked on setting up our software and the Bluetooth connection. We viewed the Wii remote interactive whiteboard setup video numerous times. We had several Dell computers on which we attempted to make the connection. The most promising attempt was on a Dell Inspiron which did have a Bluetooth connection on it. On this XP machine, we went through the steps of the wizard outlined in the tutorial, but were not successful in having it "find" the Wii remote. We had downloaded the Toshiba BT stack, but that did not help us either. Perhaps if we had had access to the USB dongle as suggested in the video we might have had better success. Although we did not make a successful connection, we do not consider that we are done with this project. We plan to revisit it when we have more time and different hardware. It has been a great experience in working with a technology idea from start to finish. It has given us insight into the process that is done when new technology is developed.

The Wii whiteboard could be a very valuable resource in our school. Although we have a number of whiteboards in our school, this is a very inexpensive way to provide whiteboard access in another classroom. Once the process is perfected, it could easily turn any ordinary classroom into a classroom with the latest technology.

Litchfield kids

get say new smart boards make learning fun

By ELLEN MORTENSEN
Chief Assistant Editor

LITCHFIELD - Elementary students at Litchfield Public Schools are enjoying a new method of learning this year, and they all agree - it is great! Smart boards were added to the kindergarten through fourth grade classrooms at the beginning of this school year, and the fifth and sixth grade classroom has a board on the way.

"The board works kind of like a glorified overhead projector," explains 1st and 2nd grade teacher Mrs. Taylor.

She says the board enables her to find activities on the Internet which can be downloaded to the board for the students to use in class. The board works similar to an old fashioned chalk board, as the student goes to the front of the class and writes the answer to the question or problem on the board.

However, rather than using chalk and an eraser, the student uses the pen tool or their finger. After writing their answer they click to enter it in, and the board instantly tells them if it is correct.

This not only allows the students to see the results of their work right away, it also allows them to offer encouragement to one

another during the process. When a student gets the answer correct, the others congratulate them, sometimes erupting into clapping or cheering.

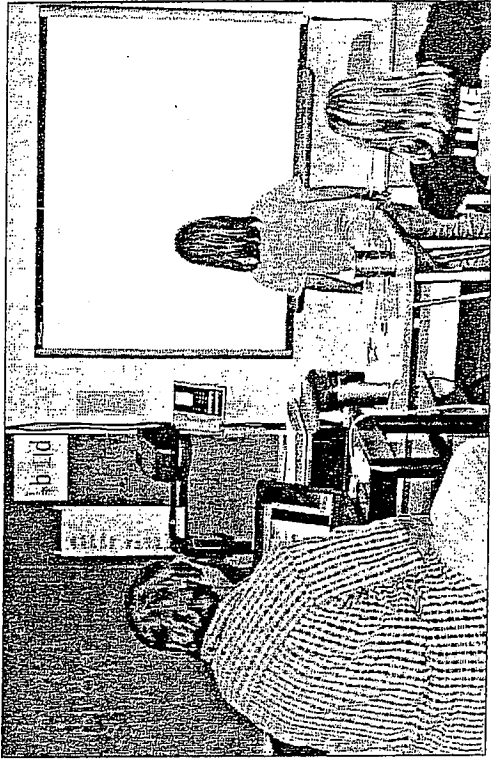
Kindergarten teacher Sue Stubbs says her kids get excited every time she turns the board on. She is using the board for letter recognition, letter naming, practice reading and sight words.

"As teachers we have unlimited on-line resources," Stubbs says. "It lets you create your own lessons and save them as a file. It's uses are absolutely endless."

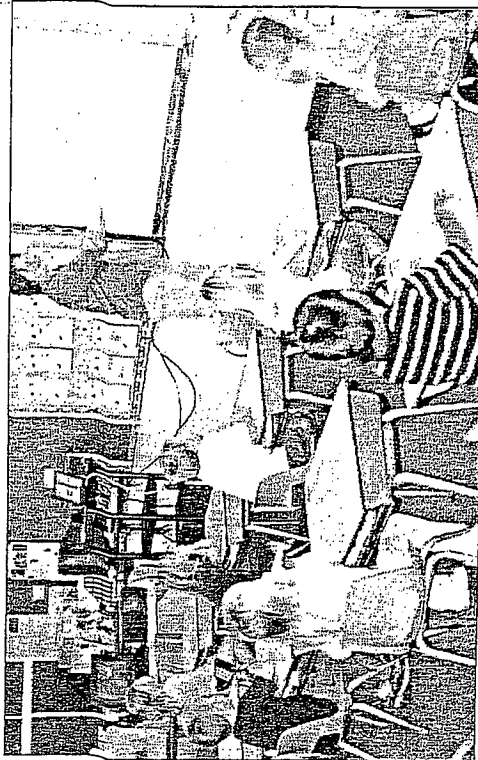
The big computer-type screen is connected directly to a laptop computer, and everything from lesson plans to on-line games can be utilized through the system. It can also be used to watch movies, just like a CD player.

"We can keep our eyes on it better," says first grader Kaleb Rosenbender when asked what he likes best about the new boards.

Stubbs says all the elementary teachers attended in-service training at ESU-10 for the new smart boards, and both educators and students are excited about the learning potential the new technology gives their classrooms.



Litchfield elementary student Siarah Willenberg works on her vocabulary words using the classroom's new smart board, as teacher Mrs. Taylor looks on.



Litchfield kindergarten teacher Sue Stubbs uses the new smart board to teach her students letter recognition, practice reading and sight words. The boards allow teachers to download activities and lesson plans from the Internet, and the students to see each others work.