

**From:** Lisa Read <lread@sd79.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Updates from Lisa  
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3 Attachments, 777 KB

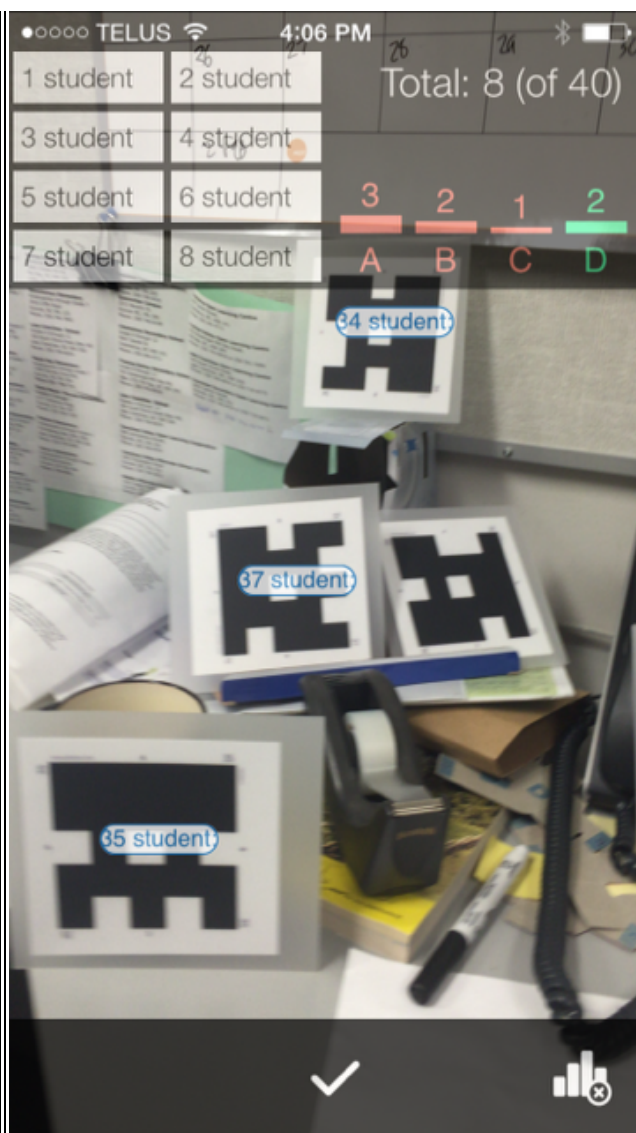
Hello and welcome to the return of more daylight and the second half of this unconventional school year!

It was a pleasure to get to see so many of you at Implementation Day on Monday. It always feels like a rare treat to have all of us together in one place, especially for a positive reason. Now, I know what you are thinking...but for me any time I can gather in a relaxed fashion with my colleagues and have the opportunity to think about my practice, I find that uplifting. Was some of the material familiar? Sure. But my response to that is to ask you to consider the importance of reflection...remember, to understand recursion, one must first understand recursion. :-)

A lot of what I do when I visit a classroom is really common practice, just "tech'ed" up. That is why the iPads have not been heavily loaded with "practice" style apps (aka "drill and kill"). Our focus continues to be on supporting creative ways for students to represent their learning. A particular shout-out this week goes to Kathy Dukelow at Discovery who turned her class over to me to guide them through a writing project. You'll find details on that visit in [my blog](#)--but despite the occasional bit of chaos (which, let's face it, is pretty much guaranteed if I am in a room full of 5th graders)--the students used technology in an innovative way to write a story. As far as I can remember, grade 5's have been expected to write stories for a long time, and will continue to do so... the technology doesn't change that, but it can affect their engagement. Thank you also to Cindy Olson, Deb McQuhae, Sue de LaSalle, Rhonda Roehl and Susan Kelland all of whom welcomed me in so warmly to work with their classes this week.

Speaking of enthusiasm, I was delighted to be able to help another colleague get his SMARTBoard up and running. Bill Crerar and I taught together at Prevost-then-Quam, and he is now at the Cowichan High Campus. Admittedly, I wasn't able to completely update his computer (hey, I'm just one woman!), but I was able to get a few things functioning for him, and I remember thinking how great it is that after a number of years teaching the same content, he was still fired up about having some new tools in his belt. And to all of you waiting for SMARTBoard upgrades, I am working my way through the list, and I will have some really good news to share on that front soon, hopefully!

Related in a way is my first guinea pig project with "Plickers". I commented on these last week, as a cheap (virtually free) substitute for Senteos or iClickers. Please drop me a line if you would like to try out my "Demo" set. Graham Scargall is trying them out at Tansor, and I look forward to hearing his feedback. If you missed the link last week, you can easily set up your own class and get started:[www.plickers.com](http://www.plickers.com)

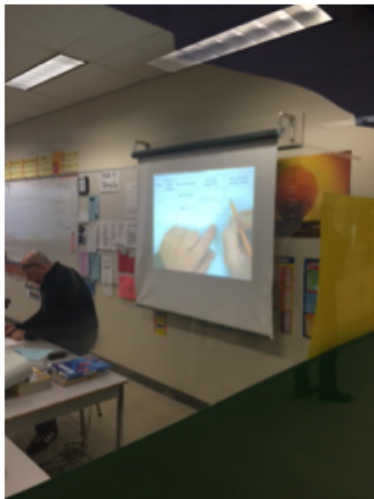


Here is a screen shot of Plickers in action--Instead of names, these (virtual) students are numbered to correspond with their card.

Next up: we are looking forward to our IpLitAbInq launch-- the first combined project done on such a big scale between the AbEd, Literacy and Technology Departments. For those of you who are joining us on Monday, I really look forward to sharing this journey with you. For those who couldn't participate this time, we plan to be able to offer more sessions in the future, building on our successes, learning from our missteps... as you do :-)

Thank you also to Frances Kelsey staff who attended a couple of early morning information sessions with Glen and I. I love sharing technology with teachers, and when that sharing is met with enthusiasm, it's all the sweeter. We'll be doing more of these "dog and pony" shows around the district-- look out for us! (and no, we haven't decided which is dog and which pony).

Finally, just a few images I collected this week, things that remind me about the positive ways teachers have to influence our students and each other.

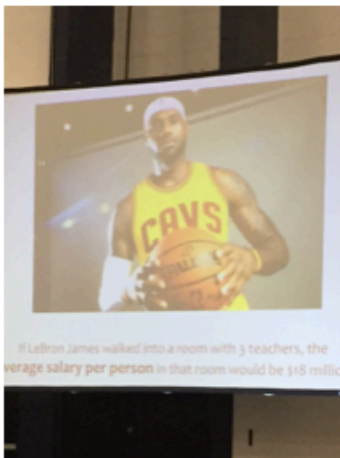


Spotted at Frances Kelsey— did you know you can also use an iPad as a document camera?



A little friendly Staff vs Student Floor Hockey

#### A few moments captured at Implementation Day.



If LeBron James walked into a room with 3 teachers, the average salary per person in that room would be \$18 Million



Some friendly affirmations

As always, please don't hesitate to be in touch-- no question too big or too small!

Until next time,

Lisa

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