

Kingsway's New Technology in the Classroom: The *EPSON BrightLink 450Wi* Projector
Connie Solomon, Teacher, Kingsway College, Oshawa, ON

Teachers all recognize one very important reality in the classroom: capturing the attention of students is a continual balancing act between transmission of curriculum and creative delivery of said curriculum!!! With this in mind, the administration of Kingsway College set out to provide upgrades of the technology in our classrooms to assist teachers in using newer technologies in classroom instruction. Because technology costs money, a fundraising campaign was started.

And so it was that during the 2009-2010 school year, many alumni and friends of Kingsway gave generously toward a project to enhance the classroom learning experiences of our students. Beginning September 2010 and throughout the early weeks of that school year, Kingsway's teachers were blessed with the arrival of the new technology for enhancement of our students' learning environment. Each teacher eagerly awaited the installation of a new *EPSON BrightLink 450Wi* projector in his/her classroom. Previously, each classroom had access to a projector. But the lack of standardized equipment in the classrooms made it challenging to incorporate a variety of technology for an optimum teaching effect.

After an exhaustive amount of research, our president, Mr. Scott Bowes, was impressed with the *EPSON BrightLink 450Wi* projector because of its capability to interface seamlessly with other equipment. Because of its compatibility to merge with a variety of technologies which Kingsway's teachers needed to integrate with the projector, the *EPSON BrightLink 450Wi* was the top choice.

The *EPSON* projectors can be used with a laptop or desktop computer; they can also be connected to video players, document cameras and other paraphernalia. Additionally, *easiteach* software allows for an interactive tool, pen/mouse, to be used for writing or drawing directly on the white board surface which is directly integrated with the computer. The pen/mouse allows users to control the computer from the calibrated projection on the whiteboard surface.

Another benefit of the *EPSON BrightLink 450Wi* projector is that, instead of being mounted on the ceiling and projecting from a distance, it is mounted right above the whiteboard on an extension arm. This allows the *EPSON BrightLink 450Wi* to project the image from less than a metre to the whiteboard surface. No more projected light in the face of the teacher or presenter!

The vibrant, crisp image projected by the *EPSON BrightLink 450Wi* projector has greatly enhanced the use of technology here at Kingsway. After only five months of using this new technology, I am really enjoying all the new ways I can integrate technology into my classroom! Showing DVD videos or viewing online clips is made easy. Lots of software is available for each discipline of study, making it easier for teachers to use recently produced educational tools for classroom learning experiences. I, for one, am still learning how to use all the "bells and whistles" to the maximum. However, the learning outcomes for this teacher are limitless!

My colleague, Mr. Langevin, is especially enjoying the versatility of the pen/mouse. It has enabled him to integrate many innovative learning tools into his educational arsenal! Especially nice are the fun interactive learning games he uses to spice up the learning experiences for his students. Mr. Langevin is not alone in praising the capabilities of the new projectors. All the teachers at Kingsway have been using this new technology to enhance their classroom learning

outcomes. Each is using elements of the technology with a wide variety of software programs to bring new vistas of learning into the classroom for their students.

Additionally, Mr. Bayer, one of Kingsway's science teachers, has recently created interactive lessons which can be used by a substitute teacher on the occasional day he is away from the classroom. These interactive lessons could be called talking Power Points. He has embedded his voice over the various saved lesson slides which visually detail formulas and other scientific lessons. These creations can also be valuable study resources for a student who missed the lesson, allowing her to use it at home to catch up on the missed materials.

When the *EPSON BrightLink 450Wi* projectors were installed, it was so cool to see the students' responses. There was a joy in their eyes as they viewed it for the first time. Their questions were many. They seemed to revel in the knowledge that this was for them. Indeed, it is for them! Alumni and friends of Kingsway have made generous donations making it possible for nine classrooms to be up-graded with the awesome technological capabilities that are embodied in the multi-faceted *EPSON BrightLink 450Wi* projector. Kingsway's faculty, staff, and students are thankful for the ongoing support through the numerous generous contributions!