



**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Canada's Most Tech Savvy Educator in the HP MindShare Learning 21<sup>st</sup> Century Classroom Video Contest Goes to Mark Melnyk of Markville Secondary School, York Region District School Board**

-Former Governor General's Teaching Award Winner Captures \$10,000 prize-

**Mississauga, Ontario: Wednesday, February 4, 2009:** The final HP MindShare Learning 21<sup>st</sup> Century Interactive Classroom contest winner, Mr. Mark Melnyk, is not your typical high school history teacher. Mr. Melnyk created the Classroom of the Future model which he conceived as the ultimate history learning and teaching resource for instructors and students alike, featuring a wide variety of technology and web-based learning tools, student exemplars, lesson plans, online projects, interactive activities, blogs, monitored online chat, and e-zines.

Through a video submission, K-12 educators from publicly funded schools across Canada were challenged to share their interactive classroom technology success stories or vision of the 21<sup>st</sup> century classroom. The goals of the contest that was launched this past September were to create a greater awareness around 21<sup>st</sup> century learning skills and the need to prepare students for the global knowledge-based economy and to promote the sharing of best practices in the use of technology in the classroom.

Excellence and innovation has no boundaries. Mr. Melnyk is a student's dream teacher, whose leadership captured the attention of the judge's panel for his ability to engage his students collaboratively to create a winning video submission that reflected the way they learn on a daily basis with the infusion of technology. As the winner of the HP MindShare Learning contest 3<sup>rd</sup> and final prize pack giveaway of over \$10,000 in classroom technology, Mr. Melnyk exemplifies excellence in classroom teaching with technology.

*"One of the greatest parts of the HP Mindshare Learning Contest was working with our students to examine and analyze the way we teach, learn and interact with technology. Our epiphany came when we realized that we simply wanted to capture how we interact every day, and the nature of our classroom experience. Ultimately, we wanted to*

*communicate how we work together with technology as a seamless part of our every day life. Winning this contest is such an honour because we believe that it shows the power of engaged learners and the unique talents that are developing in ever changing and evolving 21st century classrooms,"* said Mark Melnyk, teacher, Markville Secondary School and winner of the HP MindShare Learning Report contest.

Mr. Melnyk's submission was a true collaboration where he described himself as a facilitator in the creative process, working in close collaboration with a strong supporting cast that included his colleague, Rob Cotey, along students: Amanda Perkins, Samantha Hutchinson, Kirsten Andersen, Nick Francis, and Rachel Laird. This inspiring stop animation video includes over 2,200 photos that captures the creative synergy between teachers and students engendering the use of technology as a tool to reach 21st century learners and promote a passion for history and a love of learning.

One of the key success factors to implementing technology in the classroom is leadership support as is the case with principal, Steve Bewcyk to the district level director, Bill Hogarth. The York Region District School Board clearly has a recipe for success. *"Bringing the latest innovations in ICT into our classrooms gives York Region students hands-on experience with the new tools while opening up broad, new vistas of learning opportunity."* said Bill Hogarth, Director of Education, York Region District School Board

*"Mark Melnyk's winning submission reflects the excellence that we were hoping to inspire through our national contest. Our mission at MindShare is to continue to connect education and industry to work collaboratively in order to better prepare students for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century knowledge-based economy,"* said Robert Martellacci, president and publisher, The MindShare Learning Report—*Canada's Premier Educational Technology eMagazine.*

MindShare Learning wishes to express its gratitude to the generous sponsors of the contest that include title sponsor HP and other supporting sponsors who collectively offered over \$30,000 in prizes during the term of the contest-- FrontRow, EPSON, Microsoft, netTrekker, Pearson, SMART Technologies and Texthelp. *"As the HP title sponsor, our whole goal was to encourage teachers across Canada to share their best practices as to how to engage students and stimulate collaboration through the use of technology in the classroom. Through the contest, we received fantastic examples which made it challenging to make the final selections. We are very pleased with our participation as it encouraged teachers to share their best practices,"* said Derek Merilees, Education Marketing Manager, HP Canada.



Mark Melnyk Final \$10,000 winning video submission link:

<http://www.vimeo.com/2565637>

Previous \$10,000 contest prize winners' include, Chantal Lafargue, Fredericton High School, see video link below:

[http://www.teachertube.com/view\\_video.php?viewkey=9a9b310031e484bc8e3f](http://www.teachertube.com/view_video.php?viewkey=9a9b310031e484bc8e3f) and

Mali Bickley, W.H. Day Elementary School video link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nFDa4pBQVA>

Pictured above: York Region's District School Board officials, including Bill Crothers (York Region School Past Board Chair and current Trustee), students, school officials and sponsors gathered at Markville Secondary School recently to celebrate the HP MindShare Learning 21st Century Interactive Classroom contest Winning submission by teacher Mark Melnyk, colleague, Rob Cotey and his students.

**The Classroom Technology Prize Pack includes the following products valued at more than \$10,000:**

Sponsor	Product
FrontRow	FrontRow Pro Digital Classroom amplification system
EPSON	PowerLite Projector
HP	HP 2133Mini Note PC
Microsoft	8GB Black MS Zune
	MS Office Ultimate
netTrekker	One-year school subscription–Education Search engine
Pearson	eBook software
SMART Technologies	SMART Board 680 interactive whiteboard
	Senteo interactive response system
	SMART Document Camera
Texthelp Systems	Read&Write GOLD MOBILE, including 1 (one) year Software Maintenance Services

**About Mark Melnyk**—Mr. Melnyk is head of the History & Contemporary Studies at Markville Secondary School in Markham, Ontario. A recipient of the prestigious Governor General's Teaching Award in 2004, Mr. Melnyk is also an instructor at OISE, University of Toronto. With the pedagogical backing he acquired through the [Master of Educational Technology \(MET\)](#) program at UBC, his mission is to climb to a Higher Ground as a teacher, professional, leader and as a person. Click [here](#) for a complete bio.

**About The MindShare Learning Report™**--*Canada's Premier Educational Technology eMagazine*. Our mission is to transform education by sharing knowledge of 21<sup>st</sup> Century innovative best practices and success stories in the Canadian education market space and beyond. We harness the power of Web 2.0 technologies to feature engaging Vodcasts, podcasts, polling, Canadian educational technology news headlines & upcoming strategic industry events in the K-12, Higher Ed and corporate eLearning market segments. Other elements of the MSL Report eMagazine include: successful practices, ask an educator, ask a professor, research & tech tools, GreenIT and career listings, to support educators and educational technology providers in maintaining a pulse for emerging trends in Canada. <http://www.mindsharelearning.com/report>

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