



NEW YEAR - NEW EXPERIENCES



With any new year, we look forward to new experiences. Prairie students are in for a real treat! Our new mobile Mac lab will be up and running in 2010. Using a \$10,000 grant from the District 220 Educational Foundation along with some district technology dollars, ten MacBooks, two Flip Mino HD camcorders and one Canon Vixia camcorder were purchased to outfit this lab.

The Mac platform lends itself well to video production



which will be the main focus for students when using this lab. In addition to this, students will find podcasting much easier on a Mac. Our goal is to allow for more opportunities for students to interact with content and create a product which demonstrates a higher level of thinking.

Some good luck came my way in 2009 which Prairie will benefit from in the new year. I won a portable SMARTboard in a drawing at the Tech & Learning conference. This SMARTboard will enhance one of our classroom spaces in the library and can be checked out for classroom use as well. We do have some classrooms without SMARTboards and our goal is to outfit each room with a standard set of equipment. We want all students to benefit from access to this tool during lessons. Our traveling teachers also benefit from having the same

equipment available for lessons in each room they use during the day.

Some other new items to look for in the new year are our new books. A link can be found on Prairie's library site for any new books that have arrived. In addition to printed books, we have purchased some Playaways this year. A Playaway is



a preloaded digital audio book. The size of the Playaway is similar to an iPod therefore it is easy for a student to bring it wherever they go. Based on the positive response we have received from students more Playaway titles have been ordered to arrive in the new year.