Transcription of video:

The Tech Dudes of HRDSB

[[Stacey Falconer: Nowadays, we are surrounded by technology. Everything from virtual reality goggles that allow us to see things in 3D; to assistive software programs that predict our needed spellings, read back to us, and allow us to change our voice into text; to talking word walls that come alive with the touch of a pen.]

[LiveScribe pen: Amazing!]

[Stacey Falconer: So what's the difference between assistive technology and technology? Well, luckily, if you provide an abundance of tools in a classroom environment, you don't really need to worry about that. Students will begin to choose the tools they need, when they need them. Some students will check out an assistive technology piece of software or tool or device, and then they'll move on. For other students, they'll discover it unlocks a world opening to them that has never been there before. It allows them to access the curriculum and demonstrate their knowledge. I'd like to welcome you to the Tech Dudes. We're a self-contained class of students with learning disabilities, that use assistive technology all day, every day for our learning. Do we use it in an integrated setting? Absolutely! We've learned how to show other staff and students the devices and the technology that will enhance their program. Do they talk about us? For sure! We're the Tech Dudes. We own it, we share it, and we celebrate it. So they're talking about us, but it's usually to ask for our business card.]

[Icandoit: Hi! I have a learning disability. It used to hold me back, but not anymore, thanks to technology like Read&Write on my laptop. I learned to take risks. The technology helped me understand the work I was doing. And, I have confidence now, because of technology.]

[Luckyguy: I have learning disabilities. I am so lucky! I get to use a variety of different learning tools for my learning. I didn't know much about Read&Write and LiveScribe pen before I met the Tech Dudes. I used to be one of those kids that just sat there, scared and

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alone. But now, with the help of Read&Write, I can write better, I can listen to my reading, and LiveScribe pen helps me record my learning and thinking. So now, when the teachers asks me "what was I thinking?", I can show her the recording, and she'll realize, "ok this is what he means", instead of me showing her the billion words that I write on paper, and she'd be like "I don't understand this". So it helps me, thanks to Read&Write and LiveScribe pen!]

[Memoryman: I speak very little. I have learning disabilities, and English is still confusing.]

[LiveScribe pen: Rotten cheese smells deplorable.]

[Memoryman: Technology helps me remember things.]

[Strategyman: My teacher said I had to read this book. What, are you kidding me?! But there's an easier way to do it. Highlight it and you will see what I mean.]

[Read&Write program: A watery mote circled the castle.]

[Livescribe pen: The toilet was very gross and smelly, and you should not put your head in the toilet.]

[iBelieve: I have a learning disability, but that's a little part of what you need to know about me. Thanks to programs on my laptop, I learned how to read and write with confidence. I began to believe in myself. Now, I do not stop when things start to get hard. I know that there will be a tool that can help me. Technology has helped me believe that I can do anything!]

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