



MARK HERRING

DIGITAL LEARNING SPECIALIST

BIO

MARK HERRING

Mark is a Digital Learning Specialist, based in New Zealand. He's a trained and experienced educator with over 10 years as a Primary School teacher, including 4 years as a Deputy Principal in Southland. NZ.

He now supports schools and their staff and students to help transform the way they teach and learn through the effective use of digital tools.

Mark also has experience as a Regional Technology facilitator in Invercargill, Southland. There he worked alongside 26 schools as an advisor and trainer to help them integrate their technology and design effective curriculum processes around the tools that they have.

He has been a founding member of an inner city coding club, a 'Maker Club' called 'MakerVengers' and various holiday workshops for students to build their 'iPhoneography' camera and video skills.



Mark has a background as a youth and community worker for the Salvation Army which gives him a unique perspective for supporting schools design and implement digital programmes. He aims to help schools focus on how the tools can help connect communities; by strengthening relationships between students, teachers, leadership, families and the wider community.

He feels strongly that education is a powerful agent for change and that technology can be a vital tool for that to happen.



[@markherringnz](https://twitter.com/markherringnz)



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VISIONARY LEADERSHIP



Mark facilitates workshops that develop the understanding that knowing ‘why and when’ to hit the buttons is just as important as ‘what and how.’

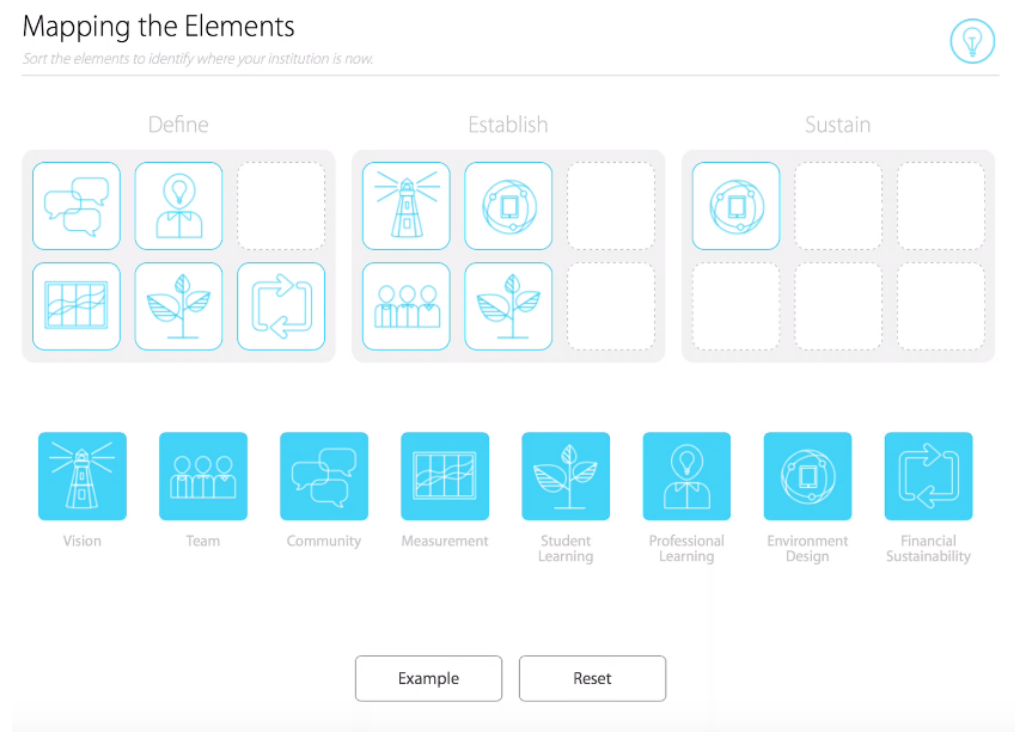
Mark has a reputation for innovative, visionary thinking and practice. He has the experience and track record of seeing the big picture and developing learning programmes and cultures that seek to allow every learner to be engaged, creative and nurtured.

From Mark's early years as a teacher he became passionate about teaching and learning in collaborative ways. He sought to develop strong relationships with the teachers around him and saw the benefits for students when educators shared ideas and reflected together. He quickly realised how powerful it was to be connected with an online community and now assists and encourages all educators to be connected, too.

Collaboration, in Mark's mind, is more than just an ability to work together; it's more about a shared culture of

values and principles, and the commitment that people have to work towards a collective vision. In schools, this is a crucial aspect of the training and leadership support he fosters and facilitates.

Mark seeks to support and encourage all teachers and students, whatever their ability or attitude to digital learning. He has a patient, step by step approach when working with those who are early in their technology adoption journey. This is crucial to building confidence and enthusiasm for the use of digital tools in the classroom. Mark also enjoys inspiring and encouraging those other early adopters to innovate and be creative when teaching with technology.



Mark's staff development workshops are a combination of developing digital efficacy 'on the tools' while also building an understanding of the effective pedagogical approaches behind the technology.

With every school engagement, Mark looks to strengthen and develop relationships with the people he meets. He believes that learning is supercharged when it involves a strong social element. When we develop meaningful relationships we become better connected and engaged; Technology can become a powerful 'amplifier' in this process.

The workshops, events and one to one engagements that Mark facilitates are engaging, interactive and fun. He always looks to help people feel connected and comfortable as they discuss, unpack and get hands on with new ideas, tools and strategies for learning.

An important part of the digital learning development process for schools is to have a strategic plan that considers all '[8 Elements of Success.](#)' This tool has a range of resources and templates that help leaders to define, establish and sustain these 8 elements.

Mark bases his facilitation around this implementation tool and has proven to help schools achieve their own unique vision for learning.

Mark has a track record of starting initiatives that help schools move towards their digital learning visions. He's a co-founder of the 'Digital Ninja Day,' a teacher and student digital workshop day in Invercargill in conjunction with the town library, and has organised 'Eduignite' and 'Educamp' events where teachers present and share their innovative learning approaches. Teachers have benefited from making connections with colleagues outside of their own schools and this helped to foster further innovation and change.

One initiative, the 'ILT Coding Club' ran over 2 terms in 2015, and had an average attendance of over 45 students and their parents. It gave children from age 5 to 16 the opportunity to engage a wide range of coding tools and activities. These events had 'guest coding experts', a focus for the evening and a reflection time where students and parents could share what they'd learned and created.

coding club image

stuff

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Southern kids learn robots at Digital Ninja Dojo

CAITLIN SALTER
Last updated 14:07, June 26 2015

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CAITLIN SALTER/FAIRFAX NZ

Queenstown Primary School pupil Griffyn Crawford plays with a robot at the Invercargill City Library Digital Ninja Dojo workshop on Friday.

Griffyn Crawford, 9, from Queenstown Primary School uses a tablet to control a robot at the Invercargill City Library's Digital Ninja Dojo day.

The library has six new Dash and Dot Robots as part of an initiative to teach children the basics of computer programming.

Seventeen schools from Southland and Otago took part in the digital day.

Digital learning adviser with ILT Mark Herring said the idea was to train children to be digital savvy.

"We're promoting digital learning by teaching them the skills they need for the future."

The robots will be available for schools to book in for lessons from the start of term three.

- The Southland Times

southland times headlines

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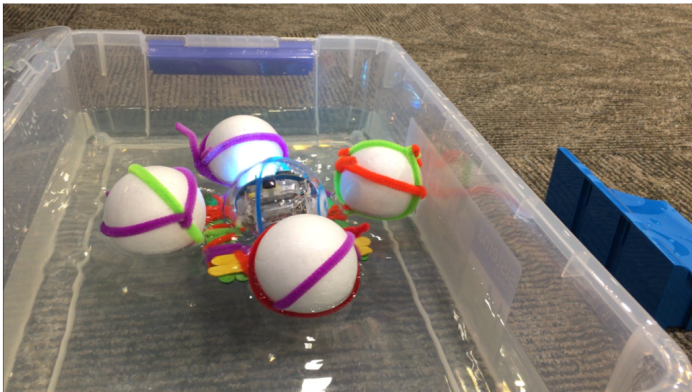
INNOVATIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING

Teachers are often designing new approaches and strategies for today's learners to connect and be prepared for an ever changing world. When they share these ideas with others, new innovations become possible.

Mark's blog is written to record his reflections, inspire educators and share what's current and



MarkHerringnz
Dad of 5, Digital Learning Consultant with Using Technology Better, NZer, Runner, "Want to grab a coffee?"



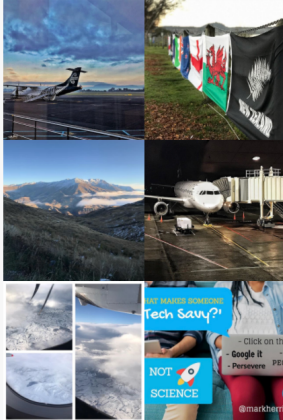
OCTOBER 13, 2016 /

3 Ways to get the most out of your Sphero robots in the classroom!

Last week I was helping the Macgear team demonstrate the **Sphero SPRK** (Schools, Parent, Robots and Kids) robots to educators at the NZ Ulearn Conference in Rotorua. Here's a short vid I made that shows some of the snippets of what we were up to for the 2 days.

Follow MarkHerringnz

Instagram



Mark has shown a consistent effort over time to develop his own innovative practices and share them with others through his personal blog and social media platforms such as Twitter and more recently, Snapchat.

Educational Graphics and Posters

PEDAGOGY LITMUS TEST

Personalisation

Ubiquity

Heutagogy

Student Agency

Creative Pedagogy

Where would my class sit?

Student information of choice collaborative range of learning tailored for their

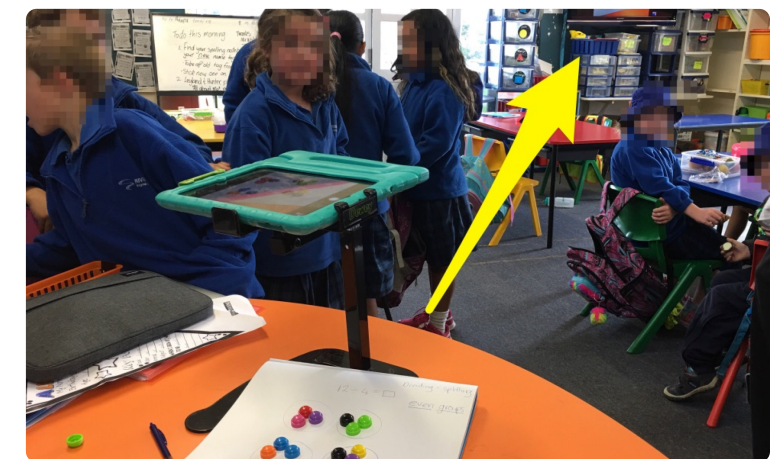
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Mark often shares posters and graphics that stimulate and share eLearning ideas and approaches.



The modern teacher also faces the challenge of fostering learning that balances the needs of the learner in an educational system of accountability and rigour. Mark often helps teachers design systems of planning, delivery and assessment that is efficient, effective and makes the most of the digital tools

Mark is very passionate about supporting teachers to develop teaching practices that both engage and enable student learning. He believes that for the modern learner, this is best done through personalisation and collaborative practice. Mark has both the experience and understanding of what this style of learning looks like and seeks to assist teachers make this a reality in their classrooms.



Schools are developing innovative ways to combine the tools they have in the class. Mark often finds and shares these online through social media.

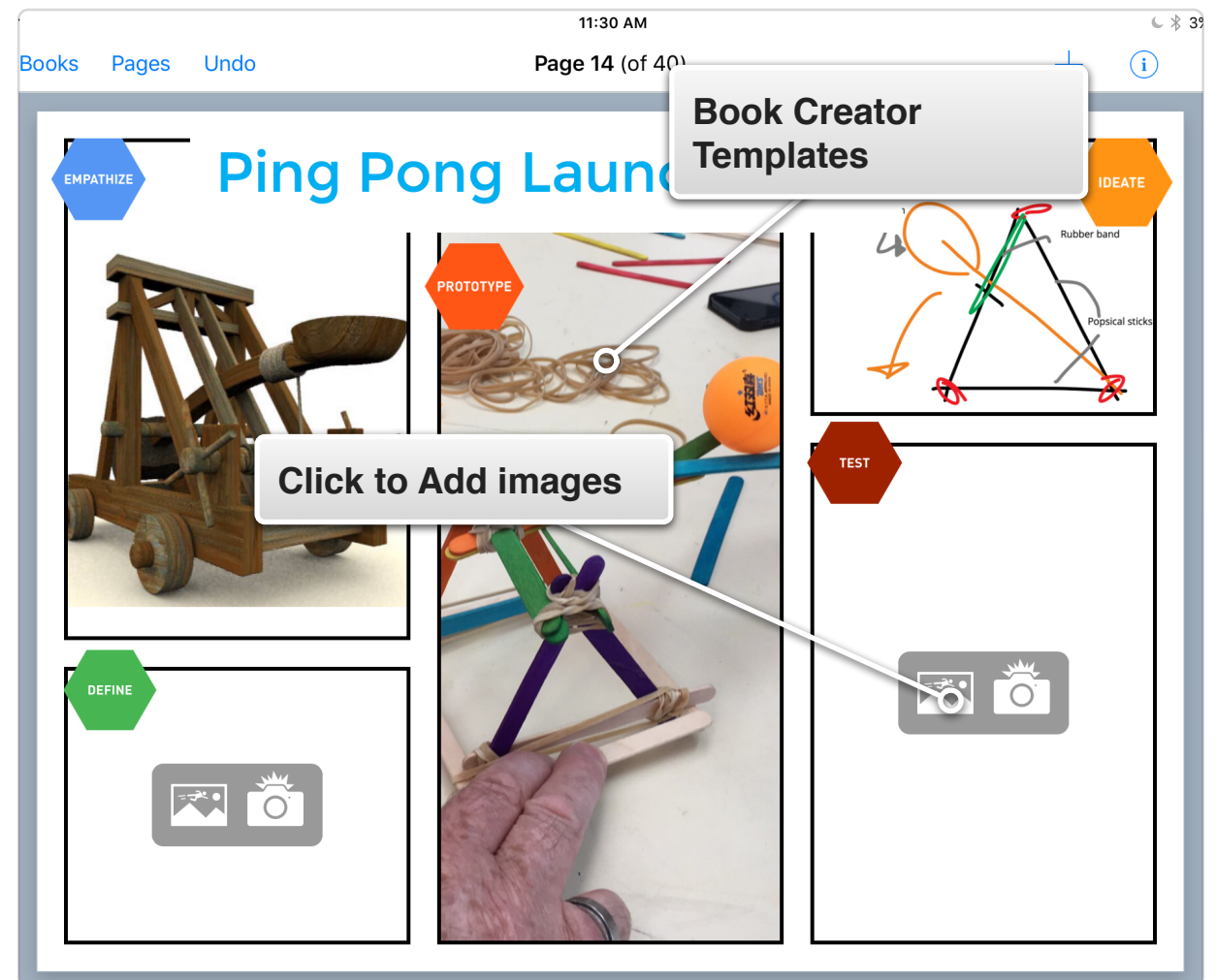
Mark finds workshops with both teachers and students together to be a great way to both model effective digital learning skills of teachers and also develop the confidence and competence for students.

Through in class sessions he is able to focus on a specific learning goal, such as film making or book writing, and show how a blend of collaborative learning, student agency and digital tools can help both engage a student and deepen the learning at the same time.

An example of this is his innovative use of the Book Creator app on iPads. Mark is a Book Creator Ambassador and uses the app to demonstrate how teachers can create templates that scaffold students through the learning objectives and a process of 'learn, create, and share.'

He also assists teachers to design robust 'learning flows' that helps them create content and activities and enable a formative feedback process with the technology they have.

A Book Creator Template eBook



Mark Herring

Digital Trainer
Invercargill, New Zealand

Why Book Creator is my Favourite
Classroom iPad App

Book Creator Comic Tips



**BOOK CREATOR
AMBASSADOR**

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COMPELLING EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS





TEACHING RESOURCES

Mark has written and published an eBook on iTunes for teachers and students to develop their iPad for learning fundamental skills. This interactive book is designed to be used either independently as a student or as a teaching tool by the teacher and covers;

- parts of an iPad,
- the functions and settings
- it's accessibility features,
- effective learning processes for feedback and assessment,
- interactive and creative uses of apps,
- how to share and work collaboratively with iPads.



[View in iBooks](#)

\$1.99

Available on iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, and Mac.

Category: Education

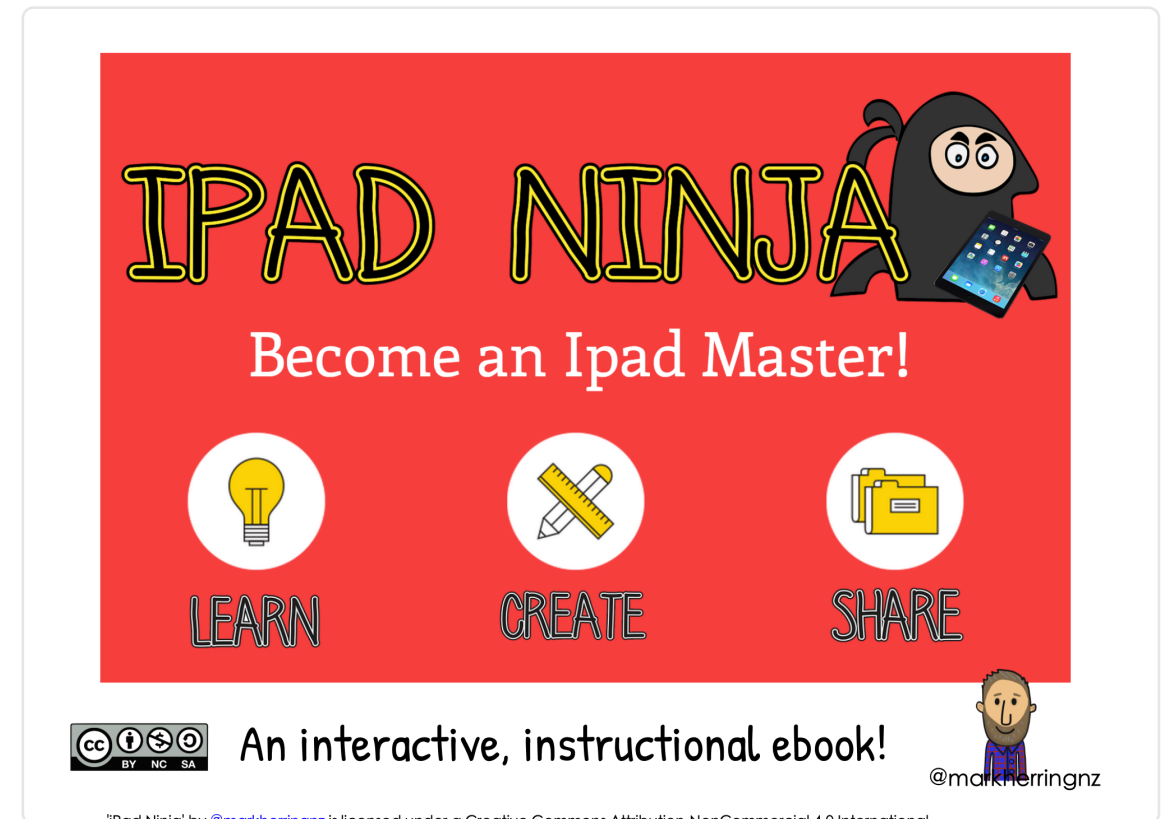
Published: **Dec 15, 2016**

Publisher: **Mark Herring**

Seller: mark herring

Print Length: 26 Pages

Language: English



Teachers have found this book to be a great way to introduce iPads into their classrooms, and also a guide to help parents understand how they can assist their children continue learning at home.

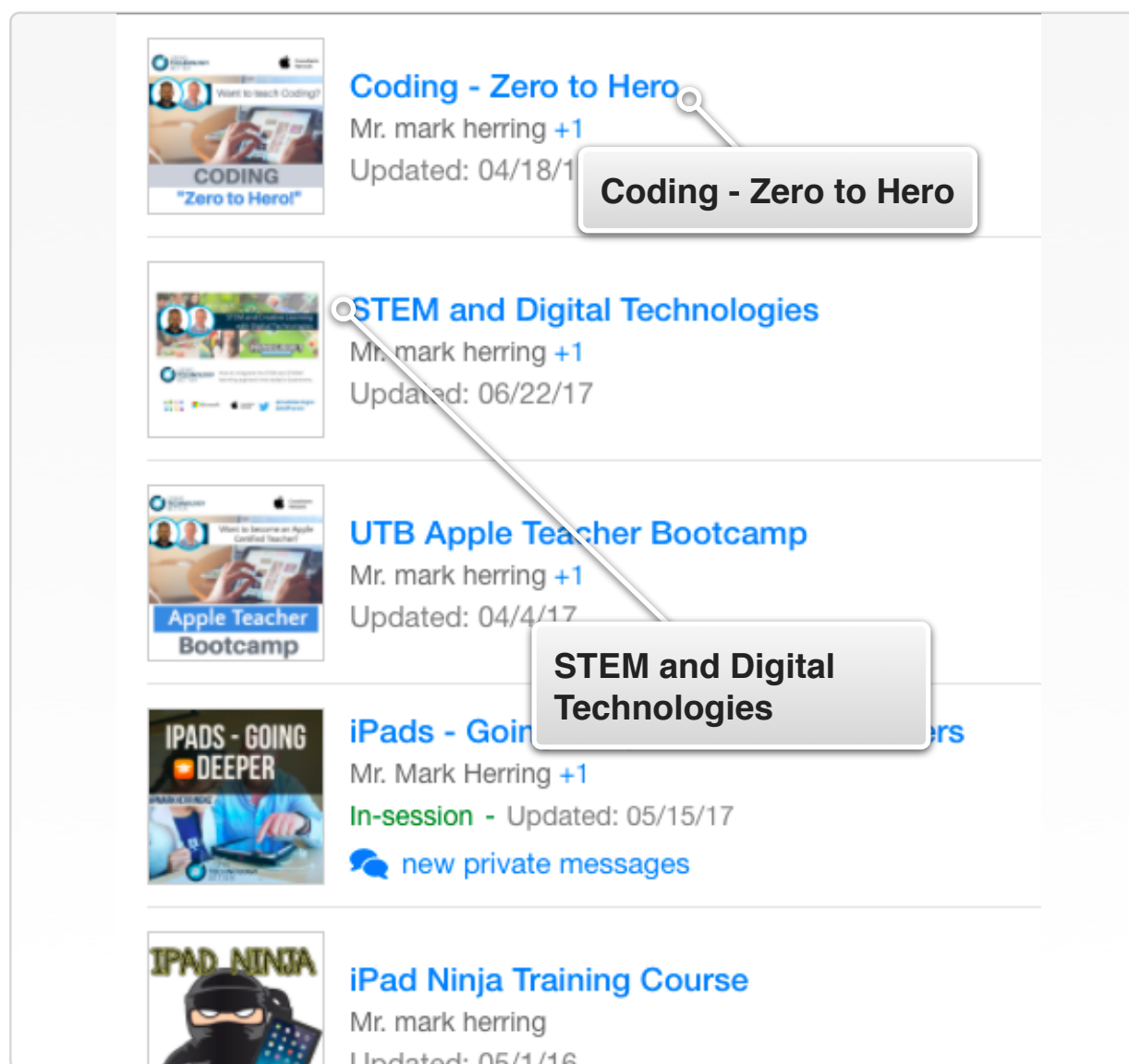
This eBook also forms the basis of the structure and content for Mark's 'iPad Ninja' workshops with teachers in classrooms. These have successfully taken place in more than 14 schools with 32 teachers and more than 800 students.

[Click here to view in the iTunes Store](#)

Mark has a series of iTunes U courses that educators can join remotely or as part of the workshops and regional events he offers.

Through these courses you can have access to a wide range of resources, activities and have discussions about the content covered in the course.

iTunes U Courses - Online and Face to face



A screenshot of a list of iTunes U courses by Mark Herring. The list includes five courses: 'Coding - Zero to Hero', 'STEM and Digital Technologies', 'UTB Apple Teacher Bootcamp', 'iPads - Going Deeper', and 'iPad Ninja Training Course'. Each course entry shows a thumbnail, the course title, the creator's name, and the update date. Two callout boxes highlight specific courses: 'Coding - Zero to Hero' and 'STEM and Digital Technologies'.

Course Title	Creator	Updated
Coding - Zero to Hero	Mr. mark herring +1	Updated: 04/18/17
STEM and Digital Technologies	Mr. mark herring +1	Updated: 06/22/17
UTB Apple Teacher Bootcamp	Mr. mark herring +1	Updated: 04/4/17
iPads - Going Deeper	Mr. Mark Herring +1	In-session - Updated: 05/15/17
iPad Ninja Training Course	Mr. mark herring	Updated: 05/1/16

STEM and iPads - Workshops



Mark regularly facilitates iPad and STEM workshops with teachers and educators as both in-school staff development days and regional events across schools.

During this day long workshop, teachers and principals unpack the pedagogy of STEM and how the iPad and complimentary tools can facilitate learning under the STEM learning approach. It's a very popular 'hands on' experiential day with a wide range of tools and apps to explore and discover.

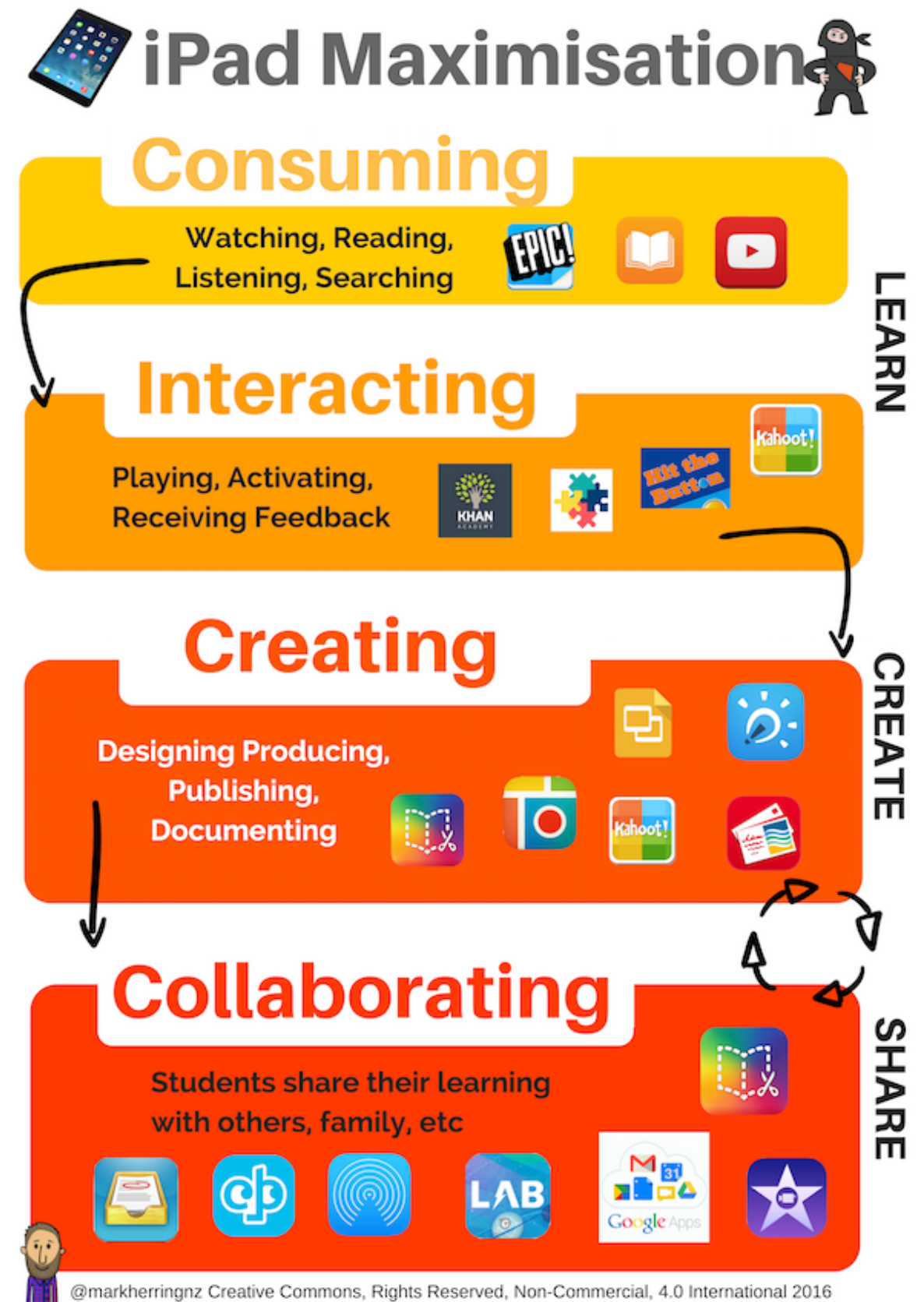
Mark has developed a range of informative posters and graphics to help guide teachers towards best practice with Apple's tools for learning.

This poster, to the right, describes his 'Levels of iPad Maximisation' and challenges educators to provide their students with opportunities to create and collaborate together.

"My Digital Citizenship Pack"



This 'toolkit' is a resource that Mark uses to teach students and teachers about digital safety. It includes an interactive eBook that encourages students to share what they've learnt and to reflect on their next steps towards becoming better digital citizens.

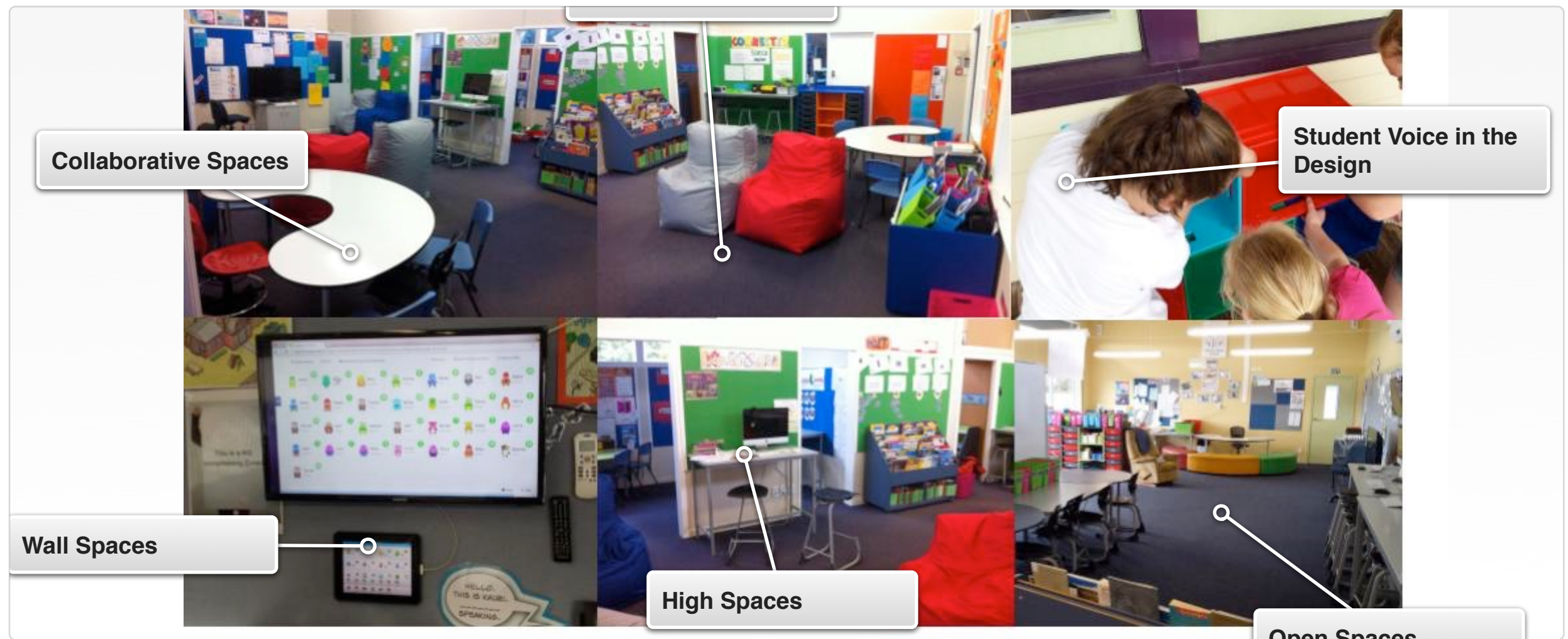




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FLEXIBLE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Examples of Flexible Learning Spaces



The modern student has a much wider range of tools and resources available to assist them with their learning. One of the most important tools for a learner is their environment. Mark has a proven record as a practising teacher and as a leader of innovating and designing learning spaces and areas that are both personalised for each learner and allow for collaboration to occur.

This can be achieved through creating flexible zones or spaces that cater for every possible learning need. Whether that's a quiet space for concentrated learning, or open collaborative learning spaces. Mark helps schools and teachers reflect on both the learning needs of their students and how to get the most out of how the technology they have can help these spaces become more effective.