

Title of Session: Blogstreams Salon
Moderator: Aaron Campbell
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Room: Blogstreams Salon Group

BJB2 waves hi to everyone

KimD: hi

AaronPC: Hi BJ!

DianaO: hi

BJB2: looks like you're in charge today, Aaron

KimD: so Aaron how do you use blogs with your students

AaronPC: Well...I try and get them to write about what they are interested in...

AaronPC: and use social networking tools to meet other people.

AaronPC: I try to coordinate some of the open ended assignments with what is being taught in class (according to the curriculum).

DianaO: I'm sorry Aaron, did you say how old your students are?

AaronPC: This semester, though, we're not using them for various reasons.

KimD: good question

KimD: Are they in high school?

AaronPC: I teach university students

KimD: oh that makes more sense

DianaO: oh that makes sense

KimD: I just can't see my 2nd graders doing that

DianaO: yeah me neither haha

AaronPC: Yes...it must be a different ball game with youngsters.

BJB2: Kim, did you know you can use the Tapped In student campus with your 2nd graders?

DianaO: plus you have so many safety issues to worry about

BJB2: they can post to the discussion board as a 'training' blog

DianaO: that's an interesting idea

BJB2: . o O (and the safety issues are taken care of)

DianaO: that's true

AaronPC: Yes...the use of software with some privacy features is important.

KimD: what's the tapped in student campus? I'm new to this whole idea

BJB2: let me get you a url that tells a story of how a 2nd grade teacher used the student campus with her students

KimD: oh that would be wonderful

KimD: thanks BJ

BJB2: <http://tappedin.org/tappedin/web/perspectives/2005/bm.jsp>

BJB2: hold down the ctrl key on your keyboard as you click

DianaO: that's good to know

AaronPC: Nice link!

BJB2: Brooke couldn't get the chat for TI to work at her school. She just used the web window which allowed access to the students

BJB2: she looped with her class and has continued to use the Student Campus for student learning and sharing

KimD: wow that's a wonderful article, I am going to explore the Tapped In student campus myself

KimD: thanks so much

BJB2: Aaron, my apologies for being late. Did you do introductions?

AaronPC: Kim and Diana...if you are exploring the use of blogs with elementary students, you might want to also look at what Anne Davis has been doing in GA.

AaronPC: <http://anne.teachesme.com/>

BJB2: I can explain about the student campus if you like

AaronPC: Yes...we introduced ourselves. thanks BJ

DianaO: ok, thanks

BJB2: thanks, Aaron

DianaO: I'll check that out too

KimD: oh that would be great, what's it like?

BJB2: The student campus is a safe and secure place for students...

BJB2: the teacher creates the group room and assigns the usernames to the students

AaronPC: Kim is in California finishing her teaching certification for elementary level...

BJB2: when they log in they 'land' in the group room

BJB2: students are not able to enter any of the other buildings in Tapped In

AaronPC: And Diana is a masters student in elementary ed in CT

KimD: is it like this group chat or is it more ...um...pretty?

KimD: entertaining for the kids

BJB2: if they engage in real time chat, their transcripts are emailed to the teacher

BJB2: the discussion board is primarily just text, although you can add folders to help organize the topics

KimD: oh ok

BJB2: sometimes it's better to not have 'pretty' distractions when the goal is literacy

KimD: true true, it'll just be difficult to get them interested

BJB2: Brooke uses her 'pretties' to decorate the group room...the kids LOVE photos of themselves or the class at work

BJB2: since it's a password protected site, the photos are not accessible to anyone other than members of the group

AaronPC: Yes...I'd imagine that activities that tap into their natural curiosities would be most appropriate.

KimD: oh cool

AaronPC: Brooke seemed to engage them pretty well.

BJB2: yes, and the kids really bought into the whole community concept!

KimD: I guess I'll do better if I explore it on my own

DianaO: what age group does Brooke work with?

KimD: 2nd grade

EmilyW: right now she works with 3rd grade

DianaO: ok

EmilyW: (but hasn't used TI with them yet)

KimD: oh that's right but she started it in second grade

BJB2: right, Em. Brooke looped with the kids

EmilyW: Tapped In

BJB2: Emily met Brooke f2f!

BJB2: . o O (I almost forgot that, Em)

AaronPC: Isn't it weird to meet people f2f after having known them virtually?

EmilyW: she really enjoyed decorating her virtual classroom

EmilyW: it is

BJB2: going to the student campus isn't going to give you much information

EmilyW: I have done that before

BJB2: it's both weird and kind of familiar, Aaron. Like we've known each other for a long time

DianaO: Emily and BJ, where are you both located?

EmilyW: I am in TX

BJB2: I'm in Pennsylvania

BJB2: Tapped In has an international membership of over 18,000

DianaO: wow, it's so weird to think how we're all so spread out!

BJB2: which gives you opportunities to have your kids work with classes from other countries

KimD: From Japan to California, crazy

KimD: true

AaronPC: Is it really 18,000! I had no idea.

BJB2: the biggest problem is the time difference, but asynch solves that

DianaO: it's true, it sounds like a great opportunity for them and a nice way to bring technology into the classroom

BJB2 nods to Aaron

AaronPC: Yes, and we're missing Bee today, who is from Brazil.

DianaO: wow

BJB2: there has been a lot of discussion on the various listservs about blogs, Aaron

DianaO: I think it's great how you all have gotten to know one another so well too! This is a great resource to have...I'm glad it was introduced to me

AaronPC: What sort of discussions?

BJB2: and some discussion about text chat vs voice/podcasts

BJB2: the digital divide was discussing how blogs have been used negatively

BJB2 . o O (rival gangs in France planning strategy for example)

BJB2: I know the positive uses of blogs far outweigh the abuse...

AaronPC: interesting....

BJB2: but I also think that Cybersafety and Cyberethics should be taught if blogs or any online communication is used

AaronPC: I find it fascinating how this technology can be used to mobilize people and communicate quickly.

AaronPC: I agree, BJ.

AaronPC: Ethics and safety are issues that I always address with my students during the first day of setting up a blog.

BJB2: the kids sure pick up on the possibilities much more quickly than we adults. That's another reason why we need to be even more vigilant that we provide a good ethics foundation

AaronPC: But that extends to any form of online communication, be it email or discussion boards, text chat, etc.

BJB2: absolutely!

BJB2: Diana and Kim, have you had courses in cyberethics?

BJB2: and/or cybersafety?

AaronPC: Yeah, I was actually wondering whether any kind of proficiency with technology was part of teacher certification in the USA?

DianaO: i'm taking an intro to computers in the classroom course now and we've discussed it somewhat in there

BJB2: there is a monthly discussion on the topic here in Tapped In...

KimD: No not really, just basic computer things, I made a website once with specific direction and that's it

DianaO: we've touched on both topics, but haven't gone into much depth on either

BJB2: there are a couple archived transcripts at www.tappedin.org/transcripts

DianaO: thanks

BJB2: we had a few discussions with Nancy Willard, the guru of online safety, but she's soooo busy that it's hard for her to log in regularly

BJB2 . o O (just like the rest of us!)

AaronPC nods

BJB2: do you know how to view the Tapped In calendar, Diana and Kim?

BJB2 . o O (click on the Tapped In tab at the top of your screen and then click on the subtab CALENDAR.)

BJB2: set the calendar to your time zone

BJB2: all the events on the calendar are open to everyone.

DianaO: yes, I've been able to do that much, but that's been about the extent of it...i need to sit down and play around on the TI site so I get a better feel for everything that's offered

KimD: yep

DianaO: thanks

BJB2: Aaron, why do you feel blogs have been adopted so eagerly by the kids?

AaronPC: Freedom!

AaronPC: The blog is theirs and they can say what they want.

BJB2: so it's also ownership?

AaronPC: It gives them a space to call their own, construct an identity, and speak their mind.

AaronPC: Sometimes schools, parents, churches, etc, don't give them the same degree of freedom.

DianaO: that's an interesting point

BJB2 . o O (or LISTEN to what they have to say)

AaronPC: I suppose text chat and these online video games serve the same kind of purpose.

AaronPC: Interestingly, give a student a blog as part of a class, and the participation isn't always so eager.

BJB2 ponders on that

BJB2: why do you think that is, Aaron?

AaronPC: Something to do with the association with the institution, which represents authority and control.

BJB2: the fact that they HAVE to do it?

AaronPC: That's one way of looking at it.

BJB2 nods.

BJB2: from the viewpoint of literacy, do you see writing improve?

AaronPC: It's hard to say.....

AaronPC: I think the comfort level with the language improves.

BJB2: you teach EFL?

AaronPC: The fear of communicating with foreign people diminishes.

AaronPC: There is an increase in empowerment.

AaronPC: Yes, EFL at the university level.

BJB2: oh, good point about communicating with foreigners. I know that is a big issue in Japan, especially with females

AaronPC: I think there CAN BE an increase in literacy, if the students use the tool enough.

BJB2: Do you know Shun Ito?

AaronPC: No, who is he?

BJB2: he was a very active TI member....I'm looking to see if he's still a member.

BJB2: oh, he is! Cool.

AaronPC: Actually, I find Japanese females to be more communicative than their male counterparts, at least in my classes.

BJB2: go to search in the top right of your screen and enter Shun Ito

BJB2: Shun taught at a female school and he had a devil of a time getting his students to open up

BJB2: he might be an interesting contact for you

DianaO: well it was nice talking to all of you, thanks for the tips, I hope to have a chance to speak with each of you again soon

AaronPC: Cheers Diana!

AaronPC: come again sometime.

BJB2 waves bye to Diana

DianaO: I will

AaronPC: Yeah, I can totally understand the challenge of getting Japanese students to open up and communicate in a classroom setting.

AaronPC: cool...see you Diana.

DianaO left the room (signed off).

BJB2: Shun tried to bring his students to Tapped In to talk with the webheads.

AaronPC: You have to be really relaxed and kind and make them feel really comfortable.

AaronPC: You, yourself, have to be very comfortable with silence too.

AaronPC: You get a lot of silence.

BJB2: oh, maybe that was the problem...I was pushy and mean

BJB2 winks

AaronPC: lol

BJB2: just as in any classroom you have to allow 'think' time

AaronPC: What happened when Shun brought his students to TI? Did they 'talk'?

BJB2: yes, a few did, but it was hard

BJB2: real time chat is too fast for language learners, I think

AaronPC: I can imagine. Most of my students are slow at typing in English.

BJB2 . o O (unless they are advanced)

BJB2: learning to talk in text chat is also a skill to be developed

AaronPC nods

AaronPC: Yes. You should see them text-message on their cell phones, though.

AaronPC: Super fast.

BJB2: rather than type a long paragraph, you need to talk in segments/thoughts

BJB2: is that how they talk on the text messages?

BJB2 . o O (I've never tried it)

KimD: I must go now but thanks for the info!

BJB2 waves bye to Kim

AaronPC: Bye Kim!

BJB2: thanks for joining us today

AaronPC: thanks for stopping by.

KimD left the room (signed off).

BJB2: I am trying to think of the term for talking in blurbs...slipped my mind

AaronPC: drunk?

AaronPC: just kidding.

BJB2 laughs. Close, but not quite what I had in mind

AaronPC: Is there a term for that?

BJB2: like snapshots

AaronPC: segmented speech

BJB2 . o O (I'll be mad when I finally think of it..I'll email you)

AaronPC: it's definitely something that takes some getting used to

BJB2 agrees

AaronPC: please do....I'd love to know the term.

BJB2: do you have a class this morning?

AaronPC: Well....I'm going to go ahead and cut out a few min early.

AaronPC: Yes....first period class.

AaronPC: Have to ride my bike in the cold to get there.

BJB2 nods. Thanks for leading the discussion, Aaron. Bundle up warmly

AaronPC: OK.....see you next week!

AaronPC: Bye Emily....

BJB2 waves. I don't think you're scheduled for next week, Aaron

BJB2: because of the WiA Convergence

AaronPC: Oh, ok. Thanks for the reminder.

BJB2 waves

AaronPC: Two weeks then.

BJB2: take care

AaronPC: adios

BJB2: SOUND BITE is what I was trying to think of!