

Title of Session: EuroLang - This is Our Time Project Classroom Twinning

Moderator: Phil Benz and Bee Dieu

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Room: After School Online Room

PhilB: Welcome to the Euro Language Teachers Forum...

PhilB: Bee will be our guest speaker tonight...

BeeD bows to the audience

PhilB: Bee is presenting a great collaborative communication project.

PhilB: But before she gets into the heart of her presentation, let's all introduce ourselves.

PhilB: ***** Please type a brief introduction now *****

BeeD: Barbara Dieu is an EFL teacher at the Lycee Pasteur, Sao Paulo, Brazil, representing This is Our Time project for Portuguese and French speaking countries and in charge of the Classroom Twinning Activity.

PhilB: teaches English and does teacher training in EdTech integration in southern France.

DavidEL: Thank you. I was sorry missed the Blog discussion last week.

PhilB: David, the archive is available here in this room.

DavidEL: Thanks Phil.

LaureGst1: I am Laure Hauwaert, I teach EFL and FSL in Coll?ge Puget, Toulon (southern France)

MichellGst2: I'm an Australian who lived in France for 11 years. I teach French to students aged 11-18 and have a Partial Immersion programme in my school.

PhilB: We have a few late arrivals still on their way.

JeffC is Education Technology Specialist for the College of Education at Pacific University. Used to teach English, ESL and Drama at Richmond High in California... which is what eventually got him into tech.

DavidEL: I teach Computer Science <http://ILearnITOnline.com>

BonnieG: Bonnie G is a 4th grade teacher in San Diego, California

DavidEL: This is a secondary school course. I am also a Ph.D. student in British Columbia. I am studying distributed learning.

SharonP: SharonP is a student in the Masters of Education in Distance Learning at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas.

PhilB: Well, David, we're about as "distributed" a group as you might find.

DavidEL: yes. very exciting.

DavidEL: I am curious about synchronous discussions and their place in learning.

PhilB: ***** So, let's stop and listen to Bee for a few moments. Go ahead with any intros we may have missed. *****

BrigitteC joined the room.

BeeD hugs Brigitte

JoeGst5: Hi **BeeD** my friend

BrigitteC: HI , Bee nice to meet you again !

PhilB: Brigitte, we were just doing introductions

PhilB settles down to listen to Bee

BrigitteC: Hi Phil !

BeeD waits for Brigitte to introduce herself

ArlynF joined the room.

BrigitteC: Brigitte tech French & English in a French vocational school

BeeD: waves hi to Arlyn

PhilB: Arlyn, we were just doing introductions. Bee, I suggest you go ahead and dig into your topic.

ArlynF: Waves to the room and takes a seat

BeeD: ok...

BeeD: This is Our Time is a Unesco flagship project for secondary schools which offers many different interdisciplinary activities connected to time and global issues.

BeeD: Classroom Twinning is one of them.

BeeD: This year, Unesco ASP net (Associated School Project) is celebrating their 50th anniversary so the activities will revolve around it. However, you do not have to be a Unesco associated school to participate. All schools and educational associations are more than welcome. If you want to enroll the address is: <http://www.timeproject.org> (click on the shortcut menu on your right and go to application)

BeeD: The theme this year is Intercultural Dialogue and International Friendships. Our first round was from March to June and the lesson plan was on Stereotypes.

DimitriGst1: I teach in a private school in Athens. The pupils are 12-18 and eager to participate in the project. I'm glad to be with you tonight although I have some problems typing and reading at the same time

BeeD: I will present a stretch...and then pause a bit for you to read and comment...

BeeD: Now, this second semester, from end of September to end of November we move on to Celebrations. http://members.tripod.com/the_english_dept/images/celebrating.jpg

BrigitteC: We all have Dimitri :-) Show him how to detach it helps

JoeGst5: Is the topic Celebrations?

DimitriGst1: OK

BeeD nods

BonnieG: I'm new to Tapped In and to the terms you are using. Can you please explain what you are referring to?

BeeD pauses

JoeGst5: Bonnie the terms refer to the Classroom Twinning project that **BeeD** introduced with her opening remarks.

BonnieG: What is "Twinning"?

JoeGst5: The project is tied to a larger project entitled The Time Project.

BeeD: Merci Joe

BeeD: Once you have enrolled, you should send me an e-mail bwjdieu@terra.com.br, giving me information about the number of students you have, ages, whether you want them to participate in English or in French (lower or upper), the name of the teacher responsible for the class and the e-mail(s) where all the messages should be directed to. I will then send you the password which will allow you to participate in the closed forum and further instructions.

JoeGst5: Rien my friend

ArlynF: bids a quick "ciao" to go to a family function, and slips out

LaurenceB joined the room.

PhilB: Bonsoir, Laurence. Bee is just presenting her twinning project

BeeD hugs Laurence while people read

ArlynF left the room.

BeeD: I also recommend you join the Classroom Twinning Community, a virtual space for teachers who are involved in the activity.

BeeD: There we can post files, exchange comments and feedback with other teachers on how you are conducting the activity.

BeeD: http://www.eun.org/eun.org2/eun/community/entry_community.cfm?area%7

BeeD: and I will be posting the instructions on Time page and in the EUN community

BeeD: Any questions on that?

JoeGst5: Bee do you know how to reacquire a lost password to the EUN community...I cannot locate mine

BeeD: Just ask them for it Joe...your name is still in there

LaurenceB: Hi sorry for being late

DimitriGst1: Hi Laurence

PhilB: Bee, what advantages do you see for participating in this project?

BonnieG: And how can an elementary public school teacher benefit from this?

BeeD: I think students get in contact with many different countries...teachers are exposed to a wide net of correspondents they may keep contact with afterwards

BonnieG: Like a pen pals that support each other?

JoeGst5: I am an elementary school principal and my students have participated for years.

BeeD: and they are given structured activities which they may adapt in their classrooms...be inventive and create

LaureGst1: can you be more specific about the content and how things go?

BeeD: OK...here we go

BeeD: There is also a timeline to be followed. I have given the dates, but this is very flexible...it will all depend on how you organize yourselves inside your classes...however, we try to stick to it as much as we can for students not to get disappointed...because sometimes they work on their introductions and statements and when it takes a long time for others to respond they get frustrated.

BeeD: so the first step from tomorrow to around October 10th is introducing your school and classes...

BeeD: You can see an example at:

BeeD:

http://www.timeproject.org/activities/twinning2003/forum1/forum.asp?forum_id=3&forum_title=International+Friendships+and+Intercultural+learning

BonnieG: I am very much interested in international issues and this sounds great. Does this cover all subject matters or just specific ones?

DavidEL: I can see benefits for Social Studies, Modern Languages, among other subjects. Bee, do the students generally work together at their home school then submit their work/projects or do they work with others across the world participating in collaborative activities?

BeeD: There are many activities in the project Bonnie...Classroom Twinning deals with exchange among classes

BeeD: We work with them in class, you can assign certain things for homework and then they share what they have done with the others

PhilB: ***** Please hold further questions until Bee gets some answers off. *****

BonnieG: I work in a neighborhood where there are fewer than 1 home computer for every 5 students. Can this still be a tool for us to use?

JoeGst5: If I can be of any help answering questions Bee just let me know...this after all is your show. Big smiles.

BeeD: If you click on the example above

BeeD: I have opened a folder for my country and school and have posted all the letters by students prepared in groups in class and sent me through email to correct and post. I sped it up because they are now away on a two-week spring holiday so I needed it online before they left. This is something you can do when you know your calendar and will not be able to be there in the right period. Asynchronous communication is a blessing here.

BeeD: You are more than welcome to throw in your five cents Joe...after all we have been partners for a long time :-)

JoeGst5: hee hee

PhilB: ***** More questions? *****

JoeGst5: Bonnie I often sign out our school lab and have students working in the lab to complete various parts of the project

ConstantiT joined the room.

ConstantiT: Hi everyone

ConstantiT waves smiles

DimitriGst1: Hi Constanti

BrigitteC: Hi!

BeeD waves back

BeeD: The second module will last from October 12th to November 8th

JoeGst5: **BeeD** I noticed that the introductions you have on line are descriptive...about the student in general terms...is this the first step of introductions prior to the students introducing their views on the specific topic for discussion?

BonnieG: That makes sense

PhilB: Bonsoir, Constanti, Bee was just presenting her classroom twinning project at http://www.eun.org/eun.org2/eun/community/entry_community.cfm?area%7

BeeD: The different groups brainstorm on the word :

CELEBRATING/CELEBRATIONS and write a short paragraph DEFINING what this means to them (see help for teachers).

ConstantiT Buenos Dias Mi Amigos

BonnieG: What does this information that the students provide give to us?

BeeD: http://members.tripod.com/the_english_dept/twinning03/help03.htm

JoeGst5: Students are clarifying their views on celebrations... once on line they will view the views from students around the world comparing theirs to others.

BeeD thanks Joe for the explanation

BonnieG: This sounds interesting

JoeGst5: They will have opportunities to question one another on similarities and differences...

ConstantiT information that students provide create multicultural understanding then.

JoeGst5: that dialogue is the real learning that this project has to offer

BeeD: As they read what the others have written they will fill in this grid

BeeD: http://members.tripod.com/the_english_dept/twinning03/officialcel.html

ConstantiT Multicultural interfacing brings the world's student population closer to understanding the new technology based learning curriculums while they learn about cultures.

BeeD: and then

BeeD: http://members.tripod.com/the_english_dept/twinning03/familycel.html

JoeGst5: excellent on line examples. I highly recommend that fellow readers click onto Bee's web address examples to see what it is she is explaining. Great Job Bee!

BrigitteC: Excellent !

BeeD: Once they have discussed the celebration in groups in class, they write a summary and post their paragraphs and suggestions on the forum in the Time folder Celebrations in your Country and Family

ConstantiT Bee your format for doing the family is excellent

BeeD: Then the idea is that they should read what the others have posted and fill in the grids accordingly...this they can do in groups or individually at home if they have a computer

BeeD: and they post answers or questions they may have to the other groups in the folder Questions we have for Other Countries

DavidEL: It would be interesting to have classrooms celebrate the different cultural activities they are learning about from others around the world.

BeeD smiles

BeeD: This is our objective David!

LaurenceB: yes, great idea David

JoeGst5: Great Idea David...perhaps these celebrations could take place via a video conference!

BeeD: Students will then give suggestions and post them in the folder How we see it.

LaurenceB: **BeeD**, could the students post photos?

JoeGst5: In that way students could see other countries attempting celebrations of another!

DavidEL: The time difference would be difficult for synchronous work.

BeeD: You cannot include pictures in the Time forum itself, so If there are you would like to send, post the written production again with the photographs to headquarters or to me, who will display them online on another page.

ConstantiT Students could do photo essays we assign them on celebrations occurring locally and then participate on line.

JoeGst5: Another Time Project is the Video Conferencing where we schedule specific VC to take place during times that would work for both parties.

BeeD: Like I did here

BeeD: http://members.tripod.com/the_english_dept/europe/class.htm

JeffC: While on this subject... let me recommend a couple sites. The first is for a sim game called "Real Lives" where students can recreate a life from age 0 to death around the world: <http://www.educationalsimulations.com/>

JoeGst5: As Bee said, pictures get posted on the Time Project HQ website throughout the project and after the fact.

ConstantiT yes Bee

JeffC: The next is a free site, where students around the world engage in collaborative projects, etc.... called Takingitglobal: <http://www.takingitglobal.org>

BeeD: Thanks Jeff

BeeD: What I usually do in class is to have a map of the world...and the students pin little flags on the countries they are corresponding with

BeeD: and print the material that is coming from these countries

BeeD: so that on Time Day (20th November) we have it all there

BeeD: Joe, would you like to say something about video conferencing?

JoeGst5: I do the same. We mark a master map outlining countries and regions we correspond with both through classroom twinning and video conferencing.

BeeD: As I have a big number of students this year...each group is composed of about 5 students and will be responsible for a number of countries

BonnieG: I just signed up to join. I have a question...Do we pick the countries that we correspond with?

BeeD: As I have just explained...it all depends on the number of students you have...their ages...the language you are signing for

BeeD: Do not forget to send me an email specifying it Bonnie...so that I can arrange it here

BeeD: Any questions?

JoeGst5: Will students have separate logins and passwords this year?

MichellGst2: Can students correspond in French, or just English?

LaurenceB: do you send newsletters to the teachers or stuff, **BeeD**?

BeeD: They will Joe

BeeD to Michelle: In the first semester they corresponded only in English but this term we are hoping to open some exchange in French as well...

MichellGst2: Thanks BeeD

ConstantiT: I would like my students to participate in this project. Most are bilingual Spanish speakers and I speak Greek, German, Spanish, and English. Where is the site for sign Up?

BeeD to Laurence: I post all announcements and news in the EUN Twinning Community

BeeD: http://www.timeproject.org/information/call_participation.htm

LaurenceB: ok, BeeD

BeeD: We have many students who are Spanish as well (Mexico, Peru, Colombia...)

PhilB: I've got a question Bee: you had suggested at one point you might use Viva for part of your class correspondence. You've now decided to continue using these EUN forums instead?

BeeD: If there is enough demand, I could open it in Spanish as well

BonnieG: BeeD, can you say where you are from again?

LaureGst1: I did it this morning, but

http://www.timeproject.org/information/call_participation.htm seemed to be only "applying for more information"

DavidEL: This looks very good. I'll certainly pass on the information to my colleagues. Some of our online students are studying French and Spanish as a second language. Most of their online work tends to be electronic worksheet driven. This is an exciting opportunity to engage with others in more authentic activities.

BeeD: I am still thinking about it Phil, I think we could create something there...but next

year...headquarters have not given me an answer yet

ConstantiT: Thank You Bee for the site info.

JoeGst5: Bee hasn't Time HQ spent a great deal of time on creating their email forums safe and secure..that is as likely a reason why they want to stick with it. Just guessing

BeeD: You are welcome Constanti...and I am pleased you liked it David

BeeD to Bonnie: Sao Paulo, Brazil

BonnieG: Thank you

BonnieG: How much time, on average, does a class spend per week working on this project?

BeeD to Joe: I wanted students to create a new building for Time Project at Viva

PhilB: Whatever works, then! Since we're coming to the close of our time, let me just remind everyone that a transcript of tonight's discussion will be available right here in this room in a couple of days and that you can also find transcripts of all recent past discussions here right now. Next Sunday at the same time I'll be presenting the new interface of the Viva project, and some of the topic ideas that are already floating around. New buildings for specific purposes are very much on the agenda. <g>

BeeD: Mine spent 50 minutes creating their introductions

JoeGst5: Oh much like the amazing site your students created in Viva...it was great

JoeGst5: My students spent about 60 minutes a week...they are 12 and 13 years of age

BeeD: I would love to have a time building created by different countries around the world!

JoeGst5: Now that has incredible possibilities

ConstantiT: Agreed.

LaureGst1: Bee, all that sounds great!!! so now that I've answered the "call for participation", I just need to e-mail you, right?

LaurenceB: BeeD, I think I'll join the twinning classroom, how many students compose a group?

BeeD: So..I am looking forward to having my inbox full tonight :-)

JoeGst5: Folks when I say 60 minutes a week, my students are involved in 3 different time project activities....classroom twinning is one of them

BeeD: It all depends on how many stds you have in your class Laurence...I have about 25.so I created 5 groups of 5

BeeD: and each one will be responsible for one region of the globe

BeeD: so in the end they will have a complete picture

BeeD: I hope :-)

ConstantiT: What are the overall expectations for your students Bee

JoeGst5: Do you foresee enough material for ongoing discussions that will take place during the 20th?

BeeD: I will be posting this on Time site

BeeD: http://members.tripod.com/the_english_dept/twinning03/twin03.htm

LaurenceB: one region of the globe? I must have missed that part...???

LaurenceB: for oral reports to the class?

CarlosC joined the room.

BeeD: It all depends how many schools will sign in and participate...for the time being...40 schools have signed in...the smallest group is in Africa with 8 students and the largest is in India...600 students!

PhilB: Bonsoir, Carlos, we are close to wrapping up tonight's discussion.

BonnieG: Are there legal issues about children privacy?

LaurenceB: Right...so some students are responsible for a part of the globe and present it to the rest of the class...

BeeD: But not all of them participate actively...some develop the activities at school and send the results via snailmail

BonnieG: More specifically around the use of children names and information on children

BeeD: I mean, the schools I mentioned

JoeGst5: students are taught by you to be aware of internet privacy issues

LaurenceB: Would it be ok with 1year students, Bee?

JoeGst5: the information you send into Bee is private and used solely for organizational purposes

ConstantiT: Bonnie, I think parental permission slips and a newsletter will get the ball rolling.

BonnieG: thank you.

BeeD: it's a closed forum so only teachers with passwords can enroll them. They should not use their family names and should follow the legal prescriptions of each country.

JoeGst5: In that manner students enter forums to exchange info with students of their own age

ConstantiT waves

LaurenceB: do the students need their own email?

BeeD: It is open to all students Laurence...you should enroll them in upper English (from 14 year olds onwards)

PhilB: yes, Joe, closed password-protected forums are more and more essential.

BeeD: Any more questions? You can always send me an email

JoeGst5: Bee do you have all of the information you need from me to get started?

PhilB: Yes, we had better call this sessions a wrap. Thank you Bee for your presentation, thank you everyone for your attentive questions!

BrigitteC: Will do as I need a new password !

LaureGst1: Thanks for all this information, talk to you soon!

JoeGst5: Thank you Bee great job my friend

DavidEL: Thanks for this Bee.

MichellGst2: Thanks Bee and everyone.

BonnieG: Thank you Bee for your patience

DimitriGst1: Thanks a lot Bee. Bye

PhilB: I hope to see you all here next week and in following weeks for our ongoing discussions...

ConstantiT: Thank you for your hard work Bee. Great Ideas

LaurenceB: Thank you Bee and all

BeeD bows

JoeGst5: clap clap for Bee

BeeD blushes

BeeD: Drop me a line if you have any questions bwjdieu@terra.com.br