

Title of Session: Global Project Based Lessons: Schools Helping Schools

Moderator: Linda Ullah

Title of File: 20060324gpbl

Date: March 24, 2006

Room: Global Project Based Learning Group

MichelleRM: Are you all familiar with this group? This is my first time....I wasn't sure if this was an ongoing thing or not (I'm hoping I won't be lost)

RebeccaOt: if you will be, I will be as well. we can be lost together

BJB2: We won't let you get lost

MichelleRM: So is everyone here a teacher? What do you all teach?

MichelleRM: Great.

LynnePS: I am a Business and Information Technology teacher in Virginia

BJB2: there is a discussion scheduled here, but the discussion leader hasn't shown up yet...never know why on a Friday...could be traffic

MichelleRM: I am a pre-service teacher...I graduate this May and will begin my first year of teaching in August...I am in Houston, Texas

BJB2: thanks, Lynne. We usually do start all the discussions with introductions

BJB2: thanks, Michelle...you're going to have quite a year!

RebeccaOt: I teach 5th grade in Howard County, Maryland

BJB2: thanks, Rebecca.

MichelleRM: I will be teaching middle school science

BJB2: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania. Linda usually has some really great information to share

MichelleRM: What happens if she is unable to make it?

BJB2: then we go to plan B

BJB2: . o O (we dance on the tables?)

MichelleRM . o O (that must be plan BJB)

RebeccaOt: sounds like fun

BJB2 laughs...good one, Michelle!

LynnePS: LOL

BJB2: Jeff could lead us in a sing-a-long..he has a nice strong voice

MichelleRM chuckles

MichelleRM: We could play "I spy" ...that's what I play with my nieces when we are waiting on someone or something

BJB2: that would be a good game for one of the Tapped In Festivals, Michelle!

BJB2 . o O (sort of like the treasure hunt)

MichelleRM: Tapped in Festivals?

BJB2: yes, Tapped In traditionally has a festival once a year, although I'm not sure we'll have one this year because of the mini expos

MichelleRM: I'm new to Tapped In - my technology professor introduced us to it (MaryFT)

BJB2 . o O (this is the last event for the week long Hurricane Mini-Expo)

BJB2 nods about Mary....she leads two groups here in Tapped In and contributes a lot to the Tapped In community

BJB2 . o O (her students worked on last year's treasure hunt)

MichelleRM: She's wonderful and I have learned a lot of cool things from her

BJB2: have you all taken a tour of Tapped In?

MichelleRM: I have..it was a requirement in our class

BJB2 nods

LynnePS: I was planning on attending tomorrows (?) tour

BJB2 nods to Lynne

RebeccaOt: my instructor gave us an overview in class one night, but no official tour

MichelleRM: Rebecca....where do you go to school?

RebeccaOt: Johns Hopkins. I'm getting my Masters in Education with a focus in Technology

MichelleRM: Wonderful

LindaU joined the room.

RebeccaOt: where do you go Michelle?

BJB2 sighs with relief! You've saved us from the sing-a-long!

LynnePS: me too - but I'm at University of Mary Washington

BJB2: Hugs Linda.

LindaU: I need to apologize. I got really busy at work, and the time got away from me...

BJB2 hugs Linda, even

MichelleRM: University of Houston....I'm getting my BS in Interdisciplinary Studies (Education) with a specialization in science

MichelleRM: Hi Linda

BJB2: you have an enthusiastic group waiting, Linda

LindaU: Hi

LindaU: Fantastic...

LindaU: This month we are discussing how classes/students/schools can still help those folks who were involved in the Asian Tsunami and the Pakistani earthquake.

BJB2: something very important to note...

LindaU: As you know the people are still in need in these areas...These are regions of the world where people are poor, and we tend to forget their plight months after the trauma of the events.

BJB2: last night we had Barbara Muller Ackerman present information about working with the teachers and children traumatized by the hurricanes

BJB2: she pointed out that just the announcement of the start of a new hurricane season can set off depression and anxiety in the victims

BJB2 . o O (of any disaster.)

LindaU: Let me ask, first, if any of you were involved with the initial relief effort or if you had students do project about tsunamis and earthquakes around the time of the events

BJB2: so it's important to understand that many people are just now really needing your help

LindaU: Often people need help long after the event... as BJ has pointed out.

MichelleRM: I donated some canned goods....and have donated some things to the victims of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans (and I was affected by Hurricane Rita - it took my 17 hours to evacuate)

LynnePS: Our students donated money and one group sold plastic bracelets for the Tsunami relief fund

LindaU: Can goods are a great way to help.. but we forget that people's lives are still not back to normal

MichelleRM: I can't imagine what the victims of the tsunami are going through...how awful

LindaU: Fantastic, Lynn

LynnePS smiles

LindaU: Often, too all these areas depend on things like tourism for their livelihood, and this goes away after a major disaster.

LindaU: Here is a blog about the current needs in Pakistan: <http://www.pakquake.com/>

BJB2 . o O (you may need to hold down the ctrl key when you click on the url)

LindaU: As you can see, things like vaccinations are needed... and we are pulling out our help.

LindaU: My brother-in-law works for the UNHCR and he keeps reporting how isolated people in the mountains have been, and how hard the winter has been on them... basic things like shelter, food and water have been ongoing problems.

LindaU: One ray of goodness that ties all these disasters together is people who've been through disasters helping others. Here is a news article about Indonesian Tsunami survivors helping Katrina survivors:

<http://www.sunherald.com/mld/thesunherald/living/14174371.htm>

RebeccaOt: That makes a lot of sense. I think it's hard to know what people need in various situations if you haven't experienced them yourself

LindaU: There are still 3 million homeless folks in Pakistan and 230,000 people displaced because of the Tsunami. The numbers of human trauma are staggering...

LindaU: One of the best student projects I saw was students in Kobe, Japan working with students at Ground 0 in NYC to share their experiences and losses, and help the NYC students with the healing process

LindaU: It seems to me that as educators we can foster more of these projects.

MichelleRM: What happened in Kobe, Japan?

LindaU: Here is the article on the numbers of displaced people I mentioned;
http://www.boston.com/news/globe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2006/03/23/a_needles_toll_of_natural_disasters/

LindaU: Michelle, in 1995 there was a massive earthquake in Kobe.

LindaU: Here is info about that earthquake:
<http://www.ce.washington.edu/~liquefaction/html/quakes/kobe/kobe.html>

LindaU: How can we foster school projects in which students help students in disaster affected areas/

MichelleRM: That is why I probably don't remember it...I was only 11

MichelleRM: Have students keep current event logs...and then when a disaster occurs...organize fundraisers, food drives, etc.

LindaU: That's a good point.. However, my point is that students in Kobe worked with students in NYC to help them deal with their trauma because they understood what it is like to survive a disaster.

RebeccaOt: It's very easy to get people to raise money for things like disasters and various causes, but I'm not sure what else my students would be able to do other than contribute money or food

BJB2: Linda, has Kobe fully recovered in the 11 years since the quake?

LynnePS: Clothing, Food and Blood drives

LindaU: Great idea Michelle... but how do they continue helping when the need is still there, but the memory of the event has faded from those who are not living with it.

BJB2 wonders how long it takes places to really recover from such devastation

MichelleRM: Right...but in the case of developing countries (like students that were victims of the tsunami)...it takes years to recover...and isn't always possible to share the stories

LindaU: BJ... Yes... physically... I was there a couple of years ago and a few years before that. The city and surrounding area looks normal.. but people still have scars.

RebeccaOt: Maybe something as simple as pen pals would help. Give kids something else to think about, someone to talk to

MichelleRM: Other than sending donations...whether it be food, money, toys, clothes, school supplies...what else can you do for someone so far away?

LindaU: Setting ups something through ePals makes good sense: <http://www.epals.com/>

LynnePS: Do they have the technology?

MichelleRM: I understand corresponding with people in Kobe...but what about tsunami victims that are homeless and live in under developed countries...how do you correspond with them?

LindaU: Good point --poor people in developing countries don't have access to email.

LindaU: Do you all see the link under Featured Items in this room?

MichelleRM: I doubt many of them have computers or internet (especially right now) and many of them are homeless...so it is kind of hard to send a letter and be pen pals....you could make generic greeting cards that say that we are thinking and praying about them I guess and give them to the Red Cross to give out

MichelleRM: yes

LindaU: It is a global projects web resource list... Click on it please.

LindaU: or on this link: <http://my-ecoach.com/online/webresourcelist.php?rlid=6499#3>

LindaU: Then click on Projects to Help People in Need

LindaU: This is a list of web resources for helping people still in need OR joining projects to do this.

RebeccaOt: This looks great

MichelleRM: What a great resource list

LynnePS: I bookmarked it

MichelleRM: me too

LindaU: One of my favorite organizations is Free the Children:
<http://www.freethechildren.com/index.php>

LindaU: They do so much to help children in need.

LindaU: Have any of you found any ideas from these sites that have made you think about how children can help children who have experienced the trauma of these disasters long after the initial event of the disaster itself?

RebeccaOt: The Making Friends activity (under Children helping Children) looks like it would be very easy and can apply to any situation

LynnePS: I like the idea of students helping to rebuild schools

LynnePS: or replacing libraries lost to natural disasters

MichelleRM: I like the Adopt a Village idea...and this could be changed to Adopt a Family, or subdivision, etc. in any area where there is a disaster

LindaU: Both are fantastic ideas

LindaU: Yes, Free the Children's adopt a village is something a class can do

RebeccaOt: Nabuur.com would be good as well

RebeccaOt: (volunteering online)

LindaU: Did you check Taking back 9-11 <http://www.connectforkids.org/node/3368>

MichelleRM: sharingfoundation.org has a lot of projects as well

PatGst5 joined the room.

LindaU: Hi Pat

JeffC: <http://www.nabuur.com> <http://www.sharingfoundation.org>
<http://www.takingitglobal.org> (just including the full address so it will hyperlink in archives)

LindaU: Thank you Jeff

DavidWe smiles

LindaU: Any last thoughts?

JeffC: Linda, the founder of Takingitglobal just registered here.

LindaU: Fantastic

DavidWe: Who is that, Jeff?

JeffC: I think the two of you should chat at some point... maybe have a presentation here.

LindaU: <http://www.takingitglobal.org/>

LindaU: Let's arrange it.

JeffC nods ... will do

PatGst5: what are some of the global projects

JeffC: Michael Furdyk (MichaelPF here)

LindaU: Pat, we've been discussing ways for schools/students to get involved helping disaster victims long after the initial disaster--when those of us not affected by the disaster have forgotten about it, but those affected are still very much in need.

LynnePS: You have given us lots to think about. I am going to share your resources with our student counsel advisor

RebeccaOt: Yes, thanks for all of the ideas. I know that my students will enjoy having a different way to help

MichelleRM: I am going to print off this transcript and put it in my box of "resources and ideas" for my classroom so that I can use it when I begin teaching next year

LynnePS: I will also share it with my club (FBLA) officers. They can start planning a project

LindaU: Don't forget services learning projects: <http://www.ysa.org/index.cfm>

PatGst5: Linda thank you for answering me

LindaU: Great ideas... You all give me hope...:-)

DavidWe: Way to go, group!

LindaU: Thank you all. If we can involve students in helping others, then maybe there is hope for the world.

MichelleRM pats everyone on back and hands out gold stars

LindaU: I'm just glad I got here. whew

MichelleRM gives Linda extra gold stars for making it

BJB2: we are too, Linda! Thanks so much for all you do for Tapped In and its members

MichelleRM: I really enjoyed this discussion - it was great and I learned a lot

MichelleRM: Thanks Linda!

DavidWe thanks Linda for the past 10 minutes, also

BJB2: and thank you, Michelle, Rebecca and Lynne for contributing to the discussion

LynnePS: It was very worthwhile! Thanks Linda!

RebeccaOt: it was very informative, thanks all

RebeccaOt: have a good night everyone!

MichelleRM: It was nice meeting you all....I must go now and fix dinner

LindaU: Thank you all so much for being willing to continue to help people.