Title of Session: GPBL - Online Collaboration Tools
Moderator: Linda Ullah
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Room: Global Project Based Learning Group

BJB2: looks like the faithful few are here to listen to your words of wisdom, Linda

LindaU: okay.. let's get going...

BJB2: intros?

BJB2: art teacher in Pennsylvania

BJB2 . o O (and helpdesk volunteer for Tapped In)

LindaU: I think Fred is the only one who doesn't know me. I work at a local community college in the SF Bay area in CA.

LindaU: Tonight I want to try a different format.

FredK: I do tutoring with the literacy council in Pushmataha County, Oklahoma

BJB2 listens to what the new format will be

LindaU: I've posted a lot of online collaboration tools in the featured notes scattered around this room (in ABC order). I'd like each of you to select one tool that you are not real familiar with.

LindaU: or not at all familiar with, and explore it. After about 5 minutes, I'd like you to post a summary of what that tool is all about and who it could be used for a multi-classroom collaborative project either for students or adults to collaborate.

LindaU: Afterward, we'll get a chance to ask each other questions the time permitting, we'll each explore one more tool.

LindaU: Please post which tool you'll be exploring so we can avoid duplication.

LindaU: Any questions before we get going?

DavidWe reads the instructions

NathanL joined the room.

LindaU: If not please explore the posted tools, and let us know which you'll investigate.

DavidWe waves to Nathan

LindaU: Hi Nathan...

NathanL: I made it

FredK: I clicked on Breeze 5

DavidWe . o O (Skype for me, okay?)

NathanL does a little celebration dance.

LindaU: Fantastic... How about a short intro, then I'll post what we are doing.

LindaU: Dave has Skype and Fred has Breeze.

DavidWe smiles

FredK studying

DavidWe: Bad URL in the SKYPE note, Linda...I can deal with it, though

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe has a way of finding these things

LindaU: oops.. hmmm will have to fix it.

DavidWe: Later

LindaU: hmmm It worked this afternoon.. but isn't working now... I just did a google search and it doesn't come up there. Could Skype be down?

LindaU: eg.. the google link for Skype.com doesn't work either.

NathanL: doesn't appear to be

NathanL: I'm still logged in and all my contacts are showing

LindaU: Try the Wikipedia for Skype: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skype

NathanL: I'm either really dense or ahead of the curve

LindaU: Also try http://share.skype.com/sites/devzone/

LindaU: hmm..

LindaU: okay.. back to researching your topics... I'll call time in a few minutes and look for your summaries and educational uses.

NathanL: ok eCoach for me

LindaU: good choice.

LindaU is ready for summaries when you all are ready to start posting.

DavidWe smiles

LindaU: Welcome back David...

DavidWe: Thanks, Linda...got a little pre-occupied installing SKYPE

LindaU: ah

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe: So, Skype is Internet based technology for VoIP (voice over Internet Protocol) that allows, essentially, for Internet based phone calls

DavidWe: There are many options, some free, some you need to pay for

DavidWe believes that you can more than 1-1 audio but hasn't learned about that, yet

LindaU: How would/could you use it in the classroom for a collaborative project?

DavidWe . o O (you can do* more...)

DavidWe: Well, reducing costs between distant classrooms when doing voice conferencing

LindaU: Can it be combined with other tools for web-based collaboration?

DavidWe likes to collaborate with the pizza restaurant when ordering a pizza

DavidWe: Certainly, Linda

LindaU: From Rome?

LindaU waits for David to explain.

DavidWe: I was giving someone a tour of Tapped In this morning AND also speaking with them (in Boston) on the phone (my dime!)

LindaU: ah ha...

DavidWe usually orders Pizza domestically - it shows up more quickly and is more often warm

LindaU: and Skype would reduce that cost..

DavidWe imagines skype would reduce the cost

LindaU smiles

FredK: Breeze 5 offers online presentations, online multimedia meetings, and training. It is based on the Flash Player.

LindaU: What about using with something like CCC-Confer?

LindaU: or breeze

DavidWe doesn't know much about CCC-Confer

LindaU: Tell us more about Breeze

DavidWe likes using as many of the tools in the toolbox that he can get his hands on

LindaU: good point David.

FredK: Figleaf.com put Breeze 5 together.

LindaU: Can you show us an example of a Breeze Presentation and talk about how it could be used for a collaborative multi-classroom project?

LindaU thinks.. hmmmm we are using Tapped In as a collaborative PBL tool right now..

DavidWe: Of course!

FredK: I need to develop tutor training for the literacy council

LindaU: good example...

FredK: I didn't get onto the specific presentations by Figleaf

LindaU: There are some good presentations posted on our County Office of Education site: http://ets.sccoe.org/pd/breeze/index.html

FredK: good

LindaU: Let's take a look at one.

DavidWe needs to step away from the computer for a minute

LindaU: We can each pick one that looks interesting and then share how we might use something like this for a collaborative project

LindaU waits for everyone to view a Breeze presentation and report back.

FredK: Long division looks good

LindaU: go for it...

LindaU: I'm looking at the STAR test one.

LindaU: Don't forget to make sure you have sound turned on.

LindaU: Any thought on how to use Breeze for multi-classroom collaborative projects?

DavidWe doesn't know enough about Breeze to make a comment

LindaU thinks everyone is busy watching their chosen Breeze presentations.

DavidWe is busy answering the phone

LindaU: Okay.. think about it over time...

FredK: It can be used in presentations in the tutoring environment, too

NathanL joined the room.

NathanL: did I miss it?

LindaU: Let's try another online collaborative tool. Pick a new tool to investigate and report on. (Yes, Fred...)

LindaU: Hi Nathan.. did you have a chance to explore eCoach?

NathanL: I did

LindaU: We are picking new tools, so can you tell us about eCoach before we go on.

NathanL: I don't understand this site. It uses a baseball/sports/team metaphor, but the site itself seems pretty dead. There are 7 people on. None of them are in the chat room. None of them appear to have blogs. I didn't find the wiki. The majority of resources seem to be behind the $60/yr firewall.

NathanL: What confuses me most is that the level of expertise this site is geared to is very elementary... so elementary that I question whether people with such rudimentary skills are likely to see the benefit of such a site, let alone use it. I could not in good conscience recommend this to anybody.

LindaU: Interesting.

NathanL: I'm obviously missing something here

LindaU: I do use the site for to mentor and coach teachers that I've worked with in a face to face institute.

LindaU: They plan their projects using the project planning tools.

FredK: I tried the Blackboard, but the page was not found

LindaU: We use threaded discussions.. and to discuss current educational topics.

NathanL: I'm missing the point of the site, then

DavidWe: http://www.blackboard.com/us/index.aspx

LindaU: The metaphor is a bit corny, but it has a good resource library.

NathanL: perhaps the full list of discussions isn't available to free members

NathanL: I didn't see any topics that looked like they were current

LindaU: Maybe you need to pay to get all the tools...I've been using it for a couple of years.

LindaU: The whole community topics are not very current. I think most people use it for specific groups.

NathanL: I failed to see any point .. I understand the concept of mentoring

NathanL: it's something we don't do enough of

NathanL: but I was unable to see how it worked in that environment

NathanL: there were some good points

NathanL: it told me that other people were logged in

LindaU: It allows me to follow up with and help the 83 teachers I work with during the summer.

NathanL: although not where to find them or what they were doing

NathanL: what's the advantage there over .. say .. TI?

LindaU: I can find those on my teams, but not the others.

LindaU: It's just different.

NathanL: ok. that's consistent with the $60 fee then .. I ran into a lot of dead ends that lead to the Store

NathanL: that's my sorry report

LindaU: I have my teacher teams set up... they use the builder tool to create their project plans.. See http://my-ecoach.com/online/teacherguide.php?projectid=5616 for an example of a published project plan.

LindaU: Okay.. did anyone explore a different too. (Hi Peter.. I didn't see you sneak in.)

LindaU: We are exploring the online collaborative tools posted in this room, and reporting back on what we have learned about the tool we chose to explore.

LindaU: Did anyone explore a different tool?

PeterWA: Sorry all, I broke my glasses and am having a hard time seeing the monitor. Can you give me a synopsis?

LindaU: If not. I'll keep the resources posted so you can come and explore...

LindaU: Peter.. Go to actions and select Larger Text.

LindaU: We've been each choosing one of the online collaboration tools posted in this room and giving a summary of the tool, and exploring how that tool could be used for a multi-classroom collaborative project.

FredK: Linda, Are you acquainted with the Bay Area Video Coalition? http://bavc.org/brainglow

LindaU: Funny you should ask, we are writing a joint proposal with them

LindaU: I've been reviewing the (hopefully) final copy this afternoon

FredK: They have Ideas and tool for Digital Storytelling

LindaU: Yes, great ones.. How about sharing.

LindaU loves digital storytelling.. It is so compelling

FredK: That is one program I hope to use for the tutor training also

LindaU: Another good digital storytelling site is: http://www.storycenter.org/memvoice/pages/cookbook.html (the digital story center)

FredK: I have the digital camera with extended memory to collect student input

DavidWe: cool

FredK: It's an old one

LindaU: and you might look at the Digital Clubhouse Network: http://www.digiclub.org/

FredK . o O (Wow)

LindaU: Okay.. folks.. we are out of time. I can stick around a short bit if anyone wants to continue

NathanL: thanks Linda

NathanL left the room (signed off).

FredK: The word "collaboration" is what caught my attention. This session went to thing I need.

LindaU: Feel free to come and explore any of these resources at your leisure as well.

FredK: Thank you.