

Title of Session: Global Project Based Learning

Moderator: BJ Berquist

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Room: Global Project Based Learning Group

LarissaC: This site is full of info and I have to write a review of it

BjB : ahhh...have you seen the about us page? And the papers page?

LarissaC: somewhat overwhelming

LarissaC: yup

BjB nods...that's why I recommend those two sites

BjB : I think most people do not comprehend what the VISION of Tapped In is

LarissaC: This is quite a diverse and experienced group of people

BjB agrees...and from all over the world

LarissaC: yes!

BjB : I think in a nutshell, you could describe Tapped In as an opportunity for educators to participate in professional development, collaborate with colleagues, and SUSTAIN learning.

LarissaC: I just finished a project with a classroom in Israel and was looking for something else

BjB : ahhhh...Linda should have some great ideas for you

LarissaC: hope so

BjB . o O (Linda leads the GPBL discussion)

BjB : she does have quite a few sites listed on the welcome screen under featured items

LarissaC: PBL has just formally arrived in our high school...

LarissaC: yes she does

BjB : what did you do with the school in Israel?

LarissaC: a booksharing

BjB: as in sharing book titles? reading a book together and discussing it?

JeffC joined the room.

BjB waves hi to Jeff

LarissaC: read a book together, researched the historical background

JeffC waves

BjB: cool. What book did you read?

LarissaC: I looked at it as a cultural exchange more than anything

LarissaC: Island on Bird Street

BjB: I assume you communicated asynch?

LarissaC: a YA book, but a good one for the ELL students in Israel and e

BjB . o O (time difference would make it hard)

LarissaC: yup

LarissaC: threaded discussions on the website

BjB: so the whole communication through text had to be interesting...things can be read so many ways!

LarissaC: two teachers from Israel were able to fly over and hold sessions with my kids

LarissaC: oh my yes!

BjB: oh, how wonderful! Do you get to go there next? ;-)

LarissaC: maybe

BjB: that would be exciting!

LarissaC: I added to the mix a Muslim student and when Gaza blew up again, the discussions became very interesting

BjB: I'll bet!

BjB : are you familiar with TED?

LarissaC: Talk about different perspectives!

LarissaC: no

BjB : www.ted.com

LarissaC: looks interesting

LarissaC: what do you do with it

BjB : last year they had a wonderful world wide conference...I'm looking for the link

LarissaC: I think I could spend too much time online

BjB : yep..can drive you crazy!

BjB : Jeff, do you remember what the TED conf was called?

JeffC: let me check

JeffC: TEDGlobal Conference <http://conferences.ted.com/TEDGlobal2009/>

JeffC: well... that's the link I have for it anyway!

JeffC: but that's probably a direct link to subscribe from my email...

LarissaC: I'll give it a look

LarissaC: I'm there

LarissaC: just took a different route

LarissaC: this looks ummmm intimidating

JeffC: uh... Bj... did you know there's a \$4500 membership fee?

JeffC: yeah... the fee itself intimidates the heck outta me!

BjB : yes, I know...I'm not a member!

JeffC: so... what are we supposed to do with the site?

LarissaC: chuckle

BjB : that wasn't the one I was looking for.

JeffC: oh... sorry!

BjB : there are a ton of videos on all kinds of subjects that are fabulous

JeffC: well dang it... I guess TED has some other conference happening.

BjB : I found it...Pangea Day

BjB : I'm going to get the link, but might have to leave this room for a sec

BjB left the room.

Room: Gpbl_Grp

BjB joined the room.

BjB : www.pangeaday.org/events.php

BjB : <http://www.pangeaday.org/pangeadayFilms.php>

BjB : was an incredible experience!

BjB : from the films page you can access other archived information

LarissaC: very cool

BjB : brb

BjB left the room.

Room: TI_Reception

BjB joined the room.

BjB waves hi to Elizabeth and the guest

BjB : I'm on Tapped In helpdesk. Any questions?

ElizabetBC: Yes, I am new to this and was wanting to be part of the group that starts at 9pm. What do I need to do

BjB : above this chat on the right is featured passageways...do you see that?

ElizabetBC: no

BjB : ok, then let's try this...do you see Room View at the top of your screen?

ElizabetBC: yes

BjB has more tricks up her sleeve if that doesn't work ;-)

BjB : click on room view

BjB : that will bring you back to the welcome screen

ElizabetBC: ok, did that

BjB : scroll down on featured passageways to Global Project Based Learning

BjB : and click on the door icon

ElizabetBC left the room.

BjB left the room.

Room: Gpbl_Grp

BjB joined the room.

BjB : good job, Elizabeth!

ElizabetBC: yeah me! Thanks for your help

ElizabetBC: now what?

LarissaC left the room.

BjB : Linda hasn't logged in yet and may be traveling and not have connectivity, but we'll get started and see if Jeff and I can help

LarissaC joined the room.

BjB : wb, Larissa

ElizabetBC: so, just sit and wait, don't click on anything?

LarissaC: OK sorry

BjB: let's start with introductions. Please tell Jeff and me what you teach, where you are located, and your interest in GPBL.

BjB: I'm a teacher in Pennsylvania and have a deep interest in global connections and multicultural studies

ElizabetBC: I teach Kindergarten in Raleigh, NC at my church. I am in graduate school at Meredith College and am taking a technology class. Working on Tapped In is one of our projects.

BjB: thanks, Elizabeth.

LarissaC: I teach honors ninth grade English and at risk readers in Uniontown OH ~ small town USA.

BjB: thanks, Larissa.

BjB: at risk students is another one of my passions!

LarissaC: we have a large population of Mennonite

LarissaC: other than that... not much more diversity

BjB: since Linda isn't here, let's collaborate and share what we do know.

LarissaC: I want to move my kids out of the small town mentality

BjB nods to Larissa...yep. Rural schools tend to be very insulated

BjB: do you see much diversity where you are teaching, Elizabeth?

ElizabetBC: Raleigh is big and has much diversity.

LarissaC: I used an Israeli project to get them to think more globally

BjB: great...are you familiar with the Paper Clip video, Elizabeth?

LarissaC: Duke nearby?

ElizabetBC: although my church is pretty much full of WASPS I had a very diverse class this past year

ElizabetBC: never heard of paperclip

LarissaC: me either

ElizabetBC: Duke is about 30 minutes away from where I live

BjB: you can get an idea of what the video is about from this site: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0380615/>

ElizabetBC: I wrote it down. should I view it now?

BjB: I thought of it because of your mention of WASPs, Elizabeth...

ElizabetBC: oh, ok

BjB: the url will be in your transcript...

BjB: you can actually view the video at the link to snagit films

BjB: "As a part of their study of the Holocaust, the children of the Whitwell, TN Middle School try to collect 6 million paper clips representing the 6 million Jews killed by the Nazis."

BjB: it's quite moving and inspirational

ElizabetBC: 4 of my 14 students this past year spoke at least 2 languages. one child was living in a refuge camp in Thailand up until about 18 months ago

BjB: . o O (for any ethnic group)

LarissaC: we have a holocaust lit class... I'm sending this her way

LarissaC: oh my

BjB: this would also be a good topic for your at risk students too, Larissa

BjB: does your school offer ESL classes, Elizabeth?

ElizabetBC: no, we are very small and only can accommodate 34 kindergarteners at a time

ElizabetBC: we are also 1/2 day

BjB: I meant in your public school where these immigrants go

ElizabetBC: I did get some good help from a friend who is and ESL grad student

ElizabetBC: Oh, the public schools have great ESL programs

ElizabetBC: At Meredith, you can major in ESL and also get a graduate degree in it

BjB : one of the biggest obstacles for ESL students is their parents....who often don't speak English and who have a difficult time understanding what their children are learning

ElizabetBC: oh yes! I have loved getting to know the families and the parents

ElizabetBC: they have taught me SOOO much, it was great

BjB : for your kindergarteners do you have special events like international day where the students can showcase their heritage?

LarissaC: we have a large Ukrainian pop

BjB : interesting, Larissa

LarissaC: many of them are in my at risk classes

ElizabetBC: we did. The parents organized it and shared about their cultures and languages. The other children really ate it up

BjB smiles...wonderful, Elizabeth!

LarissaC: the Mennonite church sponsors them... they are very hard to keep in school..

ElizabetBC: have they been in the US long?

BjB : so it sounds like both of you have some experience with global projects

ElizabetBC: where do the Mennonites originate?

BjB : I think they are an offshoot of the Amish, but not positive

ElizabetBC: I enjoy other countries and cultures. My dad traveled to strange places when I was a child and always brought back the traditional things from that country

LarissaC: yes, not as strict

BjB : Amish are of German descent...many in Pennsylvania

ElizabetBC: so would that be German

BjB . o O (I'm in Lancaster, PA as we speak!)

LarissaC: in the midst?

ElizabetBC: there are some Mennonite pockets around here too. Not many in schools though. They tend to keep to themselves

BjB: sort of...at the Host Resort at a conference

LarissaC: a few Amish are nearby.... many, many south of here

BjB: Larissa, can you please tell Elizabeth what you did with the class in Israel?

ElizabetBC: my geography is bad, forgive me

LarissaC: We shared a book study through the International Book Sharing project

ElizabetBC: wow, that sounds fun

ElizabetBC: how do you do that?

MeganPo joined the room.

ElizabetBC: hello Megan

LarissaC: used their site for threaded discussions about the book and the students used a chat room in order to learn about each other before reading the book

ElizabetBC: that sounds fun

MeganPo: hello

LarissaC: It's sponsored by the ghetto Fighter's museum in Israel

ElizabetBC: can you do that sort of thing orally, K students cannot read yet

LarissaC: picture books?

ElizabetBC: whatever

LarissaC: I sent a lot of scanned material

ElizabetBC: oh, ok

LarissaC: maybe picture s of what's important to them?

LarissaC: my kids learned a heck of a lot

ElizabetBC: I see, I could dig around and see what I could come up with

ElizabetBC: first, I will have to figure out how to get internet access in my classroom

BjB : so many picture books on different cultures and ethnic groups!

LarissaC: they went from... Do they watch our movies to honest discussions over the occupation of Gaza

ElizabetBC: so, is this what GPBL is all about? working with another school or group within your classroom?

ElizabetBC: I am a little slow at this sorry

BjB : check this out, Elizabeth: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y96He0tISoM>

BjB . o O (you too, Larissa, if you haven't already seen it)

ElizabetBC: my pop up blocker won't let me see it from here

BjB : at the kindergarten level, I think your job is more to prepare students to respect other cultures

BjB : hold down the ctrl key on your keyboard when you click on the url

BjB . o O (overrides the pop up blocker)

LarissaC: My kids just tore apart the song "Waiting for the world to change" John Mayer

BjB : oh, cool, Larissa!

BjB : did you participate in the Learning From Lyrics discussion?

ElizabetBC: from the mouths of babes

BjB . o O (archived transcripts are at www.tappedin.org/transcripts)

BjB nods solemnly to Elizabeth

ElizabetBC: Larissa, you can download the lyrics from the school house rock songs

BjB : Elizabeth, Linda has quite a few links listed under Featured Items in this room

LarissaC: yup

LarissaC: they know them well

LarissaC: her list is amazing

LarissaC: No I didn't

LarissaC: I'm a newbie here ;-)

ElizabetBC: me too

BjB : here's one for you, Larissa <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y96He0tISoM>

LarissaC: I love you tube

BjB : not just cultural sensitivity.

ElizabetBC: as I listen to this girl, I cannot help but think of my little Burmese fella

ElizabetBC: the girl in the you tube video that is

BjB : he must be a cutie!

LarissaC: have you seen slumdog millionaire/

ElizabetBC: he is WONDERFUL!

LarissaC: aw..

BjB nods to Larissa

ElizabetBC: I am so glad he is a church member and I get to see him often

ElizabetBC: I think we have Slumdog Millionaire in our netflix que

BjB : Linda recommended that I see Slumdog

ElizabetBC: what about Megan and Jeff?

BjB : she was just back from a trip to Bangladesh and was quite fired up!

BjB : oh, Megan, I'm sorry! I didn't see you come in

BjB : Megan, where are you?

MeganPo: I'm sorry, just trying to catch up, this is the first time using this website

BjB . o O (thanks, Elizabeth)

BjB : what is happening here is pure collaboration!

ElizabetBC: you're welcome

ElizabetBC: isn't it great!

BjB : the discussion leader was apparently not able to log in

ElizabetBC: I was just checking out Linda's list and found some flat Stanley stuff

BjB : so we're sharing the information that is in this room...

BjB : and adding our own experiences

ElizabetBC: we had the best time doing that this year!

BjB : what do you teach, Megan?

ElizabetBC: I wasn't sure my K's would "get it" but they actually did and really took it and ran

MeganPo : When you are concentrating on global teaching, should you concentrate on your heritage or what is in the news currently? I teach first grade.

BjB : Flat Stanley is fun...I've seen similar projects with stuffed toys being sent around the world

BjB : Megan, I think at the early elementary level it's most important to model respect for all cultures and ethnic groups

ElizabetBC: next year I think I may incorporate the shoe boxes from Samaritans purse, since we are a church and all

BjB : cool, Elizabeth. I did a My Many Cultures Box with a first grade class...

BjB : we had shoe boxes donated and the kids decorated them...

ElizabetBC: that is a great idea!

MeganPo : yea I can see that because they are just beginning to learn about the big world around them

BjB : then as holidays or special events came on the calendar we would make some artifact to represent that culture...

ElizabetBC: I taught first grade before I had kids

ElizabetBC: that is one of the most fun ages to have

BjB : and the artifact would be kept in the shoebox

MeganPo: I'm sorry again but....what is a many cultures box?

BjB : ooops...are you familiar with Dr. Seuss' My Many Colored Days?

MeganPo: yea

BjB : well, I used that idea for My Many Cultures Box

MeganPo: oh cool

BjB : then during the Chinese new year we made red envelopes

ElizabetBC: it is hard to write down ideas and type!

BjB : when you log out you will get the transcript from this discussion, Elizabeth!

BjB : so put down that pen!

ElizabetBC: yes ma'am!

BjB grins

MeganPo: oh I didn't know that either

BjB : transcripts are wonderful!

LarissaC: yes that was a very nice surprise

BjB : they also contain all the urls that were shared

ElizabetBC: even better

BjB : how are we doing in keeping you awake, Larissa?

MeganPo: how often do you explore other cultures in your classrooms?

BjB : what I suggest to you, Megan and Elizabeth, is to join this group and return to this room and look at the featured items

MeganPo: oh ok

BjB : I think it should be like breathing, Megan!

ElizabetBC: we did a lot

ElizabetBC: we sang the days of the week in Spanish every day

BjB : when you read choose books that incorporate different cultures

ElizabetBC: my class loved the food too

BjB . o O (it's like having black history month for one month out of the year....not too realistic!)

ElizabetBC: we had food from Iraq, Mexico, Brazil, and Burma

BjB : good comment, Elizabeth...food is a great way to introduce different cultures

MeganPo: ha yea you can always get their attention with food

BjB chuckles....same with teachers!

ElizabetBC: if I disappear, sorry. There is a storm and my power may go out. That means my modem will be out too

ElizabetBC: so what does joining the group mean?

BjB understands. We're about at the end of the hour anyway...might be a good time to wrap

BjB : joining a group allows you to post to the group discussion board...

ElizabetBC: wow, an hour already?

BjB : and be in communication with all of the members of the group

LarissaC: time flies....

BjB : does that mean you were having fun, Larissa? :-)

LarissaC: and I need to submit my paper about this site

LarissaC: yup

BjB : I do apologize for Linda not being here, but I hope you all enjoyed the discussion as much as I did!

MeganPo: for what class?

LarissaC: emerging tech for teachers

BjB . o O (Tapped In has been around since 1997 and it's still considered emerging tech?!)

ElizabetBC: is yours graduate work too?

MeganPo: I'm in a grad class learning about technology as well

ElizabetBC: so, where do we all go to school?

BjB . o O (Linda will be so disappointed that she missed you! I'll send her a copy of the transcript)

MeganPo: Meredith College NC

BjB : I'm retired...I don't have to learn anything any more ;-)

ElizabetBC: are you in Dr. P's class too! Girl hey!

LarissaC: u of Akron

MeganPo: hahahaha....nice

MeganPo: hahahahah yea I'm in her class!!!!

LarissaC: I'm wondering why I'm not retired

BjB : I was only joking, Larissa...a lifelong learner is always learning new things...I learned a lot from all of you

LarissaC: yea... me too!

ElizabetBC: are you kidding, we are teachers we never quit learning!

BjB : and I do thank you for taking time from your busy schedules to participate in the discussion...even if it was an assignment

BjB agrees with Elizabeth

LarissaC: but... I'll be using this site

ElizabetBC: I plan on attending several more sessions

ElizabetBC: especially the one about religious teachers on Saturday

BjB cheers...and hands out gold stars to Larissa and Elizabeth

MeganPo: It started out as an assignment and appears to have turned into a great learning experience....bj

LarissaC: yup

MeganPo: I want a star

BjB smiles happily and hands Megan a gold star too

LarissaC: chuckle

BjB winks

MeganPo: ty

ElizabetBC: you're funny

LarissaC: bye

ElizabetBC: it was fun

BjB : ok, ladies and Jeff....have one more conference day tomorrow...so better get to bed.

BjB waves goodnight.

ElizabetBC: 10-4

MeganPo: Alright, thank you so much, enjoyed the conversation