

Title of Session: Blogstreams Salon
Moderator: Bee Dieu
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Room: Blogstreams Salon Group

BeeD joined the room.

DennisOI: Hi, Bee.

BeeD: Hi there

BeeD: I am sorry...got here late today

Maggi: so I copied from the news over a weekend how they should be used

DennisOI: Good idea, Maggi.

Maggi hugs Bee

Maggi: worked

DeborahSF: Hi Bee I came late too

DennisOI hugs Bee, too--and gives three Slavic kisses.

BJB2 hugs Bee three

Maggi: wow

BeeD hugs Maggi and Dennis

BeeD hugs BJ as well

DennisOI hugs BJ and Maggi, too.

DennisOI wonders if BJ and Maggi want 3 Slavic kisses.

BeeD loves all the hugging and kissing

Maggi gets in the hugging

BeeD welcomes Deborah

Maggi: my my my

DeborahSF: Help Debbie doesn't know how to hug

DennisOI: Type a colon and then the action.

BeeD hugs and kisses Deborah as well

DeborahSF hugs all around from Debbie

BeeD smiles

DennisOI hugs Debbie back

AaronPC joined the room.

DeborahSF: "ah

Maggi smiles

BeeD hugs Aaron in Japan

DennisOI: Hi, Aaron.

Maggi: quota for the day

AaronPC: hey...how's it going?

BeeD has to do some real stretching to get there

DennisOI bows (unsure how deeply) to Aaron.

Maggi: Hi Aaron

DeborahSF bows

AaronPC bows back

FredericC joined the room.

Maggi: just hugging and kissing

BJB2 wonders if Bee has any feedback from the discussion with Gabriella?

DennisOI extends his business card with both hands to Aaron

BeeD embrasse Frederic

Maggi: now we can bow

FredericC: Hello everyone

DennisOI: Hi, Frederic.

BeeD: Bonsoir Frederic

Maggi: Hi Frederic

DeborahSF: Hi Fredric

AaronPC takes business card

AaronPC: yoroshiku

DennisOI smiles

Maggi: ah yes French

DennisOI smiles enigmatically.

FredericC: Hi Hola Bonjour

BeeD: Gabriella wrote me she enjoyed the chat a lot

Maggi: so did I

BeeD: I told her to open a multilingual group here

FredericC: BTW thanks for the transcript B

DennisOI: That's a great idea, Bee.

BeeD: she is busy now...but she told me she would love it

Maggi: I understood but can't write French

FredericC: how come was it in French?

BeeD: so will drop her a line later on so that she does not forget

DennisOI: That's the beauty of a multilingual group: you can understand in one language and respond in another.

JeffC: I think because almost everybody here was French.

DavidWe joined the room.

BeeD: Gabriella Vernetto is a FLE teacher

DennisOI: Hi, DW.

DavidWe waves

FredericC: Ah OK

DavidWe: Salut

DeborahSF waves hi

Maggi: .hugs David

FredericC: Hi David

AaronPC waves to David

DavidWe hugs Maggi

DennisOI: Hey, Debby, you've got those actions down pat now!

Maggi: missed the hugfest earlier

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe: Excusez-moi, Madame

Maggi: and slavic kisses

DavidWe . o O (je suis en retard)

BJB2 frowns

Maggi: right

DeborahSF: non

Maggi: nicht im Leben

BeeD: This morning I got a letter from Su from Porto Alegre...she is a Brazilian blogger...I think I might invite her for a featured chat now in October...must talk to her

BeeD: Bonsoir David...ça va?

JeffC: What's the topic today?

DavidWe nods

DeborahSF: hugs and kisses

BJB2 . o O (multicultural)

FredericC: just to know: is it usually the same people who meet here? the 10 of you or so?

BeeD: I participated in Michel Benard's project on Flickr...a day on earth

DeborahSF: this is my first time here

DennisOI: I've been here only once before, Frederic.

DavidWe: Welcome, Deborah

Maggi: a fluctuating group

BeeD: <http://www.adayonearth.org>

AaronPC: What was that like Bee?

DeborahSF: Thanks David

BeeD: this was very cool

DavidWe listens

BeeD: BTW...it was fun also...I did not know he was in our weblogging group

BeeD: on Yahoo

BeeD: and when I came back home after school Susanne from Denmark was on Yahoo Messenger and beeped me

DennisOI: Very cool indeed, Bee.

BeeD: I told her about the project

BeeD: she said she had meant to join but had forgotten

JeffC: BTW... if you want to see last week's links, they're in Blogstream Salon Links folder (under Discussion... featured on the Welcome page).

BeeD: and posted a pic (not taken on 29th)...so she sort of cheated...lol...but let it be known on the Yahoo group

BeeD: and Michel answered back this morning...

BeeD: Thanks Jeff

DeborahSF: You guys, I'm looking for a first grade teacher not in Pacific West coast of the US to do a weather project with me on a blog

JaneAP joined the room.

BeeD hugs Jane in Canada

DeborahSF: smiles and waves hello

JaneAP: hugs Bee in return--great to be here. It's been so long!

FredericC says hi to Jane

BeeD: Tell us about your weather project Deborah

DennisOI: Yes, it sounds fascinating, Debby.

AaronPC listens

DennisOI: Hi, Jane.

DeborahSF: I wanted the classes to share and compare weather data. I set a blog but haven't gotten any takers....

JaneAP: Hi Dennis...and everyone

DavidWe waves to Jane

DeborahSF: I wanted the students to see activities other first graders do in different climates

JaneAP: Hey David, is it too late for bagels?

DavidWe checks

DavidWe: Store are closed

AaronPC: I love bagels

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe . o O (might be a few in the freezer)

DeborahSF: me too

DeborahSF: love bagels that is

DennisOI: Me, too—but I like bialy even more (as DW knows).

DavidWe remembers to get more next weekend

BeeD: give us the address Deborah

DavidWe nods affirmatively

DeborahSF <http://www.1stgradeweather.blogspot.com>

BeeD: does it have to be first graders?

DeborahSF: No

BeeD: I have 9th graders

DeborahSF: Are you interested?..

BeeD: but then they have been learning English for 3 years only

DeborahSF: That sounds good they'd have to write simply so the first graders would understand

BeeD: We are going on a ten day break now

BeeD: and will only be back as from October 15th

DeborahSF: Maybe when you come back??

BeeD: leave me your email and I'll get in contact with you

DeborahSF dferguson@nmusd.us

BeeD: I think mine would enjoy it

BeeD: Thanks

AaronPC: This project might work well in combination with photos from Flickr, of the weather, clothing, activities, games, etc.

DeborahSF: thank you!!!

DeborahSF: exactly

DeborahSF: Where are you located Bee?

BeeD: In Sao Paulo, Brazil

DeborahSF: Wow... is there any snow where you are?

BeeD: nope...just rain and pollution for the time being

BeeD: it's spring here

FredericC: For young kids, Brainpop has a number of (good) Flash animations about the weather

DeborahSF: thanks Frederic

FredericC: <http://www.brainpop.com/science/seeall/>

BeeD: this looks cool

FredericC: this makes me think

BJB2: BrainPop donated a door prize to the Tapped In Festival

FredericC: would you say it's necessary to find a group of "readers" before launching a class blog?

DennisOI: Definitely cool!

FredericC: or just useful?

JeffC is adding links to Discussion as we go... if you want to see the site in the top frame... just go to Discussion--Blogstream Salon Links--10.2.05 and click on a link... hit the back button and you're back in Discussion.

DennisOI: Weather is down near the bottom of the page.

BeeD: well...it is useful if people get an immediate feedback

BeeD: stimulates them and encourages them

FredericC: could I find correspondents on the Dekita list perhaps?

BeeD: Jane...how are your students reacting to the result on their surveys?

BeeD: Yes Frederic...this is what Dekita is there for

BeeD: to make the connection

BeeD: between them

BeeD: How old are your students Frederic?

DeborahSF: Excuse me What is Dekita?

EmilyW joined the room.

BeeD hugs Emily

FredericC: mmmhh, guess I should stop lurking there, then

EmilyW waves hi

BeeD: <http://dekita.org>

DeborahSF smiles and waves hello

BeeD: We have just started the Dekita exchange project

DennisOI: Hi, Emily.

DavidWe waves to Emily

FredericC: Bee, my students are 18-20 but with a low level of practice

BeeD: <http://dekita.org/exchange>

BeeD: where teachers send us information about their classes

FredericC: How many people are there on the mailing list?

DennisOI: I was glad to see Carla Arena's name there, Bee.

BeeD: Yes...Carla is a great teacher

EmilyW: so you are using del.icio.us for this?

BeeD: yes...we are tagging the P2P projects

DennisOI: Yes, she must be fantastic.

BeeD: so other people can find them easily

DennisOI: (Carla)

AaronPC: Maybe 20...25 or so Frederic

EmilyW: have the projects started yet? what exactly are the projects?

DeborahSF: Bee Is the site only for teachers of English lang. learners?

FredericC: Thanks Aaron

FredericC: I feel a bit lost with the del.icio.us interface

BeeD: P2P in reality stands for peer to peer...and although it started inside EFL/ESL , it welcomes learners who are willing to communicate in English freely

DeborahSF: ah

EmilyW: I am an active tagger on del.icio.us

EmilyW: exciting to see something like this going on in education

BeeD: the only thing educators are asked to do is to make a post on their blogs saying they are open for the exchange

BeeD: welcome to dialogue

EmilyW: what is the exchange?

DennisOI: Frederic: I also feel a bit lost with del.icio.us. It seems straightforward, but . . .

BeeD: like I did here <http://beeonline2.blogspot.com/2005/09/1les-05.html>

AaronPC: An exchange of ideas, thoughts, feelings, photos, etc.

BeeD: If you make a post on your blog, stating the basics...other teachers and students can find you through Dekita

BeeD: students' geographical location

BeeD: beginning/end of course

BeeD: links to student weblogs or equivalent interactive work

BeeD: students' age and their competency in English

BeeD: number of class sessions per week

BeeD: a link back to this project page in order to spread the idea (the link button in the right sidebar is free for the taking).

BeeD: etc.

BeeD: so if you go to the Dekita Exchange page

BeeD: <http://dekita.org/exchange>

DeborahSF: I'm there.

BeeD: on the right hand side column you can find the classes participating

BeeD: and choose the one you want to correspond with

FredericC: meaning that you've got to create your blog *first*, and *then* try to find participants ?

DeborahSF: I was reading that saw you (Bee) had a couple of classes.

BeeD: Frederic

AaronPC: Yes...or you could just have your students read and comment.

EmilyW: what exactly is this exchange?

AaronPC: If they don't have their own blogs.

AaronPC: But better to get them blogging I think.....if possible.

DennisOI: They don't have to have individual blogs.

AaronPC: True...could be a group weblog.

BeeD: I think that you can have a good look at how these classes are blogging...have a look at the examples that have come up...it's important you understand the blogging culture

EmilyW: where do you view these blogs?

BeeD: blogging is not the same as emailing

BeeD: or a message board

BeeD: BTW...I have just written something about it for Franc Parler...it's going to come out now in November

DeborahSF: isn't it a place to voice comments to thoughts posted and post thoughts?..

DeborahSF: or something else again?

BeeD: October...sorry

FredericC: Bee Could you possibly show an example of a message board for a class?

DennisOI: It's sometimes hard for students to know the difference.

DennisOI: (or teachers or anyone, for that matter)

BeeD: this is why it is important the teacher understands it well

FredericC: Yes Dennis, and sometimes for us too!

DennisOI: Definitely, Bee.

DennisOI: Right, Frederic!

BeeD waits for Aaron to help her

BeeD: Aaron defines blogging as a dance

AaronPC: I don't have any examples of message boards to point to, as most are private.

FredericC: ... which might be the point, right Aaron?

BeeD: absolutely

AaronPC: Oh yes indeed.

FredericC: hmm

AaronPC: I'm using one now in one of my classes.

JaneAP: Excuse me for jumping in here. (I was multitasking) but I've using blogs to have students post writing assignments that could be of interest to a broader audience

AaronPC: Blogs aren't always appropriate....depends on the type of communication you want to encourage.

FredericC: but then, with message boards you don't have this stimulating effect of posting to the world ^^

DennisOI: Here's an example of a message board that was created for my students but has seldom been used by them:

DennisOI: <http://members5.boardhost.com/English-Q/>

BeeD: I have found out that when I post assignments, the communication that happens is between the class and myself...and the others feel excluded...it's a closed system

AaronPC: Yes...also blogs give students a sense of personal space, ownership, something they can color and make their own.

AaronPC: You don't get that with message boards.

DennisOI: No, definitely not.

BeeD: I had a long talk with one of my classes last week...about our blogging project

DennisOI: And???

DavidWe: They are revolting?

BeeD: well...I was testing this year

BeeD: different activities

BeeD: while blogging

BeeD: I think that the best answer is here <http://estherzinha.blogspot.com/>

DennisOI: Such as?

DennisOI: Esterzhina's blog is wonderful, Bee!

BeeD: although when I first started blogging, it was all free and open

DennisOI: Oops: Estherzinha's . . .

BeeD: this year I decided they should post assignments

DennisOI: And>>>

DeborahSF: Bee is Estherzinha one of your students?

BeeD: They hated it!!!

BeeD: Example of a typical assignment

DennisOI: I can understand why they hated it.

BeeD: <http://estherzinha.blogspot.com/2005/04/molly-pitcher-heroine-of-american-war.html>

BeeD: Yes Deborah...Esther is one of my students

DennisOI: But in fact Estherzinha put quite a bit of herself in the assignment. It wasn't a simple regurgitation of facts or lecture notes.

FredericC: They hated it, but did *you* consider it as a failure?

DennisOI: It wasn't 100% free, but then life itself isn't 100% free.

BeeD: but it was an assignment...

DennisOI: So?

FredericC: I mean, students often hate stuff, but it doesn't mean we shouldn't make them do it!!

DennisOI: Definitely.

BeeD: and they felt this was not what they wanted out of blogging

BeeD: so they agreed to do the assignments in some other form

BeeD: but negotiated the blog for open practice of English

DennisOI: But it's a CLASS blog for goodness' sake!

DennisOI: They can do whatever they want in their own blogs!

BeeD: where they would engage in writing about what they wanted as they wanted

BeeD: I agreed

DennisOI: Well, sure.

DennisOI: But there are different kinds of writing. Students need to know about as many of them as possible.

BeeD: here is the example of a blog written under the new "laws"

BeeD: <http://dontlettomorrowcome.blogspot.com/>

BeeD: you do not have to use a blog to do it Dennis

BeeD: do it on paper

BeeD: do it on Moodle

BeeD: but use your blog for what blogging is for: communicating your thoughts to the rest of the world

BeeD: each tool

BeeD: has a different purpose and goal

DennisOI: I agree in theory, Bee, but getting to that point is often difficult—and maybe it needs some structure along the way.

BeeD: I think the structure is important

BeeD: so perhaps it might be a good idea to start blogging with students reading other blogs

BeeD: and defining what the act of blogging is

DennisOI: Maybe so.

AaronPC: Yes structure, but that structure should respect the learner's needs and interests, while helping the learner see that her needs and interests are of value and are accepted.

DennisOI: Agreed.

BeeD: discussing with them what blogging is all about and why people blog

DennisOI: Good food for thought.

FredericC: yes, so perhaps I should start with a visit to a couple of blogs with my class

BeeD: The talk we had in class last week was most illuminating

FredericC: we might start by commenting here and there

AaronPC: Listen...I really want to stay....but I have to go to class...1st period this morning.

BeeD: ok Aaron...have a great day

Maggi: enjoy Aaron

DennisOI: Thanks for the incisive comments, Aaron.

FredericC: Yeah, same here... gotta get up in.. 5 hours

AaronPC: Thanks...

FredericC: Thanks Aaron

DennisOI: You're welcome. The thanks are from the heart.

FredericC: Bye all

Maggi: night night Frederic

BeeD: Dors bien Frederic

AaronPC left the room (signed off).

DennisOI: Thanks to you also, Bee.

FredericC: night, see you

BeeD: et merci d'etre venu

DennisOI: Today has been quite a learning experience.

FredericC:

DeborahSF: bye you guys thanks for the help and letting me listen

BeeD: let's continue the talk next Sunday

FredericC left the room (signed off).

DennisOI: I hope I can come back.

Maggi hugs bye

JaneAP: Thanks all of you, I haven't said much today, but it was good following along with you. I have to go too.

DennisOI: Take care, everyone.

DennisOI: Thanks again, Bee.

BeeD waves bye to everyone

DennisOI waves bye back . . . and then vanishes.

Maggi: take care

JaneAP: Ciao

Maggi: ciao