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

BeeD: Welcome to the Blogstreams Salon

BJB2: we usually start the Tapped In discussions with introductions

StephaniRe: Its nice to be here

BJB2: please let Bee know where you are located and what you teach.

BeeD: Thanks BJ

StephaniRe: I am located in Phoenix and I am the Media Specialist

BJB2: I'm a communications teacher in Pennsylvania

PatriciaGl: I am at York University I am an ESL instructor

KonradG: I'm in Toronto, Canada teaching Language Arts to Grades 7 and 8

PatriciaGl: In Toronto

BeeD: I teach EFL in Sao Paulo, Brazil and I'm very much involved with ICT

StephaniRe: Brazil-WOW!

BeeD: Yes...far away geographically but just round the corner virtually

StephaniRe: That is exactly why I like technology

BJB2: Tapped In has an international membership of over 21,000!

BeeD: How long have you been involved with it and what have you been doing?

BeeD: Patricia, how have your teachers responded to the social tools...have you introduced them to them?

StephaniRe: I have only been a teacher for 3 years and this is my first year as the media specialist. I am currently working on a couple of podcasts and I am trying to come up with some good lessons to do blogging with my students.

PatriciaGl: yes, they really liked the idea of posting students info/pics on the community map - it creates a great community feelings.

PatriciaGl: some also thought about encouraging students to post info about places they've been too

BeeD: Oh, well Stephanie, then you are at the right place

PatriciaGl: so, the community map was a hit

StephaniRe: Could you tell me more about your community map?

BeeD: Patricia and I will be giving a workshop next January on Social Tools and there will also be a workshop on Blogging for Beginners

PatriciaGl: EVO 2007

BeeD: http://www.communitywalk.com

BeeD: this is the address

BeeD: it's really neat because you can post messages, comments, add photos and other media

PatriciaGl: they had a bit of a hard time navigating it, I had to take it step by step

BJB2: you may need to hold down the ctrl key on your keyboard when you click on the url

BeeD: My students are participating in a project together with some schools in the US

BeeD: and we are using the community walk map

BeeD: Let me check the address so you can get a feeling of what can be done with it

StephaniRe: I will have to go and look at this site after I am done here.

PatriciaGl: I think it's great that we are using it for our session

BeeD: I really enjoyed it

PatriciaGl: 43 places/43 people was a hit too

BeeD: http://43things.com

BeeD: http://43places.com

StephaniRe: Is your community map kind of like MySpace only more localized/personal?

BeeD: and http://43people.com

BeeD: you can make it personal and also share it

StephaniRe: I will definitely, have to check it out. It's a good thing I get a copy of the transcripts so I know I will get all the URL's right.

BeeD: How old are your stds?

PatriciaGl: bloglines were a bit harder for people to understand/deal with technically

StephaniRe: My students are 7-11.

BeeD: right

PatriciaGl: but my teachers are only familiar with blogs, not with rss

BeeD: rss is a must!

PatriciaGl: I know

StephaniRe: My teachers wouldn't know an rss from a blog

PatriciaGl: yes, I think that's where the confusion is

PatriciaGl: too many new words and acronyms

BeeD: Will Richardson gave a wonderful presentation on RSS to our weblogging session two years ago

BeeD: I think you can find the link here at Blogstreams

BeeD: check it out at Evonline 2005

BJB2: in the folder under Featured Items above this chat window

BJB2 . o O (or under RESOURCES)

BeeD: number 4...it will take you to Learning Times and you will have to register to hear it

PatriciaGl: thanks

BeeD: but it's for free

BeeD: you may want to share this resource with your teachers

StephaniRe: There are definitely a lot of resources here now I just have to find time to read them all.

BeeD: so...are you blogging with your kids Stephanie?

StephaniRe: Not yet, I am working with the students first on keyboarding skills and on the podcasting.

BeeD: I have a nice podcasting site from a teacher in New Zealand who is podcasting with her kids

BeeD: http://room5.podomatic.com/

BeeD: maybe your students would like to listen to some of the episodes and leave comments

StephaniRe: I also am looking for a place to blog that will let me do some moderating. I have enough kids that don't have any social etiquette let alone cyber etiquette.

StephaniRe: I think that is a grand idea!

KonradG: Stephani - I would suggest creating podcasts just for your own community and then encouraging students to comment.

KonradG: that way they can "try" commenting and you can guide them through the etiquette issues

PatriciaGl: you'll build a community that way

StephaniRe: We are just finishing podcast on character based on the pillars of character. I am hoping to finish them in the next week or so and get them posted to our school website.

BeeD: You can download Elgg, which is a learning environment tool and do some internal blogging first, to teach them blogetiquette..then invite others to join

KonradG: exactly. good point Bee.

KonradG: I also find that blogging helps young students develop strong commenting skills

BeeD: http://elggspaces.com/

StephaniRe: I definitely like that thought. I have had the kids listen to other student's podcasts before we started the project. Sounds to me like Elgg would be the next best step.

PatriciaGl: Bee, I looked at the wiki - looks great - I am glad you posted steps. It was unclear for the participants how to start.

BeeD: Yes Patricia..I am trying to go over it

BeeD: as if I were a participant

KonradG: Stephani: great resource here from the recent K12 Online conference: http://k12onlineconference.org/?p=42

PatriciaGl: that's the way to do it. we can test it too with somebody later

PatriciaGl: and then modify it if necessary

BeeD: and try to check where the pbs and bottlenecks are

PatriciaGl: exactly

BeeD: we will definitely have some trouble with people using wordpress

StephaniRe: I did manage to listen to one of conference events live. I learned a lot but also discovered I didn't know as much as I thought. I have the k12conference book marked so I can go back and do some more learning and reviewing.

StephaniRe: What is wordpress?

PatriciaGl: blogging software

BeeD: it is a blogging software

BeeD: http://www.wordpress.com

BeeD: I am using it with my students

PatriciaGl: Stephanie, blogger.com is probably easier to use

PatriciaGl: www.blogger.com I've been using it with my students

BeeD: Yes, but for kids it offers a privacy option

BeeD: which does not exist on blogger

StephaniRe: Is it helpful for your ESL/EFL students?

BeeD: and it also allows you to have static pages

PatriciaGl: yes, my students are older

BeeD: Mine are older as well - from 14 to 19

PatriciaGl: yes, they really like it

PatriciaGl: mine are over 19

BeeD: I think that for kids

StephaniRe: I work with predominately ESL students so I am always looking for technology to help these students in particular.

BeeD: the best option would be Elgg spaces

BeeD: but it is not free

BeeD: and you need a server

PatriciaGl: Bee, participants should open accounts with wordpress first, and then comment on the discussion questions there, or on their own blogs?

BeeD: I thought I would introduce Wordpress...but it does not really matter, does it?

BeeD: it's just that it is such a neat tool

BeeD: open source

PatriciaGl: what if we tell them to create blogs on wordpress for this workshop, that way they'll become proficient using it.

BeeD: this was the idea

PatriciaGl: ok, good. I think if we just introduce it, they may not use it that much. we should emphasize that they use it for this workshop

PatriciaGl: it takes a bit of time to become familiar with it, and I want them to leave the workshop with a great degree of proficiency in all tools

BeeD: Blogger is much more popular

BeeD: and sometimes more flexible

BJB2: I even have a blogger account! If I can do it, ANYONE CAN!

BeeD: hehehe BJ

PatriciaGl smiles

BeeD: it's just that the static pages on Wordpress are nice

BeeD: they give teachers who post homework on blogs an option out

BeeD: which is the point of our workshop, right?

PatriciaGl: yes

BeeD: I posted about it on my blog

BeeD: http://beewebhead.net/archives/169

PatriciaGl: I'll definitely read it

BeeD: Stephanie...Konrad has some wonderful posts on his blog

BeeD: definitely worth reading

KonradG: thanks Bee

StephaniRe: Konrad what is blog addy?

BeeD: please write the address Konrad

KonradG: http://www.teachandlearn.ca/blog

StephaniRe: Thanks. I'll give it a read.

KonradG: Stephani: we should probably keep in touch - we both teach younger students

StephaniRe: Would love to. I don't have a blog as of yet, but you can email me
srenshaw1@cox.net

KonradG: thanks, my contact info is on the blog ... and, of course, there's also this
wonderful place

StephaniRe: too true!

BJB2 smiles

PatriciaGl smiles

BJB2 hands Konrad a gold star

BeeD smiles

BeeD: Stephanie...if you are interested in the EVO 07 workshops in January

PatriciaGl smiles

BeeD: check out the announcements for it

BeeD: they should be out early December

BeeD: there may be other teachers around you who may be interested as well

StephaniRe: I have already set up a reminder to check the calendar and announcements. I will also let my fellow Educational Technology teachers know of this event as well.

BeeD: They should be appearing here

BeeD: http://dafnegonzalez.com/evo-07/Cfproposals.htm

BeeD: they are online for free

StephaniRe: FREE my favorite word!

BeeD: here is the home page

BeeD: http://dafnegonzalez.com/evo-07/index1.htm

BeeD: the call for participation button is not active yet

BeeD: but check it early December

StephaniRe: Will do.

BeeD: most of the moderators (and many participants) are members of the Webheads in Action

BeeD: a wonderful international community of practice

BJB2 seconds that comment

StephaniRe: Thanks for all the great information. Now I need to go and create some great lessons.

BJB2 chuckles...go forth and create?

BeeD: Good luck and have a lovely week

BeeD: Thanks for coming

BJB2: thanks for hosting the discussion, Bee.

BJB2: The next Blogstreams will be on December 3