

**Title of Session:** Back to School with Teacher Web Tools

**Moderator:** Susan Roseman

**Title of File:** 2005festBacktoSchool

**Date:** July 20, 2005

Room: Comfy Conference Room

**SusanR** offers everyone a cool drink

**SusanR:** <http://www.digicc.com/fido/>

**DianneA:** wow a cool drink, just what the doctor ordered

**MindyAS:** Thanks!

**SusanR:** quite the summer I must say

**LeanneMM:** Yes, thanks, Susan, it's stifling here in Kamloops BC

**SusanSi:** wow thanks

**SusanR:** Can I offer anyone else a cool drink?

**JoannaPT:** scorching heat in California

**SusanR:** click on the little imp

**SusanR:** Grade 6 students were amazed by this

**DianneA:** I can see why!

**SusanR:** This is pretty cool on a hot day

**DianneA:** Welcome to the Festival. Welcome to Back to School with Webtools with Susan Roseman

**DianneA:** Susan is getting us underway with a puzzle

**SusanR:** This is pretty cool...

**SusanR:** <http://digicc.com/fido/>

**SusanR:** I usually like to warm up my sessions with an educational topic or cute web site

**SusanR** nods to Dianne

**MindyAS:** That was pretty neat!

**DianneA:** Great idea Susan

**GailH . o O** ( Some of us may be gone the rest of the hour with that puzzle! )

**JenniferLH:** My teen boys liked it - we found it last summer and they thought it was cool.

**SusanR:** Then they will enjoy Mind Reader <http://www.mysticalball.com/>

**SusanR:** okay let's get serious

**SusanR:** there isn't a day that goes by that tech in the classroom is hotly debated.

**SusanR:** Lots of News, Techniques and Theories of Effective Use of Technology in Education

**SusanR:** Is there anything that peaks your interest here  
<http://people.uis.edu/rschr1/et/blogger.html>

**ShariB:** who's not interested in money

**DianneA:** Welcome to the Festival. Welcome to Back to School with Webtools with Susan Roseman. I am pleased to announce there will be a lucky door prize with this session, just to keep us all on our toes

**DianneA:** over to you now Susan

**SusanR:** We are looking at issues in Tech <http://people.uis.edu/rschr1/et/blogger.html>

**JenniferLH:** That video game camp looks like a neat idea.

**SusanR:** Should we start with BRIEF intros, Dianne

**DianneA:** yes Susan

**BrendaE:** Grants and sustainable tech sounds good.

**JoannaPT:** fundraiser deals and discounts interest me

**ShoshanaH:** I can't get the links to come up on my browser, do I need to disable something?

**DianneA:** I am Dianne Allen, teacher of pre-service teachers, Australia

**MindyAS:** grants sound good to me too

**SusanR:** o O ( I will keep those in mind for future topics )

**SusanSi:** 4th grade math, science, & TX History in beautiful NE Texas

**DianneA:** Shoshana, try holding down the control key while you click on the link

**JenniferLH:** I am a kindergarten teacher in Missouri.

**GailH:** I am Gail Hoskins with Eisenhower National Clearinghouse (ENC) in Columbus OH. Before joining ENC in 1992 I was a math teacher and K-12 coordinator. And, may I share this: I set as one of my professional goals (this is for real) last fall to attend many of Susan's semi-monthly events at Tapped In. And I am so glad I did!

**MaryFT:** I teach educational technology at the University of Houston

**JoannaPT:** Hi, I'm a 2nd grade teacher in California

**SusanR:** I am Sue Roseman from Ottawa, Ontario; k to 8 Teacher and facilitator for this session

**LeanneMM:** I'm from Kamloops BC...just a webhead and wannabe ESL teacher

**CarolF:** I am a 2nd grade teacher in California too!

**BrendaE:** I'm a former 5th/6th grade classroom teacher currently working in the computer lab.

**CynthiaSA:** Michigan media specialist, ESL teacher and doctoral student

**MindyAS:** I'm a 2nd grade teacher in Missouri

**BrendaE:** Jersey-girl

**SusanR:** a nice cross section of educators

**MindyAS:** Lot's of us 2nd grade teachers!

**EmilyW:** I am a web designer and Tapped In volunteer from TX. I enjoy coming to Sue's sessions. She shares great resources.

**DianneA:** Shoshana, I'll try private messaging you to see if we can fix it, while Susan continues with her presentation

**ShoshanaH:** I'm a library science student at University of Missouri-Columbia (but actually in St. Louis)

**BrendaE:** Hi Emily. How's the web design business going?

**SusanR:** I was a dedicated grade 1 and 2 teacher before I started all this

**CarolF:** I bet you miss it at times!

**SusanR:** I do. It's in my blood. Last experience in grade one was glorious

**SusanR:** love those little gaffers

**CarolF** hugs

**SusanR:** So on with the show

**SusanR:** Explore a world wide web of possibilities. The focus will be on project based learning and collaboration. In this session we will explore ways to engage students, increase teacher and student productivity and enhance our standards based curriculum with FREE web resources. We will suggest concrete ways to use these tools in various educational settings from classroom use, computer lab and home/school connections. So kick off your shoes and join us in the Comfy Lounge for an hour of fun and adventure. FREE virtual coffee and donuts!! In this session we will share resources, discuss best practices and suggest ways to use these sites in a collaborative mode in an educational setting or classroom. Stick around for the Virtual Handout or Track which comes at the end of the session. I don't want to lose my audience.. Once I project a site or link ..peruse it and see what intrigues you or how this site can work for you with your particular audience. These resources or sites can be used in a collaborative mode.

**SusanR:** Warning..there could be an Canadian slant to these sites

**SusanR:** we are global

**LeanneMM** hugs her fellow Canadian

**SusanR:** The first one involves planning

**SusanR:** Free Stuff For Canadian Teachers

**SusanR:** "the latest links to free resources, materials, lesson plans, software, samples and computers".

**SusanR:** <http://www.qdsouza.com/tools/>

**ShariB:** Do you have to be

**ShariB:** Canadian to get these

**SusanR:** no Shari; absolutely not

**JeffCoo:** Just sneak over the virtual border Shari.

**SusanR:** Jeff, eh

**JoannaPT:** pretty cool

**GailH:** I started making a seating chart for this group!

**JenniferLH:** What a cool site.

**ShariB:** I'll be sharing this one at school

**JenniferLH:** me too

**LeanneMM** smiles at Gail...always a keener in every group!

**GeorginaN:** or the oceans!

**SusanR:** These generators guide you through the process of creating a variety of assessment and evaluation tools. You could use them as criteria checklists, discussion checklists, 3 point - 5 point rating scale, matrix rubric, weighted matrix rubric, and matrix rubric with points.

**MindyAS:** I think the assessment tools are great. I also like the seating chart:)

**JoannaPT:** I also like the letter generator, what a time saver

**JenniferLH:** What a great way to do field trip letters!

**SusanR:** I filed it in the K to 3 resource room as well so I can access them from school

**BrendaE:** I liked the Substitute Helper Generator

**MindyAS:** I found the bookmark generator. The kids would love that!

**SusanR:** There may be some overlap from other sessions

**SusanR:** next

**GailH:** I like the Classroom Rules generator -- great to set aside for use (before that long!)

**SusanR:** <http://4teachers.org/>

**JenniferLH:** Students would like the bookmark maker.

**SusanR:** Melissa don't worry about arriving late.. I have a virtual handout for all

**MelissaMR:** Thanks!

**SusanR:** links discussed plus more

**BrendaE:** I looked at this today in an earlier session. I can't wait to try TrackStar.

**DianneA:** such good planning Susan!

**ButhainaA:** I'm sorry that I'm too late; but I believe in something is better than nothing.

**SusanR:** The next one has a whole host of tools for both students and teachers that lend themselves to collaboration. My personal favourite of course is yours truly, TrackStar whereby one can view thousands of online lessons or quickly create your own. Erica from ALTEC will be hosting a number of in depth sessions related to each tool starting in the new school year. Watch the TI calendar for upcoming sessions.

**MindyAS:** I've tried out the Rubistar before, It's really neat.

**SusanR:** Buthaina, no problem there will be a handout at the end of the session

**ButhainaA:** TrackStar is neat and easy to use

**BrendaE:** I love handouts

**CarolF:** Rubistar is really helpful.

**JoannaPT:** I like casa notes since I teacher in a predominately Hispanic area

**JoannaPT:** and don't speak a lick of Spanish

**ButhainaA:** oh, cool, thanks Susan

**JoannaPT:** that could be very helpful to me

**LeanneMM:** very warm...I'm enjoying an iced cappuccino at the moment

**JenniferLH:** I think the assign-a-day calendar tool would be something parents would like to access.

**GailH:** The project based learning part has stuff in Spanish too.

**SusanR:** I use Trackstar for all my presentations..I like the choice of having a TEXT VIEW or FRAMES VIEW

**CarolF:** Oh can I use Casa Notes!

**BrendaE:** What's the difference between text view and frames view?

**SusanR:** let me give you an example

**GailH:** . o O ( Susan's virtual handouts on Trackstar mean that she "presents" in places she doesn't even know about when people like me use those handouts as resources for another event. )

**DianneA** grins at Gail

**SusanR:** This is text view..I am using it now

**SusanR:**

<http://trackstar.4teachers.org/trackstar/ts/viewTrackMembersText.do?org.apache.struts.taglib.html.TOKEN=d2b1eb8aea03f9de570b1b2e2c83e50&number=261010&password=>

**JoannaPT:** oh cool

**SusanR:** and FRAMES VIEW

<http://trackstar.4teachers.org/trackstar/ts/viewTrackMembersFrames.do?org.apache.struts.taglib.html.TOKEN=4d4230970e537f6492318e394a34da18&number=3882&password=>

**JoannaPT:** frames view is probably better for the younger ones

**ButhainaA:** I prefer the TEXT View as it is easier to open and can be viewed by many Internet users, especially those on dial up

**JoannaPT:** grasps more attention

**BrendaE:** Thank you.

**GailH:** I feel vindicated! Even Susan is using her own handouts as a link (at sites that sizzle). I never thought of this layering thing.

**SusanR:** I have tried other virtual handouts; but I keep coming back to Trackstar

**SusanR:** like this one..social bookmarking

**SusanR:** Social Bookmarking as a Teacher/Student Collaboration Tool

**SusanR:** Are you aware of social bookmarking

**LeanneMM:** no

**JoannaPT:** no clue, please explain...

**BrendaE:** No

**JenniferLH:** I've never heard of it.

**EmilyW** is very aware

**CarolF:** no

**SusanR** . o O ( an upcoming session )

**SusanR:** Social bookmarking is an activity performed over a computer network that allows users to save and categorize (see folksonomy ) a personal collection of bookmarks and share them with others. Social bookmarking is a wide ranging topic but one that is well worth your time learning about. The whole idea of social bookmarking is to share bookmarks with everyone else. However, I still think there are some bookmarks you really want to keep only for yourself. similar social bookmarking site .

**JoannaPT:** that's neat

**SusanR:** Play with it on a rainy day and you will see the possibilities here. ie if a group of kindergarten teachers wanted to share links

**DianneA:** Jeff offers great social-technical-teaching bookmarking, too

**LeanneMM** sees how that would be very collaborative

**BrendaE:** This has great possibilities.

**SusanR:** <http://del.icio.us/doc/about>

**EmilyW:** there are different social bookmarking sites

**EmilyW:** I use del.icio.us

**JenniferLH:** It would be a good way to find more good sites.

**EmilyW:** it is a great way

**BrendaE:** I haven't used it, but heard a little about del.icio.us at NECC



**GailH:** The process of finding and documenting them is good for the people doing it too. Practices being critical observers, etc.

**SusanR:** Here is an example called delirious

**MindyAS:** I've never heard of it before, it sounds interesting

**LeanneMM** agrees with Gail

**SusanSi:** I need to do this

**EmilyW:** it looks like Sue lost her connection

**DianneA:** While we wait for Susan to come back

**GailH:** For those of you who like Sue's style as much as I, you'll enjoy browsing ALL of her collection at Trackstar.

**GailH:** <http://trackstar.4teachers.org/trackstar/ts/searchByAuthor.do?keywords=roseman>

**DianneA:** I have an important announcement

**GailH:** There are like 40 of them.

**LeanneMM** listens to Dianne

**DianneA:** lucky door prize to ...

**GailH** shuts mouth.

**DianneA:** Mindy AS

**JoannaPT:** congrats

**MindyAS:** Yea!

**LeanneMM** pats Mindy on the back

**CarolF** clap for Mindy

**MindyAS:** What did I win?

**GailH** claps for Mindy.

**MindyAS:** How do I do that?

**DianneA:** it is a free subscription to Brain Pop

**MindyAS:** Wow, thanks!

**CarolF:** You will love Brain Pop!

**SusanR** joined the room.

**ButhainaA:** Backflip: < <http://www.backflip.com/login.ihtml>> is another interesting social bookmark tool as well

**GailH:** One of the things Sue has on her list for tonight is MathTools.

**LeanneMM:** wb Susan

**SusanR:** whew I am back

**DianneA:** OK Gail, back to your more important suggestion

**SusanR:** Thanks Gail

**DianneA** nods to Susan

**SusanR:** Are you aware of Brainboost?

**ButhainaA:** My students like BrainPop, although they are university Ss..it has many interesting movies that help them learn in a fun way

**JenniferLH:** I've never heard of either Brain site.

**DianneA** butts out and lets the session flow again

**SusanR:** a question and answer search engine that I use frequently

**MindyAS:** I've seen some of the brainpop movies before

**SusanR:** and see students using it as well

**BrendaE:** Is backflip better than ikeepbookmarks? I work with grades k-6 and staff.

**ButhainaA:** What's Brainboost, Susan?

**ShoshanaH:** that link is really cool I never heard of a way to share bookmarks, I am forever emailing links back and forth to people and this is really helpful

**SusanR:** Brainboost is an answer engine whereas Google is a Search engine.  
<http://www.brainboost.com/>

**SusanR:** Brainpop and Brainboost

**ButhainaA:** I haven't used ikeepbookmarks, so I can't tell, Brenda

**ButhainaA:** I see, is it something like, AskJeeves, Susan?

**SusanR:** Brainboost is a question answering engine that accepts natural language queries and uses natural language processing techniques by actually answering questions, in plain English and in complete sentences. Try it! Please give me your impressions both as a student and teacher resource! It even suggests related questions to the topic.

**JoannaPT:** so when kids ask questions you don't have an answer for, go to that site =)

**GailH:** I asked it what a trapezoid looks like. Very good!

**JoannaPT:** I think aj.com works too

**SusanR:** What was the response, Gail

**MindyAS:** I tried asking what animals live in the rainforest, and it brought up a lot of good sites I didn't find when using a search engine!

**SusanR:** Answers in complete sentences

**JenniferLH:** I asked how many colors were in the rainbow and got the answer and awesome lesson plan sites and more.

**CarolF:** I like the quick definitions and the related sites

**ButhainaA:** wow, interesting, thanks, Susan

**JoannaPT:** yes, thanks

**JoannaPT:** these are all very cool sites

**GeorginaN:** fantastic for students...clear

**JenniferLH:** It is amazing how many great sites there are - its overwhelming sometimes.

**SusanR:** Is it a viable site

**GailH . o O ( I asked it who is newest member of Supreme Court! )**

**SusanR:** and Gail the answer....

**MindyAS:** Wow, I wish I knew about this sooner, it would have saved me some headaches on search engines!

**BridgetM:** Now that I figured it out I like the little pop up box.

**GailH:** It gave for the Canadian supreme court ....

**SusanR:** It did, Gail

**BridgetM** smiles

**GailH:** Morris Fish

**SusanR:** I wanted to deal with two cool hardware tools and their related sites.... before the end of the hour.

**ButhainaA** listening to Susan

**SusanR:** a great gadget ...the iPod Shuffle

**GeorginaN:** great Susan

**LeanneMM** knows nothing about iPods

**SusanR:** I suggest public schools make better use of talking books using the iPod

**MindyAS:** That would be wonderful

**SusanR:** Why not have public schools increase literacy by using talking books.

**CandaceP:** There is so much information being given that I'm very thankful I will receive this dialog later to reread everything. I looked at the gdouza.com link and really saw some outstanding lessons I could really use without changing anything. And I have tried trackstar before and that is outstanding, too!!! There is soo much sharing... this is awesome!!!

**MindyAS:** How do schools get the iPods?

**CarolF:** What are the advantages over the tape recorder?

**SusanR:** Perhaps the iPod Shuffle can motivate educators to experiment with them.

**BridgetM:** one presenter at neec said they were switching to ipods for talking books

**SusanR:** Why not consider purchasing about 10 iPod Shuffles and load them up with talking books. Allow them to sign them out. Consider collaborating with your district's Technology Integrator and put forth a proposal in the form of a grant. Can you consider other uses for the iPod Shuffle in the classroom?

**JenniferLH:** Is this very expensive?

**GailH:** It makes a lot of sense.

**SusanR:** Right Bridget

**MindyAS:** Can you explain what they are?

**ShoshanaH:** I have heard of great things being done these days concerning learning via ipods, though some people absorb information better by looking at the words in front of them...

**SusanR:** I will let Apple explain

**SusanR:** <http://www.apple.com/ipodshuffle/>

**JoannaPT:** teachers also get 20% off on apple.com and in the apple store

**JenniferLH:** I think kids would really like this.

**MindyAS:** Kids would love it

**MindyAS:** Where can you find a list of talking books?

**JenniferLH:** I don't know if our administrators would go for it though.

**SusanR:** There has been considerable talk about podcasting here at the festival

**BrendaE:** Mindy, good question.

**ShoshanaH:** I know if ipods had been around when I was in elementary school I would have been glued to it!!

**GailH:** There is the PTA and other support, besides the school itself.

**JenniferLH:** Gail, good idea - our PTO is very supportive when sometimes the administrators aren't.

**SusanR:** Parent councils can offer support

**ButhainaA:** Try < [www.audible.com](http://www.audible.com) > for lists of free books

**BrendaE:** Thank you

**SusanR:** a set of 10 iPods to rotate to different classrooms

**CarolF:** Okay guys. You all seem familiar with these. What do I tell my principal when he asks me why they are better than the listening center w/ tape recorder?

**GailH:** There is real value in making a case (writing something, having a plan, etc.) for something you need. And asking people who can't give to you to suggest who would want to support it.

**BridgetM:** us site <http://www.rfbd.org/> Reading For Blind & Dyslexic

**MindyAS:** It seems like it would be an endless library of audio tracks since you can put on whatever you can find.

**SusanR:** I am going to try to put in a proposal for our school this fall

**LeanneMM:** Excellent Buth! Thanks for sharing!

**ShoshanaH:** I would think the same reason tivo is more popular than VCRs

**SusanR:** May I mention another great gadget with educational value?

**SusanR:** The SanDisk Photo Album

**ShariB:** please do

**ButhainaA:** Carol, I'd say it is more flexible in the sense that students can download a lesson for example and here using their MP3 band or ipods. Also, they are motivating since they are the trendy thing for kids now

**SusanR:** This gadget lets you show digital photos or show video on your TV directly from your digital memory chip or card. Ease of use means with this gadget you do not need to hook a camera or other device to your TV. This makes it easily accessible to the classroom teacher. Can anyone suggest other educational uses for this sensational gadget?

**BrendaE:** Not familiar with that. More info, please.

**CarolF:** Buthaina - thank you

**SusanR:** and the supporting site <http://www.sandisk.com/retail/spa.asp>

**GailH:** Would be great for student projects.

**MindyAS:** Sounds like a great tool!

**JenniferLH:** This sounds like a more affordable option than the expensive computer based projectors that we have a few of in our school.

**ShariB:** Virtual art fair

**BridgetM:** Buthania, that's what the presenter I saw said - plus it worked out cheaper

**SusanR:** In the last few minutes..would anyone care to share one cool web tool or resource

**ButhainaA** nods to Carol and Leanne

**SusanR** nods to Jennifer

**ButhainaA:** really? good to hear that Bridget

**GailH:** I love the math tools site (that is on Susan's handout  
<http://mathforum.org/mathtools/>)

**JenniferLH:** [www.rhymezone.com](http://www.rhymezone.com)

**MindyAS:** Thanks for all the great resources Susan!

**SusanR:** and if you only do one collaborative project I suggest the Flat Stanley project

**JenniferLH:** This was such a motivating session - thank you!

**BridgetM:** I was too late for link someone mentioned gdouza.com ?

**SusanR:** totally revised site <http://flatstanley.enoreo.on.ca/>

**CandaceP:** Thank you, everyone for all this great fantastic information!

**JoannaPT:** thank you very much

**CarolF:** Thank you for the tour

**LeanneMM:** Thanks, Susan...I have to run to reception.

**JoannaPT:** I really enjoyed all the new websites

**SusanSi:** thanks!

**BridgetM:** Thanks

**ShoshanaH:** thanks!!

**ShariB:** Thank you

**GailH:** Thanks. Great job Susan!

**CandaceP:** Thanks a million!!!

**ButhainaA:** For those of you who are interested in podcasting and using ipods for their classes, here is an interesting project at: [< http://www.worldbridges.com/livewire/ >](http://www.worldbridges.com/livewire/) check it out whenever.

**GailH:** Susan's handout is like a doorprize for all of us.

**CandaceP:** Thanks Buth.

**GeorginaN:** thank you Susan and others for great links...lots of follow up