

**Title of Session:** Blanket the World with Peace Project

**Moderator:** Craig Roland

**Title of File:** 2005festpeace

**Date:** July 20, 2005

Room: Blanket the World with Peace Group

**BJB2:** we usually start with introductions. Please share where you are located and what you do or teach

**BJB2** hands the virtual floor over to Craig

**CraigR:** I'll start

**CraigR:** I teach art education at the University of Florida

**BJB2:** I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania

**ChristinPC:** I'm in San Jose, CA and I teach 5th grade

**Maggi:** Hallo, I teach Business English freelance in companies in Germany

**CraigR:** we have a few others here

**DeborahCP:** I teach 4, 5, 6 grade in Stockton, CA.

**CraigR:** anyone else want to chime in?

**BJB2** . o O ( shy? )

**CraigR:** thanks Deborah

**MichaelRu:** Technology Integration Teacher in NY

**CraigR:** thanks Michael

**CraigR:** is anyone here familiar with the Blanket the World with Peace project?

**Maggi:** yes

**CraigR:** anyone else?

**ChristinPC:** no

**BethSm:** 5th gr sped

**BethSm:** no

**DeborahCP:** no

**MichaelRu:** no

**CraigR:** okay....let me tell you a little about the project

**CraigR:** and then we'll look at the site

**CraigR:** The Blanket The World With Peace Project is a virtual quilt made up of digital squares based on the theme of “peace through the resolution of conflict.” These digital squares can be linked to a Web site that showcases student work, in any arts form, that reflects or expands upon the project’s theme.

**CraigR:** the project was developed in 2001 by Anna Martin in response to seeing artwork created by refugee children displaced by war in eastern Europe.

**CraigR:** you can see the work of these refugee children at <http://www.cedarnet.org/emig/children/>

**CraigR:** I type slow, so please bear with me

**CraigR:** Anna wanted to do something to help all children express their feeling through the arts for not only war, but all types of conflict.

**CraigR:** So, she worked with a group of art teachers here on Tapped In to develop the project around the theme of “peace through the resolution of conflict.” The term conflict was chosen because it can include war, abuse, bullying, prejudice, and so on.

**CraigR:** so, let's look at the site

**CraigR:** if you click on the links button on the right side of the screen

**CraigR:** everyone find that?

**CraigR:** and we're about to look at the site

**ChristinPC:** I can't find the links button

**CraigR:** well, I'll paste the link to the blanket project site in here

**CraigR:** <http://www.cedarnet.org/emig/peace/>

**CraigR:** you can click on that

**ChristinPC:** thanks

**Maggi:** did the children choose to do their work in black & white or was no color available?

**CraigR:** good question Maggi, but I'm not sure

**CraigR** wonders if everyone found the link to the Blanket project site?

**GeorgiaJ:** So, do I understand this correctly? This was instituted at Tapped In?

**PamB:** Hi Craig

**CraigR:** well, yes in part

**CraigR:** is it also co-sponsored by EMIG

**CraigR:** which is the Electronic Media Interest Group of the National Art Ed Association

**CraigR:** the initial planning and development work was done hereon Tapped In by a group of art teachers

**CraigR:** including BJ

**BJB2:** the planning for the project was all done online here in Tapped In

**BJB2:** among a group of educators who have never met each other f2f!

**CraigR:** how are others doing here?

**CraigR:** has everyone seen the site?

**PatV:** yes

**BethSm:** yes

**CraigR:** perhaps some are off looking at it now?

**GeorgiaJ:** I haven't been able to look at the site in too much depth, but I wonder, are the instructions well-stated, as well as the how-to's?

**ChristinPC:** yes

**CraigR:** yes, there are instructions on the site

**CraigR:** and if you go back to the group room here for the blanket project

**CraigR:** if you select attach again from the featured items menu

**CraigR:** that might help

**CraigR:** there you will find lots of additional materials about the project

**CraigR:** if you click on the files menu (left side of the screen)

**CraigR:** you'll find a lesson plan

**GeorgiaJ:** How is this information, the information about the project being disseminated to others, those not in Tapped In?

**CraigR:** on the project site, you'll find some information

**BJB2:** it was presented at one of the National Art Educators Assn, but other than that, not much publicity outside of Tapped In

**GeorgiaJ:** So, does one have to be a member of Tapped In to participate?

**CraigR:** well, you can join the Blanket group

**CraigR:** but, no anyone can participate and submit work directly to the site

**SandraJF:** I was trying to find the link for this that I heard others talking about...forgot to scroll down from the top of my screen.

**BJB2:** Something we should mention about Tapped In special interest groups like the Blanket group....

**BJB2:** special interest groups are primarily RESOURCE rooms

**CraigR:** any teacher can submit student work to the site

**BJB2:** normally, only tapped in members can join a group and only group members can enter the group room

**CraigR** thanks BJ

**CraigR:** keep in mind

**BJB2:** the group room has been opened as part of the groups poster session to show you what is available here

**CraigR:** that the theme of the project is "peace through the resolution of conflict"

**CraigR:** and that conflict covers a range of topics

**BJB2:** after festival, in order to access the resources here and be able to post to the discussion board, you will need to join the group.

**BJB2** agrees with Craig

**CraigR:** including war, abuse, bullying, prejudice, and so on.

**CraigR:** and the projects students do can include any of the arts forms

**BJB2** . o O ( including the literary arts! )

**CraigR:** the basic idea here is any group can submit a virtual square to the quilt

**CraigR:** and that square can be linked to a school website where the student's work is displayed

**GeorgiaJ:** What is going to be done with this?

**CraigR:** it will be kept up on the web

**GeorgiaJ:** Is there no end result idea to use it in some way?

**CraigR:** it is NOT a physical quilt

**CraigR** wonders. . .

**CraigR:** like?

**GeorgiaJ:** Yes, I realize it is not a "real time" quilt, but it seems there would be some uses for it?

**Maggi:** how can this project best be supported?

**BJB2:** we'd love to have the peace quilt be a central location for all the other peace sites on the web

**GeorgiaJ:** Well, perhaps something along the lines of the types of things sent or done for the G8 summit. Information dissemination, I would guess.

**CraigR:** by getting students involved in projects that relate to the theme

**CraigR:** oh, I see

**GeorgiaJ:** Just a thought.

**GeorgiaJ:** You know how students are....they always want to have a reason for something.

**CraigR:** well, I do know BJ has published an article (or two) about the site

**CraigR:** well, one thing I've always found with students

**CraigR:** is that when they know their work will be published on the web

**CraigR:** for the whole world to see

**GeorgiaJ:** Yes, that is true.

**CraigR:** that's usually motivation enough to get them excited about working on the project

**GeorgiaJ:** I do like that idea. Is it also possible to link the page from a teacher's webpage? Is that ok?

**CraigR:** I'm interested though in hearing your thoughts and ideas no how to get kids and teachers involved in this project

**CraigR:** oh yes..link away!

**CraigR:** anyone with some thoughts?

**CraigR:** or, here's another way to think about this

**CraigR:** how can we use the arts to help kids express their thoughts, feelings, and experiences dealing with various forms of conflict?

**SandraJF:** I work with ELL (English Language Learners), many who have come to the US from war torn countries. This is a way to begin a discussion to work toward their emotional healing

**GeorgiaJ:** I would like to perhaps present a workshop, maybe at our state convention, to showcase the project. Would there have to be any permissions from someone to do that?

**BJB2:** One of the functions of the Festival is to showcase some of the regular events that take place in Tapped In

**BJB2:** so check the calendar for scheduled discussions for the Blanket project and share your ideas!

**CandaceP:** Thank you, Craig.

**BJB2:** or join the group and post to the discussion board...

**CraigR:** yes, those are good ideas

**CraigR:** you might consider doing a project with kids related to the theme

**BJB2:** as members of Tapped In you have to be proactive...you are the leaders

**CraigR:** and presenting on that

**CraigR:** and then, of course, telling people they can see your project through the Blanket project website

**CraigR:** anyone else with some thoughts, ideas, questions?

**BJB2** nods...that is what I meant about a central site for peace projects..a clearinghouse

**CraigR** nods back

**CraigR:** I recommend people read the article I linked to on the links page

**CraigR:** titled Using Culture and Art for Conflict resolution in Contemporary Times

**SandraJF:** just finished printing it

**CraigR** marvels at Sandra's tech wizardry

**CraigR:** and checking out the other links on that page

**SandraJF:** We're having a team meeting next week...year round school. This will be great to share.

**CraigR:** BJ has a nice collection of links on Backflip

**CraigR:** you still with us, Maggi?

**Maggi:** yes

**CraigR:** any ideas brewing there?

**SandraJF:** Went to Backflip and was not able to access "Mediation for Children"

**BJB2** listens to the sizzling brains

**BJB2:** I probably need to update the backflip links, Sandra

**SandraJF:** Can I get to that later?

**Maggi:** thinking how to get German schools involved

**BJB2:** I'll try to see what's up and provide an alternative link after festival, Sandra [Ed. Note: Peer Mediation [http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Nobel\\_MS/Webpages/peermed.htm](http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Nobel_MS/Webpages/peermed.htm) ]

**SandraJF:** Smiles appreciatively

**CandaceP:** I'm not as good with finding things as Sandra's tech wizardry (smile) where is the links page on your site. I clicked on teacher's references but I only got a backflip page and I couldn't find your article on that.

**SusanneN:** I saw a peace blanket knitting pattern at <http://www.knitting-and.com/knitting/patterns/afghans/peace-blanket.htm> (but I don't knit myself)

**CraigR:** Candace, are you looking on the group page?

**SandraJF:** the articles under "Featured Items"

**CandaceP:** I was looking at your web site showing the peace blanket

**SandraJF:** sorry...in the screen above this one

**SusanneN:** I found the link to the peace hats off project, in papier maché

**CraigR:** oh, if you look on the group page here on tapped In

**CandaceP:** Oh, I am sorry I was in the wrong place!

**CraigR:** for the Blanket project

**CraigR:** off to the left, you should see a links button

**CraigR:** got it?

**GeorgiaJ:** I like the fact that the quilt doesn't use the term war, but rather conflict. I can see my students being more able to identify and maybe come up with things that are more personal....conflict resolution

**CandaceP:** Yes, I found it easily, Thanks!!!

**CraigR:** yes, that's the idea



**CraigR:** kids encounter all sorts of conflict in their lives

**SusanneN:** Georgia, aren't students concerned about warfare as well?

**SandraJF:** Need to head out but I'm going to copy this article for my students in Foundations of Multicultural Education

**GeorgiaJ:** Maggi, do you mean students studying German?

**Maggi:** no German public schools

**CraigR:** and the arts (including the literary arts) offer avenues to explore and express their thoughts and feelings on these topics

**BJB2:** Georgia, Maggi is located in Germany

**BJB2:** . o O ( and Susanne is in Denmark )

**GeorgiaJ:** Susanne, yes and no. I teach high school French and Spanish in the USA. To tell you the truth, they still don't see much of the "global picture".

**BJB2:** Tapped In has an international membership of over 17,000

**GeorgiaJ:** I am in New Hampshire, USA.

**CraigR:** I think that problem is pretty common here in the US as well Georgia

**CraigR:** opps

**CraigR:** I guess YOU WERE talking about US students there

**BJB2:** Georgia, I think you touch on a very important issue

**CraigR:** this is the sort of project that will perhaps open their eyes to other forms of conflict,

**CandaceP:** Yes, Georgia, I teach in San Diego and most of my high school students aren't worried about global affairs, either.

**CraigR:** both local and global

**SandraJF:** How do we start to help students gain a global perspective that is relevant?

**GeorgiaJ:** Yes, my students are practically untouched, physically, by any kind of real conflict. Our state has very low crime, and we are just not very affected, personally, by

conflict. Therefore, I have found that most of my students think more of their own types of conflict.

**BJB2:** if they are adolescents, they should have lots of material!

**CraigR:** I did a project many years ago with young kids

**CandaceP:** Yes, my students are always consumed with their own personal problems.

**Maggi:** this would open a window

**GeorgiaJ:** My students do, however, have lots of family, and personal problems, like many.

**CraigR:** it was a design project in which kids had to show how to keep a cat and dog from fighting

**SusanneN:** Interesting, Georgia - would they not be exposed to second hand information about conflicts, by the media?

**BJB2:** another option, Georgia, is that Tapped In has a K-12 Student campus

**CraigR:** they did it through drawing

**BJB2:** where you can bring your students to talk with other kids from anywhere in the world

**GeorgiaJ:** Most students don't read newspapers, or watch the news on TV.

**CraigR:** interesting results...

**BJB2** . o O ( safe and secure place for kids )

**SusanneN:** aha, cats and dogs, we all know they have difficulty being in the same room unless they were brought up together

**CandaceP:** It would be interesting if students designed a picture of some personal conflict then these were displayed from all countries to compare and they might discover how others feel this way.

**GeorgiaJ:** BJB, that sounds like a good option.

**CraigR:** the solutions kids came up with could equally apply to global conflict situations

**SandraJF:** Good idea Candace

**GeorgiaJ:** Craig, how did you begin that project?

**CraigR:** yeas, I like that idea Candace

**BJB2:** Georgia, attend one of the Tapped In Tips and Tricks events on the calendar to learn more about the student campus

**SandraJF:** Empathy is a good place to start

**GeorgiaJ:** thanks, BJB, I will

**CraigR:** We started by talking about having pets in the house

**CraigR:** who has a dog and cat?

**GeorgiaJ:** Yes, Sandra, I agree, but it's difficult to empathize with little or no understanding.

**CandaceP:** When I have had my students have epals from all over the world they always share about their own problems with their families and discover they have a lot of similarities and this could also be done with pictures.

**CraigR:** how often do they get into little battles with each other?

**CraigR:** yes, I've found that too Candace

**CraigR:** and the project grew from there

**SandraJF:** Begin with yourself and any given situation...our ability to be vulnerable with our students provides them a perfect model of how to express their feelings

**GeorgiaJ:** True, Sandra, thanks.

**CandaceP:** Then the web site showing the quilt could be hung up in a prominent place in the school.... the library for example, with an explanation of what it is about. This could attract more attention from the rest of the school.

**CraigR** agrees

**CraigR:** the thing about this project to remember

**CraigR:** is there's a lot of flexibility here

**CandaceP:** I meant the picture from the web site could be printed then hung up!! smile

**SandraJF:** good discussion...hate to leave, but class is calling...BYE

**CandaceP:** Bye Sandra

**GeorgiaJ:** I will share just one more thing, though. I had a student, 17 yrs old, who adamantly stated that he felt no need to help, or feel anything for anyone who was not directly related to him in some way. He stated that he felt no empathy and saw no reason to. Most of the rest of the class was appalled at this.

**CraigR:** you can develop a project that meets the particular needs of your students and situation

**SusanneN:** Georgia, such an attitude

**CraigR:** and then link to your site from the Blanket website

**CandaceP:** If students begin with the topic of themselves, first, then they can eventually lead out to other topics of the world. Sometimes I have seen this.

**SusanneN:** I think you're hitting the nail Georgia

**CraigR:** yep...that's what happened with the design project (dog and cat) I mentioned earlier

**CraigR:** any other thoughts lingering out there?

**CraigR:** we're coming to the end of our time

**SusanneN:** I think we do have a great responsibility as educators to help students and their community open their eyes

**SusanneN:** and, that art projects like the Blanket can help with this

**BJB2** hopes that Craig has lit a virtual fire under everyone and they will passionately pursue the peace project

**CraigR:** especially in this day an age

**CraigR** cheers

**SusanneN:** more now than ever before

**ChristinPC** smiles

**CraigR:** well, I want to thank everyone for coming

**ChristinPC:** thank you

**CandaceP:** I like your idea, Craig, and maybe I can share this with our art teachers at my high school. (Smile)

**Maggi:** thank you Craig

**CraigR:** and encourage you to join the Blanket group