BJB2: Welcome to the last Festival session for today. The topic is Taking It Global and the speaker is Emily Kornblut

BJB2: we usually start Tapped In events with introductions.

BJB2: please tell Emily where you are located and what you teach

NellC: I'm in Durham, NC and I reach ESL K-8

BJB2: thanks, Nell...anyone else?

QuentinGst2: I'm in Anniston, AL and I am a band director

KatyD: I'm in Jujuy Argentina and I teach EFL

SusanSi: 4th grade rural NE Texas

SallyAL: I have been teaching ESL at Hawaii Pacific University in Honolulu, but I'm on a leave and am in Green Bay, WI.

ShayneTr: Toronto, Canada - I teach high school computers and art

NatalieC: Portland, Oregon -- Masters in Teaching student at Concordia University

EmilyKor: Has everyone had a chance to introduce themselves?

BJB2: a reminder if you are new to Tapped In to go to the Actions menu in the top right of the chat and select DETACH

BJB2 hands the virtual floor over to Emily

EmilyKor: Thanks, BJ - welcome, everyone - it's great to be with you all and hear where you're from

PutuS: Singaraja, Indonesia; English instructor at Undiksha

EmilyKor: And wonderful that we have a truly global crowd here this evening for most of us, morning for some

BJB2: wow! a truly global audience!

BJB2 hands Emily a nickel

EmilyKor: I'm in Brooklyn, NYC, and I'm the Education Program Manager at TakingITGlobal

EmilyKor: I do a lot of presentations that require a format of me standing in front of a room talking at people for long stretches of time, and it's not really how I like to help people learn

EmilyKor: so I would like to spend this time together sharing a bit about what TakingITGlobal does, and the resources we offer to educators, but also to allow us all to benefit from this chat format and have a discussion

SallyAL: sounds good

EmilyKor: please feel free to ask questions at any point

EmilyKor: To start off, I'd love to hear briefly how you're currently involved in global projects

SusanSi: Our 4th graders will be doing Journey North this year

EmilyKor: Just a barometer - whether it's something new to you or that you've been involved in previously

NellC: I've never been involved in a global project.

KatyD: you mean using taking it global or other kind of project?

EmilyKor: any kind of project

KatyD: my students took part in the cyberfair for example

PutuS: well, it's something new for me and I have never been in a global project

QuentinGst2: I have not done any other project other than internet blog spots...

EmilyKor: I ask because I believe global education is an idea whose time has finally come :) We're hearing more and more about it, especially because technology is enabling us to be more globally connected, as we all know

SallyAL: I've arranged e-mail exchanges between students and teachers in Hawaii with students and teachers in Ukraine.

KatyD: that's true

NatalieC: I've not done anything global at this time.

PutuS: if global also means virtual collaboration on the Internet, that's interesting.

EmilyKor: Definitely, Putu

BJB2 . o O (Tapped In is a global organization)

SusanSi: Journey North is a global study of wildlife migration and seasonal change. We'll be planting tulips, watching online as well to record data

EmilyKor: that's great - data exchanges are a great example of using online tools to learn about global connections

PutuS: ya, once I invited an English instructor based in Germany to join our virtual vocabulary class

EmilyKor: And all this technology is really shifting how young people interact, as I'm sure you've all seen with your students

NellC: Journey North sound neat- I'd like to know more.

EmilyKor: One of our main goals at TIG is to shift traditional thinking and structures around young people's roles in society, and build their capacities to be inspiring role models, active facilitators of learning for themselves and others, use their role as early adopters of technology as a force for positive change, and to be active community leaders around the issues that affect their generation and their world.

EmilyKor: Our programs seek to address these changing roles, especially in terms of the influence of digital media and social technologies and shifts in the way young people learn.

KatyD: sounds nice

EmilyKor: TIG was founded in 1999 by two young Canadians, Michael Furdyk and Jennifer Corriero, and our flagship program is TakingITGlobal.org, an online social network that now has over 200,000 members in more than 200 countries.

SallyAL: interesting!

KatyD: is it a pay site for teachers?

EmilyKor: At that time, the idea of online communities was still very new - but they had

this sense that new technologies had the potential to democratize civic participation for young people, and their ability to collaborate globally

EmilyKor: The overall TIG site is free for anyone to join - we do have some membership fees for teachers to use what we call "online classrooms" - essentially, setting up a private space for students to use

QuentinGst2: oh ok

EmilyKor: we are a nonprofit, so these membership fees help us with our sustainability and keeping the site commercial-free

EmilyKor: But the vast majority of the resources on our site are free of charge

EmilyKor: The goal of our online community is to provide access to resources, tools, information, and opportunities for young people on local and global levels – or, to "inspire, inform, and involve."

SallyAL: When you say "young people," what age group is TIG aimed at?

EmilyKor: That's a good question:) Our community is made up of youth, educators, and youth-led and youth-serving organizations (ranging from United Nations agencies to grassroots community initiatives)

EmilyKor: we use a broad definition of youth

EmilyKor: generally 16-30, because in some parts of the world you are still considered a young person even into your 30s

KatyD smiles

EmilyKor: but our platform for educators allows younger youth to participate in a more facilitated way that is led by their teachers

NellC: I'd like to hear more about that

EmilyKor: Sure, Nell

EmilyKor: we call our educator community "TIGed" - short for TakingITGlobal for Educators

EmilyKor: we've tried to take the best of our social networking tools and global resources, and integrate them into mini social networks with some class management tools

EmilyKor: so you as a teacher can set up one of these spaces, invite your students to join

and really easily import resources that you find throughout the site

EmilyKor: whether it's something like one of our Guides to Action: http://www.takingitglobal.org/action/guide/ - which are great project planning tools

NellC: Can you give an example of the types of action projects there are to work on?

EmilyKor: or youth-created content from other sections of the site, that give perspectives from students in a certain part of the world your class might be studying

EmilyKor: Well, it's really open to whatever our members want to work on

SallyAL: Are individual students able to join?

SallyAL: without a teacher or without being part of a class?

EmilyKor: We have lots of background information on different global issues - over 70 topics - where we provide some basics about what the issue is, which organizations are addressing it globally, and what young people are doing, but we also are trying to create spaces where students themselves can share their research or perspectives or projects on those issues

BeatrizJ: What types of projects are in the works?

EmilyKor: Yes, individual students can certainly join on their own - and their participation in the community is flexible, so if they are using TIGed for a class, they can still publish their writing or artwork on the global site

EmilyKor: We have a lot of young people in our community right now who are really passionate about addressing the issue of climate change

EmilyKor: So I will give you a few examples of ways they can get involved at different levels

EmilyKor: Ranging from older students who are initiating their own projects and getting involved in influencing policy, and attending events like the global conferences in Bali and Bonn

EmilyKor: http://projects.takingitglobal.org/cydbonn

EmilyKor: But we also have students who are studying their own carbon footprints, and comparing them with other classes in other parts of the world with whom they are collaborating

EmilyKor: and then researching potential solutions and pledging to make individual commitments through our Take Action section:

http://www.takingitglobal.org/action/commit/

ShayneTr: Do you help pair up classes?

EmilyKor: So, our philosophy is that there is not just one way for young people to become active in their communities, whether local or global

EmilyKor: We provide tools to help teachers network with each other

EmilyKor: For example: http://www.takingitglobal.org/tiged/ec/projectideas.html

EmilyKor: Here you can post ideas that you have for projects, as a way to search for collaborators

EmilyKor: You can also just search our members database to find others who are interested in the same issues as you

EmilyKor: Similarly, we have a database where you can share activities or projects that you have done already, to help inspire other teachers or as a way to invite them to join you: http://www.takingitglobal.org/tiged/activity/

EmilyKor: If you're just getting your feet wet with global projects, it's a good place to search for ideas. The lessons found there have been developed both by teachers in our network as well as global organizations that develop curriculum

SallyAL: I'm anxious to explore your site.

EmilyKor: Thanks, I know I've just shared a whole lot of links all at once, it does take time to go through and get an idea of what's there

NellC: Do you have suggestions for where to start on the site?

EmilyKor: we have a lot of active members working on a lot of different kinds of things!

EmilyKor: Well, I was just about to say...

EmilyKor: I think for teachers, one good place to start is with our Understanding the Issues section, because it has so much content

EmilyKor: http://www.takingitglobal.org/understand/

EmilyKor: So that might help with aligning global issues with either your subject area, or with particular issues that you know your students are interested in

EmilyKor: It also ties together content from across the site, all through the lenses of these different issues

KatyD: before we start, I tried but you have to join first

EmilyKor: You should be able to view all the resources I've shared without registering

KatyD: ok I'll try later then thanks

ShayneTr: There is a tutorial for teachers at http://www.takingitglobal.org/tiged/

ShayneTr: Seems like a good place to start

EmilyKor: Ah, yes - we do also have a number of screencasts on the help page of TIGed that walk you through getting started with the education platform

EmilyKor: Thanks, Shayne!

NellC: I just played the country game on the site- you can get to it through the understand link

EmilyKor: Part of the reason we have so many different things going on is because we know there are a lot of different ways to engage youth/students

EmilyKor: The games, for example, can be a really good way to "hook" students into thinking about issues they might not otherwise be drawn to

EmilyKor: Another example is our global gallery, that is home to over 15,000 pieces of youth created artwork

BJB2: wow!

EmilyKor: We really want to acknowledge that creative expression is an important form of global citizenship

EmilyKor: It gives students an opportunity to be published artists, but it's also an amazing visual literacy resource for teaching about other cultures, and about global issues

QuentinGst2: how much time does this take from normal classroom instruction?

ShayneTr: That's wonderful. I assume it's just digital images that they send -- not the original? I teach art.

EmilyKor: Well, the teachers in our network are generally integrating the site into regular classroom instruction

NellC: I love the art connection, how do students participate in having their work published?

QuentinGst2: Has this became a mandatory connection in the curriculum

EmilyKor: For example, using articles from Panorama, our online magazine, as primary sources; or we have language teachers who use the multilingual content as a way for students to practice reading comprehension

EmilyKor: I don't know that it is a mandatory connection in the curriculum, but it is helping teachers meet standards, especially in places that are emphasizing 21st century skills such as global awareness and problem solving

EmilyKor: To answer the art questions - they are digital images, but we have quite a lot that are scanned images of originals

QuentinGst2: I love the idea, however I wonder how rural schools take on this new idea of education

EmilyKor: there is an organization called People to People International that organizes a global mural project among students around the world, and they use the Global Gallery as the online archive for that project

ShayneTr: Seems like a much cooler way to learn about cultures, art, history, etc than just reading a text book

NatalieC: Or at least incorporating it into the lesson.

KatyD: cool

EmilyKor: yes, there is one teacher in our network who uses those murals as a way to get her students thinking about how culture is represented through art

ElizabethH: great

EmilyKor: Nell, students can post their art to a TIGed classroom, if they're using one, and they have the option of posting it privately just to the class, or publicly to the Global Gallery

EmilyKor: any student can join TIG and submit artwork to the gallery

EmilyKor: we have a worldwide team of virtual volunteers who help us moderate all the content on the site

SallyAL: Quentin, I think something like this would be an asset to rural schools where students and teachers have fewer opportunities to meet and mingle with people from other parts of the world.

EmilyKor: To answer your question about rural schools, Quentin - it's interesting. Quite a few teachers in rural settings have been passionate about getting their students involved in TIG because they know they have so few opportunities to interact with people elsewhere

KatyD: that's true

EmilyKor: We had one teacher in rural Quebec, Canada who did an amazing project in which her students interviewed TIG members in 5-6 different countries to research what poverty looks like in a range of local contexts

EmilyKor: These students live an hour from Montreal, yet have never even been there

ElizabethH: that is amazing

NellC: It is a great application for strengthening reading and writing skills in a multi-disciplinary application- something all schools can benefit from.

EmilyKor: Using tools like discussion boards and blogs, and combining that usage with issues the students become very passionate about, makes literacy much more engaging

ShayneTr: I've created an account and have been exploring the site. Is there a help area? Mentors?

EmilyKor: We do have a help page, I'll grab the link in just a second

EmilyKor: We also hold online office hours twice week

EmilyKor: http://www.takingitglobal.org/tiged/help.html

ShayneTr: Great! Thank you

EmilyKor: Also, your students are your best resource :)

EmilyKor: Because these are the tools they are already comfortable with - social networking is second nature to many of them, we're just bringing a different twist to it by focusing on global learning and collaboration

ShayneTr: Actually I teach them computer literacy - I love the whole web 2.0

EmilyKor: That's great

ShayneTr: I started with using wikis last year but want to branch out. This sounds amazing

JeffC joined the room.

ShayneTr: Do teachers send out permission forms since students are posting writing and art?

EmilyKor: That's a great question

EmilyKor: It's really up to the individual teacher and the policies of your school/district

EmilyKor: If you're using TIGed, you can make it private so that only students in your class can see what's posted

EmilyKor: But some teachers still get permission for that

EmilyKor: And we have some templates and examples of information that teachers have shared with their parents, that those teachers have allowed us to share with others

EmilyKor: I believe they are posted in the Activities Database

SusanSi: do you have elementary teacher participation?

EmilyKor: yes, we do - I would say there are more classrooms at the middle and high school level, but we definitely also have elementary classes. It often has much to do with the teacher's comfort level with the technology

EmilyKor: and finding appropriate uses for the tools at the elementary level

EmilyKor: but especially with the image galleries, those have been a big hit with elementary teachers

NellC: I have been exploring the site and it looks like there is much there that I can use with upper elementary

EmilyKor: Another resource I'll share is a best practices report we released last year - it is a series of case studies of different teachers, and there are a couple great elementary examples in there: http://www.tiged.org/bestpractices

EmilyKor: Btw, hi Jeff - welcome :)

BJB2: Jeff C is the person who arranged to have TIG and Emily present at the festival!

BJB2 cheers for Jeff

ElizabethH: Thank you Jeff

SallyAL: Yes, thank you!

EmilyKor: Thank you, Jeff - it's been fun to share our work!

BJB2: We're about ready to wrap this session....any last comments or questions?

SusanSi: gracias

EmilyKor: Are there other questions that I can answer? Ideas that are starting to germinate for you?

BJB2 . o O (Emily is welcome to present again in Tapped In)

NatalieC: Thanks for the great ideas as I begin my teaching career.

EmilyKor: It has been great hearing the projects you have planned for the upcoming school year, and I hope you all get a chance to explore the TIG site - I know I bombarded you with a lot of links tonight!

NellC: This was very informative and I'm looking forward to trying it out- Thanks

SallyAL: No questions. Just looking forward to spending some time looking over the site. Thank you for this resource!

EmilyKor: I'd be happy to hear from all of you if you have questions in the future: emily@takingitglobal.org

BJB2: Thanks again, Emily. TIG is a wonderful resource for educators

KatyD: gracias too!! :)

ShayneTr: I am excited about the possibilities. Thank you!

EmilyKor: gracias a ti, Katy!

EmilyKor: Thank you all