

Title of Session: The Frugal Educator

Moderator: Rosemary Harris

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Room: Hot Tub Conference Room

BJ: Welcome to the Frugal Educator discussion...

RosemaryEH: Hi everyone sorry I'm late having log in problems but I'm here

BJ: we usually start all our discussions with introductions

BJ: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and a helpdesk volunteer for Tapped In

ShereeR: <-----Artist and Art Educator in St. Petersburg Florida. I teach severely emotionally disturbed K-12

BJ waits for everyone to introduce themselves

BJ: Thanks, Sheree

RobH: I teach engineering in San Diego

RosemaryEH: For those of you who don't already know me, I am a computer teacher at two schools in inner-city Detroit.

JasonEW: I'm a future teacher from Ohio hoping to graduate next year

BrianW: I'm a science teacher (high school) in Greenwood Indiana.

ShereeR: I know the drill

JKrissW: I'm in San Diego, taking EdTec570 at SDSU. Currently a substitute teacher.

JeremiahH: I am a student teacher in a 8th grade block class with IEP kids in it too

AmyWh: I am a preservice early childhood/special ed. teacher

AllisonM: I am a pre-service teacher in the Early Childhood Education Program at North Georgia College

JenniferK: Hi, this is my first time here. I want to make sure I am in the right spot. I am hoping to be in frugal educators chat room

JaimieC: I am a preservice teacher wanting to teach middle school (social studies)

SusanR: I am a K to 8 Occasional Teacher from Ottawa, Ontario

RobH: you are right Jennifer

AmyWh: Charles, introduce yourself

MerileneM waves hello to everyone

BJ: we're just doing introductions, if you just entered the room

JenniferK: I am a preservice teacher in Georgia

AllisonM: I am talking to Ashley on the phone now

RobynL: Good to see you all. Just got to the computer!

BJ: I would also like to remind you all that Rosemary is the discussion leader

AmyWh: Is she coming?

SusanR: and presenter here at TI ..Physical Education/Games..tomorrow in the Comfy Lounge

AngelaKM: Sorry I am late. I just got out of class and came down. I currently work with special needs students that are at-risk for dropping out.

BJ: if you have something private you would like to say to a colleague, please use the private message

AshleyS joined the room.

SusanR: ..a FREE plug for my session...

BJ: thanks, Angela. Glad you could join us

BrianW: Hi Rosemary

AllisonM: Hey Ashley

BJ: Rosemary, did you want to set any guidelines for your discussion?

RosemaryEH: Welcome everyone. Just a note, I've just been selected to present the Frugal Educator at MACUL Michigan Association of Computer Users in Learning in Grand Rapids, MI in mid-March.

ShereeR: Great!!! Congratulations!!

BJ: congrats, Rosemary!

JaimieC: congratulations Rosemary

SusanR claps

JenniferK: Good Luck and congrats!

RobynL: I am a special education teacher. I work with children with emotional behavior disorders and learning disabilities. I am looking forward to learning some good stuff!

BrianW: I like to get resources for little or no cost!

RosemaryEH: This is one I have done before but it is worth another look as they have added some new videos Video Placement Worldwide <http://www.vpw.com/>

AshleyS: That's great, free videos

JeremiahH: That's great

JaimieC: that is nice

RobH: fantastic, thanks

JenniferK: Thanks!

RosemaryEH: My favorite is the Jelly Belly Factory Tour and a new one the Treasury did on money but it is only for a few states.

AllisonM: wow that's great

RosemaryEH: Yes and for every age group

AmyWh: Do you know of any good websites to get children's books for your classroom at a discount price?

JenniferK: Have you tried starfall.com?

BJ: If you have specific requests, please wait till Rosemary has presented the sites she has prepared

AmyWh: I have been to that website, but not for books

RosemaryEH: Any one of the best sources for reading is Reading A-Z
<http://www.readinga-z.com/>

AshleyS: Yeah starfall is good, but I don't think so for books

BJ: o O (perhaps, if she doesn't have a resource this month, she'll have one next time)

AmyWh: Thank you Rosemary

BrianW: The free video site looks easy to use and has many choices

RosemaryEH: You can print out individual books for grades K-6 with corresponding worksheets

AshleyS: Are the books cheap on Reading A-Z Rosemary?

JKrissW: Looks good.

JaimieC: the website does look very user friendly

RosemaryEH: Last month a member asked about freebies for Canadian teachers here is a great sources <http://www.thecanadianteacher.com/>

AllisonM: Wow and the books come with lesson plans and flashcards and worksheets at Reading a-z

RosemaryEH: US teachers may also find things there as well

RosemaryEH: Reading A-Z costs but it is a great value

AshleyS: Yeah, I'm glad we found out about this website

RobynL: The reading a-z looks like it would be good for my SPED kids, they have trouble with phonics

RosemaryEH: Another site that charges but again is nominal (remember the teacher tax credit) is EdHelper <http://www.edhelper.com/edhelperindex.html>

JeremiahH: Very nice, thanks

RosemaryEH: I can't sing the praises of Reading A-Z enough

JaimieC: I have been to this site before, it is awesome!

RosemaryEH: The parent site of Reading A-Z which is free is Learning Page <http://www.learningpage.com/>

JaimieC: edhelper

RobH: I love the learning page

JKrissW: Cool stuff, Rosemary

AngelaKM: Edhelper also has lots of free information as well.

RosemaryEH: You need to sign up as a member but like I said it is free. Goes up to about 3rd grade or so although some of the murals are great for any age.

AllisonM: and Ed helper has themes for everything

BrianW: I like the theme units that are available on the Edhelper site.

AshleyS: yeah I liked that too Allison

JenniferK: Can you sign up on these websites if you are a preservice teacher too?

AshleyS: I liked how edhelper lists the different themes for different days in November

RosemaryEH: sure

AmyWh: since I want to be a frugal teacher, I like the free sites the best!

JaimieC: edhelper has been very useful with many of my projects for school. They have a lot of free stuff too

AshleyS: What are some helpful websites for beginning teachers Rosemary?

RosemaryEH: For making some great worksheets on math, spelling, maps and just recently added bingo go to <http://www.schoolhousetech.com> and download the trials there are also some free "lite" versions. It saves so much time.

BrianW: I like EDhelper!

JenniferK: Do these websites offer information for grants as well?

JeremiahH: This is great

RosemaryEH: The 4th grade teacher at my school is addicted to the math worksheet generator as you put in your own parameters and it spits out the worksheet and an answer sheet in seconds.

RobynL: does edhelper specialize in anything or is it all academic areas?

JaimieC: I really liked the trial runs that schoolhouse had to offer

AllisonM: those bingo boards at schoolhouse teach are great, I just spent several nights making a rhyming game for students and I could have just printed one out there!

RosemaryEH: If you ever have time to go to my office I have links to many of the things I talk about here my regular ID is RosemaryEH

JKrissW: Do any of these sites give free crossword or word-search generation?

GreigT: These web sites look great. But I'm planning on teaching high school physics. Is there anywhere that has lots of good things for this?

AmyWh: these are a lot of great ideas

RosemaryEH: Discovery tools has free crossword generator and schoolhouse technologies has a word search.

VickieH: Are all of these items copyright free and distributable?

AngelaKM: <http://www.puzzlemaker.com> has several options

JaimieC: It is nice to have these websites in my resource bank for when I actually start teaching

JenniferK: I agree!

AllisonM: yeah it will be a big help

JaimieC: puzzle maker is a easy site to make games from

RosemaryEH: Thank you Angela. I like when people jump in and share their resources. That is why Tapped In is so nice.

RobynL: I have used puzzlemaker before to make a states puzzle. it was really easy

AshleyS: Rosemary, what do you think is one of the most successful ways to be a frugal teacher?

JenniferK: You can make worksheets at Aplusmath.com

JaimieC: www.teach-nology.com is a great site for worksheets and rubrics, as well as lesson plans

ShereeR: <http://www.aplusmath.com/>

RobynL: Rosemary, do you know where you can get free arts and crafts supplies for projects?

AngelaKM: **GreigT** the <http://www.cosi.org> usually has several online activities. Sometimes it is hit or miss.

ShereeR: I wanted that link to be a hot link

VickieH: I have used www.funbrain.com for grammar games and there's math games too.

GreigT: I haven't seen much discussion about free software. I know that there are some sites such as www.shareware.com

JKrissW: Want THE page to go for all about webquests? <http://webquest.sdsu.edu>

RosemaryEH: Art supplies I am not sure of a low cost place would be oriental trading company and making friends.com

AllisonM: Rosemary, when you get a chance, what about sites that provide deals on teaching supplies like bulletin board decorations?

RosemaryEH: I have a resource on bulletin boards let me find it

JaimieC: good question Allison, that stuff can get expensive!

AshleyS: Thanks for the resource SusanR

AllisonM: yeah, and it is so tempting to spend a lot of money on it because it looks so cute

JaimieC: Oh Yeah, I was just in the Teacher Supply store this afternoon

AmyWh: yeah and then you are not really a frugal teacher

JaimieC: I don't even have a classroom yet

RobH: I'm looking for hands-on physics or engineering activities, fun filler activities, made with cheap materials. Anything?

JaimieC: That is why I am here Amy

AmyWh: Me too

JeremiahH: Does anyone have any advice in regard to supplementing calculators in math classes?

JenniferK: It is so hard to not buy anything before you have a classroom!

GreigT: **RobH,** I like that question. Me too.

VickieH: I seem to spend my own money on board games. Any discount place for those besides Walmart?

JKrissW: Hmm... I have a ton of National Geographics going back to 1912, that school libraries don't want (rather have CDs) and I don't have time to put on Ebay. Think they'd be good for bulletin board illustrations and such?

JaimieC: I would try garage sales and dollar stores Vickie

RosemaryEH: <http://www.teachnet.com/how-to/decor/bboards/index.html> has bulletin board ideas and things you can print out for the bulletin boards

AmyWh: JKriss, that would be a good idea

GreigT: I wonder if there is a good place (web site)that lists grants that we can claim?

AllisonM: thank you Rosemary

JaimieC: Sometimes you can get really lucky

VickieH: Great suggestion--I hadn't thought about garage sales for games!

AmyWh: Sounds frugal to me

MollyH: My high school teacher had a graphing calculator that could be used on the overhead because it was transparent so the whole class could see it but I haven't seen one since.

RobynL: you gotta love the humor!

MollyH: I think that might take out the requirement but still give exposure

AngelaKM: I remember making games as projects in 6th grade. Now I realize my teacher was just being frugal.

RosemaryEH: <http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/> has some great learning software that you download. Just send an email to Mr. Sheppard and he will email teachers the registration codes free of charge.

AshleyS: **MollyH** I just attended a seminar Friday with Texas Instruments at North Georgia College and we will be able to receive a free overhead calculator

JenniferK: Is that why my 6th grader is making games?

AmyWh: Is there any way to click on the websites to take you straight to them?

AshleyS: Look for seminars like that or try Texas instruments, they have discount prices for teachers

RosemaryEH: Yes Texas Instrument also loans materials out. I don't have the URL address handy for it.

MollyH: How much is something like that?

GreigT: Rosemary, Thanks, that software site looks great.

AshleyS: The seminar or the classes?

MollyH: Seminar and/or calculator

GreigT: www.ti.com for Texas instruments

AmyWh: that is a good idea Ashley

MollyH: thanks Greg

AshleyS: thanks for the website Greg

AngelaKM: ebay has great prices on calculators

AllisonM: at the Seminar you not only get a calculator for free but you can also choose one on the over head things for transparencies so the whole class can see what you do on your calculator

RosemaryEH: Another great way to get some free materials is at travel agencies or find sites for tourism on states or even other countries.

MollyH: cool, thanks Allison

AllisonM: you're welcome

AshleyS: and you get free books at the seminar

JKrissW: Ebay has all kinds of things. I once got an actual Pennsylvania news journal (small booklet) from the War of 1812 period for \$10. Good primary/contemporary source stuff.

AllisonM: it was very helpful, they taught us how to use calculators to teach all kinds of concepts

GreigT: Many organizations around town, here in Eugene, OR are willing to give posters and things to schools. All you have to do is ask. Engineering firms might have some cool posters. Many manufactures of scientific stuff, such as Texas, or Ford are willing to give you stuff if you just write to them.

RobH: Thanks Greig

RosemaryEH: For some great downloadable software go to TuCows

<http://www.tucows.com/> type in freeware. As always some stuff is better than others but hey the price is right. Shareware you can test out for a trial period of time or has "nag" screens.

GreigT: Thanks

AngelaKM: If anyone has a connection to Lockheed Martin, they always have posters, etc.

RosemaryEH: It used to be that movie theaters gave out posters I don't know if they do that anymore.

RobynL: what is Lockheed Martin?

GreigT: How about videos or other multimedia stuff. Free overheads (color ones would be great)??

JKrissW: Hmm - I'll bet other airplane manufacturers would too.

RosemaryEH: You might try video stores also

EricaWh: Local hardware stores are also great if you're willing to solicit for some freebies. Paint stirrers, canvas tool aprons are some things I've seen donated that have multiple uses in the classroom.

AshleyS: Great idea, EricaWh, thanks

JaimieC: I used to work in a video store and we always gave out our old posters

JKrissW: It's easy to make your own overheads by finding stuff on the web and printing it out from Word. You can usually get good deals on inkjet transparency stock from Ebay.

SusanR: If you have an Imax theatre in your area...they give out old posters

AshleyS: What is a good website for reading activities?

GreigT: I want stuff for free though. I'm super broke, a student teacher!

AshleyS: other than starfall

AngelaKM: Multiple teachers have told me that they have called publishers directly for free overhead material.

RosemaryEH: <http://www.iloveschools.com/> connect teachers who need learning materials and supplies with individuals and businesses that want to help.

JaimieC: Doesn't the school you teach at give you transparency paper?

GreigT: There's no color printer at my school

AngelaKM: I have found that I can print on any transparency. I no longer buy the expensive stuff.

RosemaryEH: Greig what grade are you looking for free stuff?

MollyH: that is really neat that someone put that together, thanks for the site Rosemary

JKrissW: So use b&w - make your own overheads on paper, then copy them onto the school's transparency stock.

RobH: Now THAT'S helpful! What a great site! Thanks Rosemary

AllisonM: All these websites are wonderful

RobynL: I love schools looks awesome!

AmyWh: Does anyone know of good websites for reading activities (phonics, sight vocabulary, comprehension, etc.)?

GreigT: Rosemary, Middle, High school. thanks

JKrissW: Yes, very helpful.

RosemaryEH: You're welcome Rob.

JaimieC: a lot of textbooks now come with plenty of free supplemental materials as well

AmyWh: that's a good point Jamie

GreigT: So maybe text book publishers is a good place to start to get things?

RosemaryEH: As I've said before Reading A-Z is very worthwhile for the money.

<http://www.readinga-z.com/>

AshleyS: ok, thanks

AshleyS: Are there any good free ones though?

AmyWh: I will try that out

JaimieC: yeah

AllisonM: How much do schools themselves pay for teacher's supplies and materials?

JaimieC: it depends on the school

AmyWh: I was wondering the same thing Allison

AngelaKM: Rosemary, have you used the iLoveSchools program?

JeremiahH: At my placement, they received a grant for free Palm Pilots for kids to use

JaimieC: some of the school's in Houston have a \$100 a year budget per teacher

RosemaryEH: <http://www.baggetta.com/default.htm> has both freeware and shareware (particularly English and classroom management tools)

AmyWh: really Jeremiah, wow

JaimieC: the first year us tough but it gets better as you collect stuff

JeremiahH: Yeah it was pretty neat, they have great potential for the students

AllisonM: wow, \$100 a year, that won't last ya very long

JaimieC: nope!

AshleyS: I agree Allison

RosemaryEH: Yes, I got some carpeting and some networking supplies from iLoveSchools Angela

AngelaKM: Don't reinvent the wheel. I have collected so many great resources from other teachers in the school.

AmyWh: can they take them home or just use them at school?

JKrissW: Hit up the ones who are retiring, Angela.

JaimieC: yeah, or request donations from area businesses, just ask an administrator if its OK first

AshleyS: good idea JKriss

JeremiahH: They are just using them at school for now, but in the future with more grants it may be a possibility

AmyWh: that is interesting, what do they use them for?

GreigT: Rosemary, Are there any good free magazines that I should subscribe to, particularly as a science teacher??

RobynL: the teachers that are retiring are all about giving stuff away. also on the first and last weeks of schools for teachers I got a lot of nifty things.

AllisonM: that is such a good idea Robyn!

JeremiahH: Right now they are just getting introduced to them, but they can use them for word processing and daily planners

AshleyS: Good question Greig

RosemaryEH: <http://www.littlefingers.com/> has some shareware or you can order their classroom series for \$20 (PK-5) also has some free Mac software for the tiny ones.

AmyWh: I have never heard of that being used, but I love technology in the classroom

AmyWh: it's a great idea

AshleyS: What are some good magazines for beginning teachers or preservice teachers?

GreigT: Thanks Ashley

JeremiahH: Tech in classroom is great, it changes the pace for students and teachers

AmyWh: yes that is true

JaimieC: I agree

RosemaryEH: For those artistic teachers, we are doing a calendar called Handprints to Remember <http://www.interactivemom.com/calendar.html>

GreigT: Rosemary, Are there any good free magazines that I should subscribe to, particularly as a science teacher??

JenniferK: Jeremiah you said you got your palm pilots from grants, are there any good websites for grants?

GreigT: Good question Jennifer

RosemaryEH: Greig there is a great source for science videos let me pull it up

JaimieC: Greg, try looking at discovery.com Sometimes they have their magazine online for free

JeremiahH: I actually wasn't on the committee that got them, but I could find out for you and post the info at my office

GreigT: Thanks Jaimie

AllisonM: Got to go, Thank you for all the great websites and ideas Rosemary!! and Everyone!!

JKrissW left the room (signed off).

JaimieC: That website also has lesson plans for teachers

AshleyS: Thanks for the websites with lesson plans

AngelaKM: <http://www.mimeo.com> has a contest every month where you can win a free mimio

JaimieC: Greg, maybe you could contact NASA for cool information and stuff

ShereeR: Thank you Rosemary.

RosemaryEH: <http://catalog.hhmi.org/index.jsp> is the website for free science videos.

Yes NASA has some great ones I spoke of them 2 months ago

RobynL: Rosemary thanks for all of the websites. I am excited to go print out good stuff

BJ . o O (in addition to the archived information Rosemary has in her office...)

RosemaryEH: Boy you guys kept me on my toes tonight!

JenniferK: Thanks, you all for the great information. Thanks Rosemary!

BJ: you can also look at archived transcripts at www.tappedin.org/transcripts

GreigT: Thanks for all the info everyone

JaimieC: Thanks for all of the information Rosemary

AshleyS: Thanks for all the resources

JeremiahH: yes thanks a lot, very informative

RobH: Thank you Rosemary, I'll contact the NASA people

JKrissW: Thanks BJ.

RosemaryEH: Look forward to seeing you all next month. Keep your eyes peeled!

AshleyS: I will be up all night looking at all these websites

SusanR: Thanks< Rosemary

AmyWh: Thanks for all of the great ideas !!!

JKrissW: It's been.... educational!

JeremiahH: I'm assuming the chat is over?

MollyH: Thanks to everyone, especially Rosemary!

RobynL: I feel very frugally

BJ: You're verifying your next Frugal Educator on December 22?

RosemaryEH: yes! Dec 22

BJ: thanks, Rosemary. See you then! Happy Thanksgiving.