

Title of Session: Preservice Teachers Forum

Moderator: Janet Naher-Snowden

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Jan_NS: Seems like we will have a more cozy group this evening.

Jan_NS: Generally we start with introductions.

AnnCK: I am a PUMA student at the University of Houston.

KaraNK: My name is Kara and I am a Preservice teacher from the University of Houston. I would like to teach second or third grade.

Jan_NS: I'm Jan Naher-Snowden, facilitator for Preservice Teacher Discussion, and faculty at U. of Akron, Ohio.

Jan_NS: Glad to have you both join me tonight for our chat.

KaraNK: Thank you.

LinW joined the room.

AnnCK: Thank you.

Jan_NS: Hi, Lin - we were just doing introductions

KathrynD joined the room.

LinW: Hi Jan

Jan_NS: Hi, Kathryn (or do you go by Kathy?)

KathrynD: Kathryn

Jan_NS: thank you for letting me know, makes everything easier

KathrynD: sure

Jan_NS: Lin and Kathryn - please introduce yourselves and the rest of us will do the same for you.

LinW: Jan this is my first "official" time here.

Jan_NS: I'm Jan Naher-Snowden, facilitator for this group, and faculty at the U. of Akron, Oh.

Jan_NS: Lin, we usually start with intros and then we will begin. Just let me know if you have trouble.

LinW: ok

Jan_NS: Kara and Ann are both students at the U. of Houston.

KathrynD: Hello, I am a pre-service teacher at the University of Houston. I will be graduating this December and cannot wait to start teaching.

KaraNK: I am a Preservice teacher at the University of Houston. I'm interested in teaching second or third grade.

KathrynD: I would like to teach either 1st or 2nd grade.

Jan_NS: Lin, tell us about yourself.

AnnCK: I am a Preservice teacher at the University of Houston as well and I would like to teach first grade.

LinW: I am Lin Walther. I am working on my masters in lib. science. Last night our instructor showed us this site.

Jan_NS: Ah, did your instructor suggest coming for a discussion?

LinW: I teach special ed. for the state of MO

LinW: We are to meet her and talk. But I wanted to get a head start.

Jan_NS: Seems we have a diverse group. Please feel free to ask questions if you are having trouble.

KaraNK: ok, thank you.

LinW: thanks

AnnCK: Thank you.

Jan_NS: and if you have not participated in a "Tips and Tricks" session you might want to drop in sometime. The TI calendar lists the days and times

Jan_NS: First off, I have a question for you.

Jan_NS: All teachers are supposed to use technology in the curriculum (once you get to the classroom). What are your feelings about how prepared you feel you are?

Jan_NS: . o O (just jump right in! Please!)

LinW: I feel that on a scale from 1 to 10 I am a six or seven

KathrynD: I feel somewhat prepared. I know how to use a lot of computer applications like Powerpoint, etc. But, unfortunately, I don't know how to use a digital camera.

Jan_NS: Lin, I imagine that you are getting some extras in preparation given your current program of study.

KaraNK: I feel like I have learned so much from the technology courses that are required for all Preservices teachers to take, but I'm still a bit timid about how rapid technology changes.

KathrynD: I'm with you, Kara

AnnCK: I feel adequately prepared. I have worked with applications such as Powerpoint, Excel, and Frontpage.

Jan_NS: I have taught tech classes for several years. My sense is that most students (by the time they are ready to student teach) are comfortable using software for themselves.

AnnCK: I too feel as Kara and Kathryn, though. I am still timid about technology changes.

Jan_NS: But what about integrating technology into the curriculum and having meaningful learning taking place as a result?

Jan_NS: As a clarification: so that the technology is a seamless component of the lesson and necessary for a successful outcome?

KaraNK: I firmly believe that technology integration should take place. I think that we would do a great disservice to our students if we do not allow them to use or teach technology in our classes.

KaraNK: I'm sorry my responses are slow. I'm a slow typist.

KathrynD: Do you mean our opinion or how comfortable we feel with doing so?

KathrynD: I'm a slow typist, too

Jan_NS: so, Kara, do you feel that you will be able to step into the classroom and actually integrate the technology so that students are using the tech as a tool and avenue to have meaningful learning.

AnnCK: Technology integration is important. It would not be appropriate to not have technology in the classroom.

Jan_NS: How do you feel personally? Do you feel prepared to do this yourself?

KaraNK: Yes I do. In fact in a few weeks I will be implementing a Virtual Classroom Tour.

Jan_NS: I think all of us can agree that tech. integration is important.

KathrynD: I definitely feel technology integration is important in the classroom. I feel moderately confident in my abilities to integrate technology.

Jan_NS: That is great, Kara. What area of the curriculum are you focusing on?

AnnCK: As a matter of fact, I too will be implementing a Virtual Classroom Tour.

KaraNK: I thinking second grade science. They are studying animals so something along those lines.

Jan_NS: Are Virtual Classroom Tours covered as a strategy in your courses?

KaraNK: Yes, it is a required lesson for our technology class.

Jan_NS: Ah, seems that having an exposure during a class makes the entire process a bit more manageable.

KaraNK: Definitely.

AnnCK: Yes, it does.

KathrynD: I agree

Jan_NS: If you had a voice in what strategies that you could become adept at using for the future, what might you select to learn more about?

Jan_NS: Webquests, Web-Inquiry projects, using primary source documents in the classroom?

AnnCK: I would have to say that I would like to learn more about Webquests.

KaraNK: Personally I would like to learn about adaptation software for special needs students. We were exposed to some, but I would like to learn much more about what's out there.

KaraNK: Oh yes Ann, WebQuests are really interesting.

Jan_NS: Kara - that is one area that many of your profs would like to learn more about too. Too bad that Lin left us. She might have been able to share some resources and ideas.

KathrynD: There are a lot of things I am not proficient in. I would like to learn how to use a camcorder/digital camera, the projection screen for slide presentations, on-line tours, and, like Kara and Ann, Webquests

Jan_NS: I have a site that I want to share with you tonight. The Teacher Tap has professional development resources and also gives a great overview of what technology rich learning looks like.

KaraNK: I'm not sure what you would call them, but I would like to set up a live chat with another class in another part of America, or even in another continent.

Jan_NS: Kara, remind me to come back to that idea.

KaraNK: ok.

Jan_NS: Check the overview and the eight approaches. Explore a bit and then come back and share your impressions.

Jan_NS: Here is the URL: <http://www.eduscapes.com/tap/>

MelodieW joined the room.

BjB: welcome, Melodie

AliceIS joined the room.

BjB: Hi, Alice. Welcome

AliceIS: Hi

KaraNK: Wow. I added this to my favorites. There is so much great information in there. I like the expert link that we as teachers can go to to ask questions so that we are better prepared for our lessons. Thanks so much for the site. I can't wait to explore it in depth more.

Jan_NS: Kara and Ann - did you notice the link for Virtual Field Trips?

Jan_NS: And one for Special Education?

AnnCK: Thanks Jan. This looks like a great site to explore. I appreciate your sharing this website with us.

KaraNK: I saw it, but I did not go into it yet.

AnnCK: I too saw it, but I have not gone in yet.

Jan_NS: just bookmark and check it later - Teacher Tap has lots of good examples and many links.

KaraNK: I will. Thanks again for the great link. I will share it with my classmates.

KathrynD: Wow! Really neat

Jan_NS: For more examples and discussion of Best Practice in Technology Integration, check this website.

<http://www.knowledgeloom.org/practices3.jsp?location=1&bpinterid=1163&spotlightid=1163>

Jan_NS: Kara - there is whole section dealing with accessibility. Make sure you look at the section: Multiple Learning Strategies.

AliceIS: Hi. these look like good sites to check out

Jan_NS: good resources, reading and links!

AnnCK: This website is also nice. Thank you. I will take a look at the Multiple Learning Strategies.

KaraNK: So these are examples of how technology should work in our classrooms?

Jan_NS: yes, Kara.

KaraNK: Thanks, I put this in my favorites as well.

KathrynD: I like that each topic has research to back up each view

Jan_NS: These examples and the discussion with them gives an overview of what "best practice" looks like. From people who are in the trenches doing this everyday.

KathrynD: Awesome

Jan_NS: Evidence-based practices are being stressed more and more. And the evidence is often research-based.

Jan_NS: And if you have not visited the George Lucas Educational Foundation website Edutopia - George Lucas Educational Foundation

Jan_NS: <http://glef.org/>

KaraNK: That is really important because sometimes our professors will show us something and we think well that sounds real nice, but will it work? Now we know it can work.

KathrynD: I like that real examples are given so that we know what and how it is supposed to work

Jan_NS: much better than just talking about it in a general sense.

KathrynD: much better

Jan_NS: GLEF has many videos of classrooms and interviews with various educators who give their opinion about technology in the classroom

AnnCK: I think that that free teaching modules in the professional development link sounds interesting. I cannot wait to check it out.

Jan_NS: The GLEF site also has a tutorial that is excellent with embedded videos and clips.

Jan_NS: here is the URL: <http://glef.org/TI/index.html>

KathrynD: That is really neat. I like the videos!

KaraNK: It is very nice to see technology practiced in a real classroom. Unfortunately some of what I have seen have not been the best examples of excellent technology integration.

Jan_NS: I agree. Many times I visit classrooms where the computers are sitting on carts with the monitors facing the wall. Sad commentary

AliceIS: it happens a lot

Jan_NS: Very true. Much professional development for practicing teachers is a one-shot deal but not enough for the teachers to feel confident enough to actually use the technology in a lesson for the students to use.

KathrynD: A lot of times, I've seen teachers just use an overhead as their technology. While it is a good tool, there is so much out there that can enhance learning even more.

Jan_NS: I agree.

KaraNK: How can we as new teachers ask for certain types of technology in order to be able to access or implement some of these activities?

Jan_NS: But it also takes a shift in our perspective - that students are equally responsible.

MelodieW: yes

Jan_NS: I always recommend that new teachers tread softly. Sometimes established faculty will feel that you are "bragging" even though you are not.

MelodieW: that is very true

MelodieW: the established faculty feels threatened

KaraNK: So what is the best way to ask and to even get other teachers on board with your ideas?

AnnCK: I too have seen classrooms with little technology integration. It is nice, however, when we do have the opportunity to see lots of technology integration.

Jan_NS: And at the same time, find sources for grants, funding for special projects. Demonstrate the potential by what you do.

AliceIS: it's often done in tiny steps, in incrementally small change that is demonstrated to be effective

Jan_NS: Get the parents of your students involved with the technology by sending them student created newsletters (done on the computer).

AliceIS: good idea

MelodieW: if you have a mentor, that is the first place I would start, Kara

Jan_NS: Yes, baby steps are often the best way. And don't forget you will be crossing many other "new teacher" bridges that will take a lot of energy and focus.

KaraNK: You do not feel that parents that do not have access to electronic sources will feel left out or insulted?

Jan_NS: But find sources for funding for new equipment, software or projects.

Jan_NS: Good question, Kara.

KathrynD: I would like to know, as well

Jan_NS: How do all of you feel about the families who do not have access.

KathrynD: sorry, I just got the messages

AliceIS: Kara, you can showcase the product at an back to school/open house

MelodieW: once people see that you are using technology, they may be more willing to help you acquire the resources.

Jan_NS: that is true - all of you have practical suggestions.

Jan_NS: Demonstrate by your actions and student outcomes rather than by your words.

Jan_NS: Parents can be some of the best allies.

MelodieW: yes....student outcomes are a powerful motivating factor

Jan_NS: And don't forget the larger community.

KaraNK: The school that I am planning to teach is a lower socio-economic school. I know that many of the families will not have the resources required for any type of technology integration.

KathrynD: those are great suggestions. I particularly like the student-created newsletters

KaraNK: I meant outside of the classroom of course.

Jan_NS: True, but perhaps you could plan for family tech nights or afternoons at the school so parents can participate with their students

AnnCK: This sounds like a great idea.

AliceIS: do these parents maybe have access at a public library?

KaraNK: I like the student produced outcomes too.

KaraNK: Yes they do Alice, but many of them are illiterate.

MelodieW: but their students are not..

Jan_NS: maybe they do but sometimes transportation and anxiety once they get there can be an additional problem

AliceIS: certainly, so they have a double discomfort

Jan_NS: And yet some of the lower socio-econ. schools actually have more school resources than other more well-to-do neighborhood schools.

KaraNK: This is true, and what I have observed so far is that as their students begin to learn, they learn from their children.

MelodieW: the parents want what is best for the children I would bet that they would take them to the library even if they don't participate

AnnCK: I have noticed this as well, Kara.

Jan_NS: that is why a school based family tech night (hour, afternoon) can be so powerful. Their children can share with them and teach them, too.

MelodieW: as they become more comfortable, they may come around

KaraNK: Yes, I agree with all of you.

KathrynD: Great point

KathrynD

Jan_NS: Unfortunately, our time for this evening is about over. The websites shared tonight will keep you busy until next month.

KathrynD: Thank you.

MelodieW: thank you

AnnCK: Yes, thank you.

Jan_NS: Please join the Preservice Teachers Group if you would like.

AliceIS: thanks

KathrynD: I will definitely be looking at them more in depth

KaraNK: Thank you so much for the great websites and answering all of our questions. You have been a great help.

Jan_NS: This has been a great discussion tonight. Thank you for joining me.

KathrynD: thanks, again.

AnnCK: You're welcome.

KaraNK: Goodbye all.

KathrynD: bye

Jan_NS: Please come again. And let others know about our group!

Jan_NS: Night all.