Title of Session: K-3+ Resources - Collaborative Online Projects
Moderator: Susan Roseman
Guest Speaker: Jen Wagner
Title of File: 20060822k3
Date: August 22, 2006

Room: Comfy Conference

SusanR: Yes, let's get started with intros

DavidWe: Check out: http://www.technospud.com/

DavidWe hopes Jen doesn't mind a little publicity

EmilyW joined the room.

SusanR: I am Sue Roseman from Ontario, Canada..K to 8 Occasional Teacher, former tech integrator and facilitator of the K to 3+ Great Resources sessions

JenW: not at all --thanks

DavidWe: I'm David Weksler. I'm in New Jersey, near New York City. I'm one of the HelpDesk volunteers for Tapped In

FredK: I am a tutor for the Pushmataha County Literacy Council in SE Oklahoma

BridgetM: I teach k-2, special education, New York

JenW: I am Jennifer Wagner -- Corona, CA -- and I host online projects

KimballH: I am Kim, a Computer Resource Specialist in Virginia Beach.

CynthiaSA: I am Cynthia Alvarado, a k-8 media specialist in dearborn, Mi

DavidWe . o O (Fred gets another merit badge for consistent TI discussion participation)

DebbieO: I teach technology in an elementary school in NYC

CynthiaSA: I am Cynthia Alvarado, a k-8 media specialist in Dearborn, Mi

EmilyW: I am Emily, on Tapped In helpdesk, and web designer

FredK . o O (TI is a valuable resource)

SusanR . o O (Quite a diverse crowd with loads of technical expertise)

SusanR: Let me say a few things before I hand the floor over to Jen

SusanR: Collaborative, online projects are one of the most exciting ways to motivate students.

SusanR: Let's Get students involved with posting projects on the web, emailing other students or experts, discussing issues on a threaded discussion, or holding a online chat.

SusanR: an online chat

KathieK joined the room.

BJB2: welcome, Kathie

KathieK: Hi

KarenL joined the room.

DebbieO: ok...but I have a question......what do you do when the board of ed will not allow any type of chat - it's all blocked..

DavidWe waves to Karen and Kathie

KarenL: hi everyone!

JenW: Online projects don't have to use chat -- however some do.

BJB2: welcome, Karen

SusanR: It is a great honour to have Jen Wagner with us this evening. Jen has been involved in implementing online collaborative projects since 1999

KimballH: I've participated in several without student email or chat. The kids love seeing their results and photos posted

JenW smiles at everyone

KarenL: Debbie, I do understand your frustration. I'm having the same problem. . .

SusanR: Jen's the 2006 recipient of the Global School Network Online Shared Learning Award for her longstanding work in the collaborative field.

DavidWe cheers

SusanR: along with other awards

DavidWe: Very cool, Jen

PatriciaCh joined the room.

DavidWe waves to Patricia

JenW blushes

BJB2: welcome, Pat

PatriciaCh waves hello

DavidWe: Were you at NECC in San Diego, Jen?

JenW: yes I was

SusanR: So with out further ado I hand the floor over to you, Jen.

JenW: LOL -- thanks Susan

SusanR: Tonight's topic of course is implementing online collaborative projects...the challenges, joys and projects of course.

SusanR: over to you Jen

JenW: Well -- I didn't expect to have the floor but this will be fun

JenW: and I would like to address the chat issue first if I might

JenW: if that is okay

SusanR: yep

DebbieO: please do

JenW: because if DOPA passes - things will get even tighter

JenW: I am trying how to word this correctly so I don't sound too harsy

JenW: If a project is written well -- there should not only be one method of communication

JenW: so if chat is the only option -- you might wish to write the host to give your concerns and talk about other possibilities

KarenL joined the room.

JenW: such as email exchange, wikis (which have not been blocked yet) or

SusanR: Welcome Jane

DebbieO: but we even have problems setting up e mail accounts too

JenW: a safe environment such as a moodle or tapped in

JenW: Debbie -- I know it is hard

JenW: they truly are trying to protect our kids

SusanR . o O (Tappedin is as safe as it gets)

JenW: they just aren't looking into options

JenW: IMHO of course

JenW: and I was at a small Christian Private school -- so I know the issues

DebbieO: I understand that...but they also tie our hands

DavidWe: Indeed!

JenW: yes -- so we -- you and I -- have to be ambassadors of options

BridgetM: like that term!

JenW: and sometimes YOU might need to be a courier of the communication

JenW: LOL -- so do I -- I might need to patent that one!!

DavidWe . o O (courier of the communication == COC)

JenW: meaning you use your own email address -- print out the communication for your students and then

BridgetM . o O (great 4 sp ed teachers)

CynthiaSA: Our district has just put up a moodle and the first thing I put up is for the parents.

JenW: type in your responses from things students have created in a word-processing program

JenW: LOL -- there are ways around it -- you just have to be creative

CynthiaSA: That way they will see that it is safe for their kids

JenW: yes

JenW: we have a uphill climb -- the internet is still relatively new and is scaring admin to death

JenW: ANYWAY --

JenW: may I ask if anyone has ever participated in a project??

BridgetM: not yet

JenW: and if it was one of mine -- LOL, be gentle

DavidWe knows about lots of projects but isn't a classroom teacher

KimballH: yes

CynthiaSA: not with my k-3s

JenW: Well hopefully that will change Bridget -- they are great fun

KarenL: I've heard about them

KimballH: this year K, and 2 did Bucket Buddies

DebbieO: we participated in thinkquest...then couldn't upload our projects because of server issues

BridgetM: I'm here to be inspired

JenW: Budget Buddies is a great one -- and pretty advanced

JenW: There are many different kinds of projects from very simplistic to very in-depth

JenW: mine tend to lean towards simplistic but with a LOT going on

KimballH: The Gifted Resource Spec and myself did it with two Kindergarten classes with a third grade helping them and two 2nd grade gifted clusters

KimballH: we made our local newspaper too - they love that stuff!

JenW: Kimbal -- if you can find the Bucket Buddy link -- please put it here. I am unsure which one you did

JenW: YES -- online projects really get your school noticed in a variety of ways

KimballH: http://www.k12science.org/curriculum/bucketproj/

JenW: and it gets your kids very excited about learning in a fun new way

JenW: and you are teaching the same concepts that you did before -- but justina new and unique way

JenW: Can I ask again for grade levels??

KimballH: K-5 here

CynthiaSA: k-8

BridgetM: k-2 special ed

PatriciaCh: grade 7

DebbieO: k-5 school, but I work mainly with 3-5

DebbieO: and sped

SusanR: the complete list for all grade levels is here

FredK: adult

JenW: okay -- great

SusanR: http://www.k12science.org/collabprojs.html

SusanR . o O (look at it later)

JenW: the bucket buddy is all levels

KarenL: Computer Resource Teacher--K-12--with a high school background--so I was hoping to see the k-3 end here

JenW: my O.R.E.O. project coming up in 3 weeks is all levels

JenW: my Lucky charms in March is K - 3 only

JenW: so -- you can find projects for all ages

JenW: Would you like to see an example of a project??

BridgetM: yes!

CynthiaSA: sure

SusanR: please

KarenL: I would--I went to Technospuds before I logged in

JenW: Susan -- could you broadcast -- http://www.technospudprojects.com/Projects/dcducks/information.htm and then I can talk about it after they look at it??

JenW: http://www.technospudprojects.com/Projects/dcducks/information.htm

JenW: this was a 3 week project for K - 5

JenW: happened entirely by accident

JenW: let me know when you are back -- or have any questions

EmilyW: when did this happen?

JenW: Last year -- around March/Feb --

JenW: it had some great tie ins to a variety of skills --

JenW: and several schools ended up being written up in the paper for their participation.

JenW: and Debbie -- NO CHAT involved.

KarenL: I saw the story in the news

JenW: Yes, I caught the story on the news on a Friday -- and was hosting the project on Monday --

JenW: it was a project that just had to be hosted

JenW: sometimes they happen that way

JenW: anyway -- you can see that there are several levels of learning going on

JenW: and YOU the teacher choose the level of commitment

JenW: though the host provides the ideas -- it is the teacher who makes the project work within his/her own environment

JenW: This project was simple but effective

JenW: Another project -- which was very involved and very historical was the Shoeless and Bark project based on Lewis and Clark

JenW: would you like to see this one -- it was K - 8

JenW: and a travel buddy project

KarenL: I would.

PatriciaCh: yes

JenW: http://www.technospudprojects.com/Projects/snb2005/index.htm

CynthiaSA: yes

FredK: of course

JenW: I shall wait here

JenW: it had six boxes that went around the US teaching about Lewis and Clark

JenW: each day students had to participate in learning activities that helped them learn more about L & C

EmilyW: how do you get the ideas for your projects?

JenW: there was journaling, mapping

JenW: LOL -- Emily, to be honest -- they just come to me

JenW: I don't mean to sound flippant

DavidWe smiles

JenW: I just wanted to do a project about L & C after seeing an Imax movie

JenW: and since there were going to be beanies involved, I decided to name them Shoeless and Bark

JenW: which rhymes with Lewis and Clark -- however, many teachers just didn't get that. But kids did right away

DavidWe grins

JenW: This year -- due to the end of the 200th anniversary of L & C -- we are ending that project

KarenL: nice!

EmilyW: I like how the websites go with the theme

JenW: but using the beanies again in a new project based on "The Incredible Journey"

JenW: thank you, Emily. I no longer have bulletin boards -- so I think my websites have become my bulletin boards

KarenL: Jen, I missed quite a bit, but I have a quick question. Do you have a email list to let people know about collaborative projects?

KimballH: hmmm....400th anniversary of Jamestown is this year....

JenW: yes Karen -- visit this link -- http://www.technospudprojects.com/calendar.htm

JenW: and scroll to the bottom

DavidWe . o O (Mozart's 250th birthday, I think)

JenW: Kimball -- sounds like a good plan

KarenL: thanks!

JenW: it is also the 50th anniversary of Cat in the Hat

JenW: see -- you are thinking of projects on your own

JenW applauds

JenW: But -- can you see -- in a simplistic way -- how projects can expand your walls?

SusanR . o O (notices the OREO project is still open)

JenW: also -- for more in-depth and a variety of projects -- you need to check out

KarenL: Are the closed projects viewable in your archives?

JenW: http://www.globalschoolnet.org/GSH/pr/index.cfm

JenW: Jane -- yes they are viewable

JenW: however the worksheets have been taken down

SusanR: are there any fees involved, Jen

JenW: Susan -- usually NOT

BridgetM smiles

KarenL: Jen, would thinkquest fall under collaborative project or would it be considered something different?

JenW: however for the Incredible Journey -- I charged $5 to join since last year (in Shoeless and Bark) we lost 4 boxes and teachers who said they wanted to join ended up doing nothing

JenW: so the $5 -- small fee -- sort of solidified their involvement

BridgetM: good idea

SusanR: and are they open to all countries ie Canada

JenW: Karen -- a thinkquest is an entirely different genre but could evolve into a project

KarenL: Jen, sometimes you have to do that. . .I wouldn't have a problem with it.

KarenL: okay. . ..thanks!

JenW: Susan -- our O.R.E.O. project has 7 countries involved right now

KarenL: I came in late--but what usually leads you to close a project--and what is the usual number of classes participating?

JenW: as well as 46 states

JenW: Jane -- O.R.E.O. has 440 school involved right now

JenW: and registration still has 3 more weeks

DebbieO: thinkquest involves creating a website...it becomes a collaborative project for the students

BridgetM: I think the oreo project would work for my guys

JenW: http://www.technospudprojects.com/Projects/oreo06/home06.htm

JenW: AND we don't say to eat the O.R.E.O. -- if that is a problem at your school

KarenL: I had heard of the O.R.E.O

JenW: we turn the oreos into sculptures

KarenL: I'm going to try to participate in thinkquest this year. I have a few students and some teachers interested in the project.

KimballH: We are all going to receive a transcript of this in email, right?

KarenL: But just in case that doesn't pan out, I have a plan b in place.

BridgetM: I love food sculpures w/ kids

JenW: Yes, due to food issues -- I try to find alternatives for the food after the project is complete

DebbieO: Karen...if you want input about thinkquest, we can talk

SusanR: peanut allergies??

JenW: Karen -- we did TQ this year -- do if you want to talk later, I would chat as well

JenW: Susan -- LOL, we have looked into that too

KarenL: Thanks, Debbie and Jen! I will definitely want to talk to both of you!!!

JenW: Oreo sys that it is safe

JenW: however, for the lucky charms project -- kids with diabetes use gloves

DavidWe wonders about Double Stuff oreos

KarenL: I like this oreo project. It sounds like fun!!!

SusanR: just checked OREO is safe

JenW: LOL -- we did double stuff last year

JenW: Just FYI

JenW: the O.R.E.O. project is in its 8th year

BridgetM: is the data posted for remainder of year?

KarenL wonders if the students will eat the cookies before they find out how many will stack without tumbling.

JenW: each year we do something different with the cookie

JenW: Bridget -- I leave the data up indefinitely

JenW: and you can always write for it as well

KarenL: Cool

JenW: **KarenL** -   -- kids will try anything

JenW: I usually don't pass out the cookies until the rules are explained

BridgetM: so there is authentic # sets for math word problems

JenW: Not sure what you are asking Bridget

JenW: on the worksheets???

BridgetM: kids can compare average # stacked

JenW: Oh -- yes

JenW: the data is in excel -- so you can manipulate it any way you wish

BridgetM: see that is great

JenW: usually it lists the state or country too

JenW: so it can turn into a geography lesson as well

DavidWe nods

JenW: plus grade level so you can find classes just like yours

JenW: Last year -- one school ended up becoming email buddies with a class that had their same exact oreo data

JenW: and that is how they met each other

BridgetM: that's neat

JenW: yes -- it was cool

KimballH: Very neat

KarenL is starting to get it

JenW: and they found each other through sorting excel -- which then is using tech

SusanR: This project makes me want to go back to the classroom

JenW: and that is what I love about projects -- they can grow into so many ways

BJB2: Jen, can you enter the url for Cindy?

JenW: for???

JenW: http://www.technospudprojects.com/Projects/oreo06/home06.htm

JenW: that is oreo

BJB2: thanks

JenW: http://www.technospudprojects.com/index.htm

JenW: that is my home page

JenW: and if I can say so -- I also have a monthly newsletter you can read each month

SusanR: A project like the OREO one would get your classes of to a GREAT start!

JenW: at www.technospud.com/newsletter.pdf

JenW: the oreo has become quite successful

JenW: teachers have totally RUN with the idea

JenW: We will have a Charlotte's Web Project this December for K - 6

JenW: to get your kids ready for the movie

JenW: LOL -- when I say we -- I mean myself and participants

DebbieO: I am looking forward to that one

JenW: the main basis of the project will be Self-Esteem

JenW: kids will make webs with their talent in the middle -- such as SOME PIG

KarenL: Cool--my T&G Coordinator wants to do Charlotte's Web projects this year!

JenW: -- we are calling it SOME PROJECT

EmilyW: that's cute!

KimballH: I bet the guidance c at my school could get into that!

JenW: I tend to do play on words

BridgetM: ah, sweet

JenW: like Technospud

SusanR: Could a project like this be presented at a Science Fair, Jen

JenW: Well -- I have chatted a bit --

JenW: YES -- we have had schools win with Science Fair

JenW: with projects

JenW: they can use the data collected from the projects

JenW: it can be a primary resource

KimballH: that's a fun way to get a science fair project together... great idea!

JenW: Anyway -- any questions, comments, want more links ---

JenW: Kimball -- that is how this all started

JenW: I needed data for a SciFair project

DavidWe: Jen, do you know about the Math Forum - www.mathforum.org - big web site for math education?

JenW: posted a ??? to a edtech board and got 112 responses

JenW: David -- sort of, haven't visited it recently

JenW: and Kimball -- that was the birth of the OREO project in 1999

DavidWe: I was part of the group of people who started it 13 years ago

JenW thinks that is cool, David

KimballH: My computer club participated in an Egg Roll one last year. It was a quick project but included measurement and averaging. They were very motivated

JenW: The Egg Roll is pretty famous now too -- teachers enjoy it

DavidWe: Anything with REAL activities tends to get students interested and even excited

JenW: This year though we are making it a TEAM competition

JenW: and you have to get another class involved

JenW: grins -- call it cheap publicity for Technospud Projects

JenW smiles

KimballH: And years ago, at least 9, we got to hide an egg on my school's website for the Great American Egg Hunt

JenW: OOOHHHH what an idea

JenW: Grins -- I bet you see that added to the Egg Roll this year

DebbieO: it's all great...but our day is sooo structured, classroom teachers in my school are sooo frustrated

DavidWe: The challenge is to work it in a little at a time, Debbie

JenW: Debbie -- I understand structure --

KimballH: http://www.marshall-es.marshall.k12.tn.us/jobe/egghunt/list.html - I'm not sure they do this anymore...

JenW: but if you can prove that you are teaching the same concept in a different way -- could you??

JenW: For instance -- if you teach measurement -- do you have to use rulers??

JenW: or could you use the kids' feet

DebbieO: they even dictate how `we do our afterschool...so when we integrated science and soc studies into the literacy after school, we were reprimanded for not sticking with protocol

JenW: would they allow that??

JenW: ahhhh -- that makes it hard

JenW: but I am sure you have to have a few fun days

JenW: award days for the kids being good???

DavidWe: There are a number of research papers about using Tapped In (for example), Debbie - something to justify collaborative projects

JenW: bring in a project there

DebbieO: but they told us to integrate SS and sci into literacy...go figure

SusanR: Jen, can you mention your book on 10 Tips for Online Collaborative Projects?

DebbieO: I am so frustrated

JenW: Susan -- I would LOVE to mention my book

DavidWe: Venting is good, Debbie

JenW smiles

BridgetM: hang in there Debbie

JenW: I just published a book of 35 tech tips for teachers

DavidWe . o O (part of what Tapped In is here for)

JenW: it is at www.lulu.com/technospud

DavidWe applauds the new author

DebbieO: I just bookmarked it to order, Jen

JenW: Debbie -- I understand your frustration

JenW: and if I can help with suggestions -- let me know

DebbieO: you've let me babble already - here and via e mail, and I thank you

JenW: Anyway -- this hour has flown and I would like to show you some other project links that AREN"T mine -- if that is okay

DavidWe: Debbie, if you need some moral support (or technical support) I'm usually across the G. W. Bridge in New Jersey. It's not far to Brooklyn

CindyGst3: please do

JenW: This is Susan Silverman -- excellent projects --

JenW: http://kids-learn.org/

JenW: Marci McGowan has great projects as well

JenW: http://www.mrsmcgowan.com/

JenW: And I list other projects at www.onlineprojects4teachers.com which you can use as well

JenW: plus there is CIESE and Global SchoolHouse which have registries too

JenW: and NASA has some great projects too

SusanR: Well Jen there is no excuse for not implementing an online collaborative project. You supply the tools and the know how

DavidWe: Do people know about I*EARN?

DavidWe works with someone at CIESE on a regular basis

DavidWe . o O (www.iearn.org)

JenW: and iLearn too

JenW: you are too fast David

BridgetM: I got an eboard subscription from a conference - maybe I could use that for a project

BJB2 puts in a quick plug for the GPBL discussion in Tapped In on September 28

JenW: plus, if you do a google search on Online Projects you will find quite a few

SusanR: Are you aware of the Flat Stanley project, Jen?

JenW: I am on page 3 -- but soon I shall be on page 1 LOL

JenW: Susan -- I love Flat Stanley

DavidWe: BJ is there going to be a GPBL discussion on September 28th?

BJB2 . o O (GPBL =global project based learning)

JenW: let me grab the link

BJB2 nods to David

JenW: http://flatstanley.enoreo.on.ca/

SusanR: Welcome Jeff

JenW: soooo -- I have chatted quite a bit -- any questions???

DebbieO: flat Stanley is great!

DavidWe: Superb presentation Jen. Thank you very much

JenW: I would love for you to visit the technospud and technospudprojects dot com websites

BridgetM: I've always wanted to do this but my kids are so low functioning http://www.learner.org/jnorth/

DavidWe thinks Jen should do this/different presentation again

JenW: it went quite fast

DavidWe: That's when you know it is going well

BridgetM: I agree!

JenW: well -- Online Passions are near and dear to my heart

BridgetM: Jen come back to us!

JenW: LOL -- I would like to -- thank you

DebbieO: a great job as usual, Jen!

SusanR: so to sum up most of the projects can be found here http://www.technospudprojects.com/

JenW: or onlineprojects4kids.com if you want to see other ideas

BJB2: Thanks for inviting Jen to be a guest, Sue!

BridgetM: I registered for oreo tumble

JenW: www.onlineprojects4kids.com

BrandyGst4: hello all. I have done several projects with Jen and they are absolutely wonderful.

DavidWe: Yes, Susan. Excellent choice

JenW: Bridget GOODIE

JenW: You will hear from me in about 1 hour

SusanR: Register and find out about the latest projects or browse by month and topic for future planning here

SusanR: http://www.globalschoolnet.org/index.html

SusanR: Jen, this was an inspiring session. I hope to have the opportunity to try at least one online project this year as a sub

JenW: Thanks for asking me Susan -- it was fun

DavidWe agrees with Susan's use of the word "inspiration"

BridgetM: carry oreos with you in September. Susan

JenW: well this was fun and I thank you for sharing your time with me

JenW: I have missed TappedIn and it's good to be back

JeffC: glad to have you Jen

SusanR: we can do a part two, Jen

BridgetM: great session THANKS Susan, Jen and all

JenW: Yes -- that would be great

DavidWe: But I use Tapped In more

SusanR: I will be in touch, Jen

JenW: thanks

KimballH: good night all thanks!