

Title of Session: K-3+ Resources - Back to School
Moderator: Susan Roseman and Camille LoParrino
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Posted to the Whiteboard in the Comfy Conference Room:

TONIGHT'S K to 3+ GREAT RESOURCES AGENDA

Informal discussion
September issues and concerns in the classroom

Back to School useful resources

Group Games

A new site offering a number of creative games for ice-breakers, team building, action-orientated and more!

<http://www.group-games.com/games-by-type/>

Freebies

<http://www.thecanadianteacher.com/links/>

BookPALS - Performing Artists for Literacy in Schools

<http://www.storylineonline.net/>

Storyline Online is an innovative website featuring well-known actors reading

Feature Teacher Site: Lanise Jacoby:

http://www.geocities.com/ljacoby_2000/window.html

Ms. Jacoby is a 2nd Grade Teacher in Arlington, Massachusetts. She has a remarkable website filled with many many teacher helps!!

Courtesy Jen Wagner

Great Online Collaborative Projects

The Oreo Project

<http://www.technospudprojects.com/Projects/OREO2007/oreo2007instructions.htm>

Salute to Seuss

<http://salutetoseuss.wikispaces.com/>

Suggested Topics for the 07/08 School Year

- * digital storytelling
- *subject specific GREAT resources
- * getting started with writer's workshop

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PamelaEC: My name is Pamela and I attend the University of Houston. I am currently doing my student teaching in a Kindergarten classroom.

CrystalMK: Hi I'm Crystal, I am a student teacher at the University of Houston.. I am in a 3rd grade classroom

SusanR: I am an Occasional Teacher and will be subbing next week in Kindergarten

SusanR: Any concerns or issues re classroom

SusanR: September is always an anxious month for new and seasoned teachers

SusanR: alike

CamilleL: I received poor quality summaries from my students when asked to respond to their personal literature -- how do we improve their summarizations?

JeffC: I'm on Helpdesk here, also have two kids in 2nd and 4th grade... will be forwarding this transcript to their teachers.

DavidW . o O (re-write them?)

SusanR: oh my gosh, Jeff

CamilleL: no, not just that David -- how could they improve their responses?

PamelaEC: Well I am now starting to see the educational gap between the Kindergarten students, how do you help those in need while continuing to help the more advanced students?

CamilleL: grouping and circulation around the room

SusanR: would anyone else care to respond

CrystalMK: The educational gap, is also big between the 3rd grade students

SusanR: should most activities be open ended

CamilleL: I believe the catch phrase here is "differentiated instruction"

SusanR: yes, that's it Camille

SusanR: collaborative activities should help

CamilleL: not easy to do, but once you've got a schedule, and model how you want the

activities set up, the kiddies will naturally follow your directives automatically.

PamelaEC: The teachers are starting to group the students for a reading program to help all the students' needs, so maybe that will be useful

CamilleL: absolutely, Pam!

PamelaEC: Well it's in the process, so I can't wait to see the results

CamilleL: You will be doing a "guided reading" with one group while the others have a schedule of activities, and then you rotate and see other kiddies personally.

CrystalMK: That is what I see as well in the classroom, and it's working great

CamilleL: I think the Reading First people call this the Reading Workshop.

PamelaEC: Yes! That's exactly what they will be doing.

CamilleL: And you set up different levels of activities at various centers around the room.

PamelaEC: That's correct, I attended our first meeting today about it and that's exactly what they will be doing.

CamilleL: These are called "Work Stations."

CrystalMK: Yes, like listening centers, reading counts, readers theater etc..

CamilleL: that's it, crystal!

CamilleL: the kiddies need to learn to be independent, and they love to make you proud that they could take on these responsibilities without you.

CrystalMK: I see that, but it still takes a lot of practice and rules for them to be independent even in 3rd grade

CamilleL: you also need to set up "experts" that the kiddies could come to while you are doing your guided reading so they do not disturb you.

CrystalMK: So they stay on task, and they know what's expected

SusanR: It will come with routine practice. By November your students should be on track

CamilleL: You practice the first month with a chart of activities and their names so they know where to go and when.

PamelaEC: That's true. I didn't think of that before, but we do have some students that can help the others instead of them asking you questions while you are busy

CamilleL: this is so good for their language improvement, and of course, self esteem, and also team spirit.

SusanR: Have students grouped into task managers etc

CrystalMK: Team work takes practice as well, because many of them want to be the boss.

CamilleL: the burden of responsibility should not only be on you. you would be cheating your students out on some growth opportunities.

SusanR: put the onus on students..you will be amazed

CamilleL: you have got to model what it looks like and sounds like to cooperate.

CrystalMK: task managers is a great idea

SusanR: even in kindergarten

SusanR: they should be responsible for their own learning

CrystalMK: agree

PamelaEC: So make them responsible for jobs inside the class, so far I find it hard because a lot of them are still immature

CamilleL: Pam, you've got to do a bit more complimenting, and making a big deal out of their little success -- that works wonders!

SusanR: exactly

CamilleL: once they see and hear you complimenting others, they want to be complimented too.

SusanR: I have had students re-teach concepts or a particular skill

SusanR: amazing how attentive students are when their peers have command of the class

PamelaEC: Oh yes, I do that too. It does work wonders!

CamilleL: I love when they talk about the new things they are "into" -- I research these on the net and share in their enthusiasm.

SusanR: moving on to some great resources to support this discussion

SusanR: feel free to jump in at any time to share

SusanR: group games

SusanR: A new site offering a number of creative games for ice-breakers, team building, action-orientated and more!

SusanR: <http://www.group-games.com/games-by-type/>

SusanR: see if you can work any of these into your curriculum

CrystalMK left the room (signed off).

CrystalMK joined the room.

SusanR: click on the blue link, Crystal

SusanR: <http://www.group-games.com/games-by-type/>

SusanR: I think it is team building site

PamelaEC: Commonalities and Uniquities are great for a lesson I will be doing soon about how we are all the same, but different

CrystalMK: I've used the 7 up game, to quite them down before dismissal.. it worked pretty good

SusanR: a good time of year to study Commonalities....

CamilleL: There's a book about that Pamela, and it's in poetic format. It's called "Bein' with you this way"

SusanR: sets the tone for the school year

CamilleL: it has repeated patterns and easy to learn and sing.

PamelaEC: Thank you. I will definitely look for it.

CamilleL: very welcome. you will enjoy it.

SusanR: Could we possibly find some books in the virtual library here

SusanR: <http://www.childrenslibrary.org/index.shtml>

SusanR : IL is an awesome site

SusanR : with updated search facility

PamelaEC: Well it looks like a great virtual library

CrystalMK: It is great, I'm going to save this link

SusanR : Do investigate <http://www.childrenslibrary.org/index.shtml>

CamilleL: will do as soon as we finish "chatting"

SusanR : It has tremendous search capabilities for both students and teachers

SusanR : books by country etc ..try that one

SusanR : students could do their own search and reporting

BjB . o O (Pam Berger was recently in South Africa promoting that site.)

SusanR : one can search only for picture books

PamelaEC: Sounds great! Do you have to join the library to search the site?

SusanR : well let's investigate

CamilleL: no, I just searched free.

BjB . o O (Pam leads Web Tools for Education)

SusanR : we could spend the evening on this site alone

PamelaEC: I know it looks like a great resource

SusanR : Here is the simple search category
<http://www.childrenslibrary.org/icdl/SimpleSearchCategory>

CrystalMK: yes, it's very interesting

SusanR : of course students can read the books online

CamilleL: this really addresses the huge variety of students in our classes today, eh?

CrystalMK: yes, classes today are very diverse

CrystalMK: it's great to see a site that has a variety of books from all cultures

CamilleL: you know, that's another way to build team spirit -- have the mom's visit to tell stories about their culture.

CamilleL: or even the kiddies could bring in personal possessions on special holidays.

DavidW . o O (have students interview other Mom's to report on different cultures)

SusanR: do read the MISSION of the site as well

CamilleL: wow, that's interesting, David.

PamelaEC: Or even outside of holidays, maybe a culture week

CamilleL: I love it -- especially the food

DavidW: food works VERY well

SusanR: Have a cultural fair..have them bring in a valued treasure from their culture

BjB . o O (sorry to interrupt, but Pam led a discussion on ICDL on July 20. 2005. You can find the transcript at www.tappedin.org/transcripts)

CamilleL: thanks, I will look it up bj.

SusanR: thank you Bj

PamelaEC: I will definitely check it out

CrystalMK: thanks

SusanR: will Pam come back to do an in depth analysis of ICDL

BjB: if you asked, I'm sure she'd love to do that

BjB: she meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7pm EDT

BjB: Pam Berger, not **PamelaEC**

BjB: www.infosearcher.com

BjB: sorry to interrupt the discussion, Sue

SusanR: and the last link of the evening is BOOKPALS - Performing Artists for Literacy in Schools

SusanR: Storyline Online is an innovative website featuring well-known actors reading

SusanR: this site could be used as a model for grade 3's to read to younger students

SusanR: READING BUDDIES

SusanR: <http://www.storylineonline.net/>

SusanR: the sites are listed on the whiteboard

PamelaEC: That is a great idea! The kindergarten and third grade teaches can collaborate with that idea

CrystalMK: wow, that's a neat site, I love how someone reads the book

SusanR: brought to you by the screen actors guild

CrystalMK: I like how it has activities to do after reading the book

SusanR: exactly

SusanR: oh my gosh you can even use the full screen

SusanR: good modeling for read alouds

PamelaEC: This is a very exciting site! I love the activities available for the students to help relate the story.

CamilleL: good questions too -- higher level thinking.

SusanR: HOTS

CamilleL: not just yes or no, or simple detailed questions.

JeffC is waiting for George Kostanza to read to him.

CrystalMK: I'll try and plan to use this in the 3rd grade read aloud block

SusanR: I love George Kostanza

SusanR: future guests here ..Jen Wagner of Online Projects

SusanR: see WHITEBOARD

SusanR: and do check out Lanise Jacoby's site for inspiration

CamilleL: oh, ok. thank you sue.

CrystalMK: Thanks for the sites :)

PamelaEC: Yes, thank you. I know they will be very useful.

SusanR: any suggestions for upcoming topics

PamelaEC: Maybe resources for specific subjects

CrystalMK: yea, that would be good

SusanR: what subject for next month

CrystalMK: math would be good, because there is so much... I would like to see more resources for 3rd grade

SusanR: Math it is!

SusanR: Bj put that on the calendar for October

SusanR: please

PamelaEC: Now that I have the new virtual library site it could be useful to share that as a discussion- where to find more sites like that one

SusanR: noted

SusanR: "virtual Libraries"

SusanR: bye for now

CrystalMK: bye, thanks again

PamelaEC: Okay thank you for the useful information