

**Title of Session:** K to 3+ Resources - Writing Fun!

**Moderator:** Susan Roseman

**Guest Speaker:** Jen Wagner

**Title of File:** 20071113k3writing

**Date:** November 13, 2007

Room: Comfy Conference Room

**SusanR:** well let's get started

**SusanR:** with some brief intros

**SusanR:** so we can gear the session to your needs

**DevetteG:** My name is Devette and I'm currently student teaching in Kindergarten.

**CourtneyP:** Hi I am Courtney and I am student teaching in first grade.

**KimberlyNg:** My name is Kim and I'm student teaching in third grade.

**KaraLM:** I am Kara and am student teaching in Kindergarten

**SusanR:** I am Sue Roseman, moderator of the K to 3+ Great Resources sessions and Occasional Teacher ..recently grade 4/5

**JenW:** I am Jennifer and I am on the Network Support/Help Desk team at my school

**SusanR:** I was mentioning Technospud..that's Jen

**JenW:** that is me

**BJB2** cheers for Jen

**JenW:** ty

**EsmeraldaS:** Hi! I am Esmeralda working toward my masters in Reading

**SusanR:** Jen is quite a busy lady...just moved...is the queen of online collaborative projects for elementary students; offers many workshops all over the country and facilitates the WOW2 group ..which starts in less than an hour

**SusanR:** so this evening's agenda is .."The agenda will focus on some writing enhancements ie cursive writing and why we need to bring formal writing classes back, using "butt balls"... excuse me exercise balls in the classroom. Some great sites such as "Writing Fix' and Jenny Eather's site will be featured. I will be mentioning Jennifer

Wagner's collaborative online holiday card exchange project which you may wish to join... a super way to seamlessly integrate and weave tech into your curriculum"

**JenW:** actually moving in 17 days -- but LOL, who is counting

**SusanR:** I see so you have time for us

**JenW:** grins -- of course

**SusanR:** How much time can you spend with us, Jen

**JenW:** I have about 20 minutes or so

**SusanR:** so we will skip over to you and start the session with your holiday card project...I am handing the stage over to you

**JenW:** Ahhh well thank you

**JenW:** Sue wanted me to share with you a bit about my upcoming December project

**JenW:** it is a "Snail" mail project -- with a tie in to Google Earth, or Google Maps

**JenW:** but if you don't have either at your school

**JenW:** that is still okay because you can just use a MAP

**JenW:** wall map

**JenW:** Right now we almost have 400 schools enrolled from all over the US and Canada

**JenW:** and New Zealand.

**JenW:** and each group will consist of 25 classrooms

**JenW:** so basically - you will be sending HOLIDAY cards, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, etc to 24 classrooms (1 card per classroom)

**JenW:** and then receive 24 cards in return

**SusanR:** . o O ( I have the link handy btw )

**JenW:** which you can then MAP on Google Map, Google Earth, or a Wall Map

**JenW:**

<http://www.technospudprojects.com/Projects/holidaycardexchange/instructions.htm>

**JenW:** grins

**JenW:** so do I

**SusanR:** of course, Jen

**JenW:** anyway -- it is a very easy project to join

**JenW:** allows your kids to be creative in making cards

**KaraLM:** very cool!

**CourtneyP:** I love the idea!

**KimberlyNg:** This sounds really great!

**JenW:** as well as do GEOGRAPHY

**JenW:** and it would be great if you join us

**DevetteG:** This is cool!!

**KimberlyNg:** My kids are already addicted to Google Earth, they will love this.

**JenW:** Yes, it is great fun

**JenW:** we are sending KMZ's to each other

**SusanR:** Welcome Helen

**CourtneyP:** My kids love making greeting cards!

**EsmeraldaS:** Very interesting

**JenW:** SO if you want to join -- registration ends on November 21

**JenW:** or 500 whichever comes first

**JenW:** and we are at 350

**EsmeraldaS:** Great!

**KaraLM:** wow- that's awesome!

**JenW:** thanks

**JenW:** you are more than welcome to join

**JenW:** I would love for you to be a part

**JenW:** and please check out [www.technospudprojects.com](http://www.technospudprojects.com)

**JenW:** for the 2007/2008 projects

**JenW:** we have some great projects planned for 2008

**KimberlyNg:** Cute website

**JenW:** ty

**KaraLM:** very cool- I would love to join as soon as I get my own classroom!

**JenW:** that would be great Karla

**DevetteG:** Me too!!

**DevetteG:** I will let other teachers know as well.

**JenW:** goodie -- Devette

**SusanR . o O** ( lots of great print and teacher resources with all of Jen's projects as well )

**JenW:** anyway -- please consider joining up

**CourtneyP:** I am definitely going to do it!

**JenW:** excellent

**JenW:** Yes,

**KimberlyNg:** I think I will be able to do this with my class.

**JenW:** there are standards

**JenW:** and ideas

**JenW:** and you get a cert of participation too

**KaraLM:** absolutely- combining writing, letters, social connections, and geography- perfect!

**JenW:** grins -- to hang on your wall

**JenW:** YEP

**KimberlyNg** smiles

**JenW:** and sharing about your school, or your city, or your state

**JenW:** last year we had 328

**DevetteG:** That is cool!!

**JenW:** this year, I hope for 500

**KimberlyNg:** Why is it that Texas is on the waiting list?

**JenW:** Texas just overwhelmed me with registrations

**JenW:** I try to have 1 state per group

**JenW:** right now, I could put 4 in each

**JenW:** but no worries

**JenW:** I am making new groups -- as I can

**JenW:** right now, there are 16 groups

**JenW:** so I might need to double up Texas on groups

**JenW** smiles

**SusanR:** How about California, Jen..lots of registrations

**KaraLM:** especially after this group- with at least 4 of us from Houston!

**JenW:** Not so much

**KimberlyNg** . o O ( yay! )

**JenW:** CA

**JenW:** Hello Houston!!!

**KaraLM:** hi!

**DevetteG** waves

**CourtneyP:** Hello! = )

**KimberlyNg** waves

**JenW** salutes Houston

**JenW:** how far is Houston from San Antonio??

**CourtneyP:** About 3 hours driving.

**EsmeraldaS:** Hi! Houston, I used to live in Houston

**JenW:** NECC is in San Antonio this coming July

**JenW:** you should all try to come

**CourtneyP:** Very cool!

**JenW:** stop by and say Hello

**KimberlyNg:** Oh, that sounds really interesting.

**KaraLM:** I heard that it is an awesome conference- I'll have to look it up!

**JenW:** it is a great conference -- if you are into TECH

**EsmeraldaS:** Sounds good

**KimberlyNg:** I am :)

**DevetteG:** Me too!!

**JenW:** grins -- of course you are -- YOU ARE HERE!! :)

**DevetteG:** How do register for it?

**JenW:** anyway -- please come and join in the fun

**JenW:** for NECC??

**KimberlyNg:** <http://center.uoregon.edu/ISTE/NECC2008/registration/>

**JenW:** or the project??

**EsmeraldaS** smiles

**DevetteG:** NECC

**JenW:** there you go -- thanks Kim

**KimberlyNg:** That's for NECC

**KimberlyNg:** You're welcome

**JenW:** you can volunteer

**JenW:** and get a cheaper rate

**DevetteG:** Thanks Kim!!

**KimberlyNg:** You're welcome

**KaraLM :** Thanks!

**JenW:** it's great fun to volunteer

**JenW:** especially if you are good with computers

**JenW:** you can help out in the hands on classes

**EsmeraldaS:** I need to volunteer

**DevetteG:** Sounds fun!!

**JenW:** you do -- it is an easy way to save \$\$\$

**KaraLM :** very nice!

**KimberlyNg:** Yeah, it's pricey...

**JenW:** well worth the cost --

**JenW:** but help out with volunteering

**JenW:** you get a t-shirt too :)

**KimberlyNg** smiles

**EsmeraldaS:** Yes, it's priceless

**JenW:** any how

**JenW:** I need to go get ready for wow

**SusanR:** Jen, you must consider presenting at a conference here in Toronto, Ontario, ECOO in May ...

**JenW:** check out <http://www.womenofweb2.com>

**SusanR:** <http://www.ecoo.org/>

**JenW:** Susan -- that would be great

**SusanR:** It's our major conference

**JenW:** I shall have to tell you later about my ONE experience with teaching in Canada later

**SusanR:** Thanks for stopping by and sharing, Jen

**JenW:** thanks for letting me

**JenW:** this was FUN

**CourtneyP:** Thanks Jen!

**SusanR:** See you at WOW

**KimberlyNg:** Bye Jen!

**JenW:** enjoy TEACHING!!

**DevetteG:** Thanks

**KaraLM:** bye!! Thank you!!

**SusanR:** now on with the rest of the session

**JenW** left the room (signed off).

**SusanR:** I wanted you to look at one article ..which I think relates to children's reluctance to write or enjoy writing

**SusanR:** tell us what you think

**SusanR:** <http://www.canada.com/topics/technology/story.html?id=64c3042a-e26f-467f-adca-2f144c69636c&k=42224>



**SusanR**: I notice the grade 4 and 5 class I was in ..there was a reluctance to write creatively and I wonder if this was the cause

**SusanR**: what are your thoughts

**DevetteG**: I agree with the article. Some teachers say they do not have time.

**SusanR** . o O ( by the end of grade two all my students wrote in cursive )

**KimberlyNg**: I think it's appalling how teachers do not think it's important.

**KimberlyNg**: The school I'm teaching at, the fourth grade student teacher said that the students still have trouble with cursive.

**SusanR**: bring back formal writing/printing classes!!

**KimberlyNg**: I think she meant the basics.

**CourtneyP**: I completely agree with the article. Handwriting is extremely important and it is being ignored on the classroom.

**KimberlyNg**: In my class tomorrow, we're actually doing cursive tomorrow.

**KimberlyNg**: letters e, l, o, and c

**CourtneyP**: I remember doing hours of handwriting a week when I was in grade school.

**CourtneyP**: We used to write cursive in 3rd grade, but I talked to a friend that they are just starting to teach it in 4th!

**DevetteG**: Me too!! It's like we had to know how to write on cursive.

**KimberlyNg**: I don't really remember learning cursive, but I remember being praised if my handwriting was very neat.

**SusanR**: last word on this topic

[http://www.boston.com/business/globe/articles/2007/05/06/in\\_digital\\_age\\_more\\_ts\\_are\\_crossed\\_poorly/](http://www.boston.com/business/globe/articles/2007/05/06/in_digital_age_more_ts_are_crossed_poorly/)

**CourtneyP**: Cursive was very important and we HAD to write with it and were rewarded if it was good handwriting.

**EsmeraldaS**: I agree, handwriting has lost it's focus

**SusanR**: and this may help with writing as well

**SusanR :**

[http://www.smm.org/buzz/blog/keep\\_your\\_butt\\_on\\_the\\_ball\\_classrooms\\_are\\_ditching\\_c\\_hairs\\_f](http://www.smm.org/buzz/blog/keep_your_butt_on_the_ball_classrooms_are_ditching_c_hairs_f)

**KaraLM :** My observing teacher in 4th grade only wrote in cursive to her students as a way to help them learn it, but their parents just got mad and sent notes saying, "My student does not know this. he can't read it!"

**KimberlyNg:** I think it is very important for the students to see the teacher having fun with cursive and writing in general.

**CourtneyP:** I think it is being ignored because teachers are losing the time in the classroom, but then they get mad at students if they have bad handwriting.

**SusanR :** good grief, Karla

**KimberlyNg:** My teacher calls herself the "Cursive Queen"

**KaraLM :** yep...

**CourtneyP:** Good for her!

**KimberlyNg:** The kids absolutely love it!

**DevetteG:** I agree!!

**EsmeraldaS:** I agree, Kimberly

**CourtneyP:** What does she do differently?

**KimberlyNg:** Are you asking me Courtney?

**CourtneyP:** yes.

**SusanR :** to move on ...anyone using exercise balls or has anyone seen them in use in classes

**KimberlyNg:** She has her "magic wand" which is a pointer

**DevetteG:** No ma'am!!

**CourtneyP:** No not at all.

**KaraLM :** I have not- but that sounds kind of cool!

**KimberlyNg:** She uses lots of verbal praise

**KimberlyNg:** She just makes a big deal

**KimberlyNg:** and encourages it a lot

**CourtneyP:** Cool.

**EsmeraldaS:** No

**KimberlyNg:** I've never seen it used in a classroom.

**EsmeraldaS:** Great

**SusanR:** students have an option between using a ball or a chair. Invariably, balls are more popular than chairs

**KaraLM:** I bet & it is a great idea!

**CourtneyP:** They sit on the balls?

**SusanR:** One second-grade student is quoted in a recent newspaper story as saying wiggling around helps her think better.

**KimberlyNg:** Does it help them with handwriting?

**KimberlyNg:** Oh, like a tapping pen.

**KaraLM:** it allows them to move, which most of them need, and helps them get exercise without knowing it!

**CourtneyP:** Children are so active these days I am sure it would work.

**KaraLM:** ooo-- good connection Kimberly!

**SusanR:** as classroom chairs or seating

**KimberlyNg:** Thanks Kara :)

**KimberlyNg:** I think that if a teacher has great classroom management, it can be done.

**EsmeraldaS:** Sounds like fun! Using creative teaching techniques is the key

**KaraLM:** totally!!

**HelenK:** I believe it also helps them with their coordination and balance

**DevetteG:** You are right Kim!!

**KimberlyNg:** If he/she discusses the rules and they know it, I don't see how it can be a problem.

**KaraLM:** and after few fun days, they will become normal!

**CourtneyP:** I think it could also be used for a reward.

**KimberlyNg:** Or punishment, if they abuse it.

**EsmeraldaS:** I agree, Kimberly, good classroom management is also key

**CourtneyP:** True. = )

**EsmeraldaS:** Right

**DevetteG:** I'm going to have to try this one day.

**KimberlyNg:** If the students use it everyday, it will just be a seat to them.

**DevetteG:** It seems very interesting.

**EsmeraldaS:** Right Courtney it could also be used for a reward

**KimberlyNg:** I wonder if any of the collaborating school use this.

**CourtneyP:** I think this is an awesome idea, I never would have thought about it.

**DevetteG:** At least they can't lean back they have the proper posture too.

**SusanR:** exercise balls could be the wave of the future in classrooms of tomorrow

**CourtneyP:** I think this is great for posture, they have to sit up.

**KaraLM:** I wonder how hard it would be to implement- if the districts or principals would have problems with it.

**DevetteG:** That is my concern too.

**KimberlyNg:** I'm sure they would do a trial run with some classes first.

**KimberlyNg:** Just to test it out

**EsmeraldaS:** I wonder that also

**CourtneyP:** It would be a nice grant.

**KimberlyNg:** It would.

**DevetteG:** I hope they would give it a try.

**SusanR:** exactly..this could be debated!!!

**EsmeraldaS:** Right

**KimberlyNg:** At what grade would they use this?

**JohnRR:** Slightly same subject---I attended a speaker once who claimed that today's children learned more from games than any other form of learning and to not discount stuff like video games

**KimberlyNg:** I couldn't imagine my kindergartners using this.

**SusanR:** I would start as early as grade 1 or 2

**KaraLM:** that is true John!

**CourtneyP:** No, they would be all over the place.

**DevetteG:** I agree Courtney.

**CourtneyP:** Kim and I know we are at the same school.

**KimberlyNg:** Haha

**EsmeraldaS:** I agree, they learn more, when they have hands on

**SusanR:** Let's delve into one of two GRREAT sites I have to stimulate learning

**JohnRR:** what I find is that kids no longer listen to how it's done----the WATCH how its done

**CourtneyP:** I think it would be great for 2nd and up.

**KaraLM:** if you teach them how, it could work- and the chairs in the picture look like they have feet on the bottom

**DevetteG:** I saw that.

**CourtneyP:** My first graders are not ready for something like this.

**SusanR** : great ideas Karla

**KimberlyNg**: That's true John, they are so absorbed when a TV is on.

**CourtneyP**: I agree.

**KimberlyNg**: They lack listening skills, but I think it also has to do with how enthusiastic the teacher is.

**KaraLM** : thanks Susan!

**JohnRR**: The power of video is tremendous with these youngsters----MUCH more so than in my day

**DevetteG**: I agree with Kim. You have to make learning fun.

**KimberlyNg**: I think because it is so easy to get a hold of.

**SusanR** : Can I direct you to a Writing Fun site which will "make learning fun"

**KaraLM** : yay!

**KimberlyNg**: Yes please :).

**DevetteG**: Yes ma'am!!

**EsmeraldaS**: Kids of today need to be more physically active

**CourtneyP**: Please!

**JohnRR**: So if video is how they learn---I say don't fight it----games too----or wiggly balls---if it works go with it

**SusanR** : Take a look at this site and see if you can find the Writing Fun area

**KimberlyNg**: Definitely.

**SusanR** : <http://www.rainforestmaths.com/>

**SusanR** . o O ( not that apparent )

**KimberlyNg**: I think that the teacher would have to balance the tools he/she uses though. Too much of one thing can become dull.

**DevetteG**: I love this website I used it with my 3rd graders

**EsmeraldaS:** Coordination is the key

**KaraLM :** found it!

**KimberlyNg:** Wow.

**KimberlyNg:** My teacher is going to love this.

**SusanR :** part of Jenny Eather's Rainforest Math site

**CourtneyP:** Very cool!

**DevetteG:** She also has a math dictionary

**KimberlyNg:** My kids love it when we do online math games rather than writing it on paper.

**KimberlyNg:** I like it because it makes them think faster.

**SusanR :** we delt with the math areas last month in two sessions; please see the transcripts for a detailed chat

**KimberlyNg:** Gets them on their feet

**KimberlyNg:** Thanks for this site Susan!

**CourtneyP:** Thanks Susan, I will definitely use it!

**SusanR :** Have you noticed the "Writing Fun" area. It can be missed

**CourtneyP:** Yes.

**KimberlyNg:** I got distracted by multiplication :)

**KaraLM :** Yes- & entered!

**JohnRR:** Bottom right----easy to miss....

**SusanR :** There text organizers to help students in the writing process; graphic organizers ..grade 3 to 8

**EsmeraldaS:** Great

**SusanR :** Bottom right, correct

**KaraLM** : I like the text organizers!

**DevetteG**: Awesome!!!

**SusanR** : It's an interactive site that allows teachers and students to create layouts and organise different sorts of texts.

**KimberlyNg**: This is so great!

**KimberlyNg**: This is definitely going to help in the classroom.

**SusanR** : There's an online graphic organizer for writing!!

**CourtneyP**: I agree Kim.

**KimberlyNg**: Courtney, I'm so glad we have the SMARTBoard in the classrooms :).

**CourtneyP**: This will help teach it.

**EsmeraldaS**: Great, text organizers are essential for students

**SusanR** : This site should help with the writing process

**KaraLM** : definitely!

**EsmeraldaS**: I agree

**KimberlyNg**: I like how it has the outline and tips on the along side with the example papers.

**DevetteG**: I can use this on the Promethean Board to show all my students.

**DevetteG**: Great resource!!

**JohnRR**: Besides the SMARTboard----what kind of projection capability do you have in your classrooms----projection to all students is KEY

**EsmeraldaS**: This tips will definitely help me in the future

**CourtneyP**: I like the everyday section, you could use it for the younger ones.

**EsmeraldaS**: I agree, John

**KimberlyNg**: Projection as in technology?

**KaraLM** : I like the organizers for different types of writing



**JohnRR:** yes---how do you project the computer on a big screen?

**KimberlyNg:** In my class, we have the computers hooked to the TV

**CourtneyP:** we have TVs in the classroom that you can view whatever is on the computer screen.

**JeffC:** check out "averkey" to do just that.

**KimberlyNg:** We don't use that too much though, because the SMARTBoard is there.

**DevetteG:** In my class we also have Elmo.

**KimberlyNg:** What's that?

**KimberlyNg:** Oh.

**JohnRR:** so the smart board approx 4 x 6 is your "screen"???

**KimberlyNg:** We have that at the school, averkey.

**KimberlyNg:** Yes

**JohnRR:** Nice

**SusanR** . o O ( these are great tools to stimulate writing ..whether you are using a smartboard or whatever )

**KaraLM:** what is the other GREAT site you have to make writing fun?

**SusanR:** I thought you would never ask, Karla

**SusanR:** I saved the best for last

**KaraLM:** =D

**JohnRR:** but to properly use the web----you HAVE to be able to project it to all students---but I'll shut up now

**DevetteG:** I'm sorry but I love technology

**SusanR:** a busy site called Writing Fix

**SusanR:** Undergoing some revision at the moment

**EsmeraldaS:** How many projectors does your school have John

**SusanR:** This site provides extensive resources for the six traits of writing for teachers and students

**KaraLM:** ooo!

**SusanR:** and it's FREE! Again a very busy site with ideas galore.

**KimberlyNg:** It definitely has a lot.

**SusanR:** Perhaps we can dissect the site and explore together.

**JohnRR:** 68----every room in the school basically

**CourtneyP:** I just went to a professional dev. about 6 + 1 traits

**KaraLM:** please!

**SusanR:** <http://www.writingfix.com/>

**DevetteG:** Me too Courtney

**SusanR:** This site can support 6 + 1 traits

**KaraLM:** it looks a little overwhelming

**JohnRR:** we were a test----to see how well they would be accepted and used----huge success----now every school in the district wants them

**KimberlyNg:** This is great, it so hard sometimes to think of your own stuff.

**SusanR:** think we need simple activities at the word or sentence level in order to provide young learners with basic skills and the opportunity to build up their confidence in writing. Explore the general site and please return with one great idea you might use in your classroom.

**EsmeraldaS:** The school where I'm doing my study has only 4 LCD projectors

**SusanR:** I am looking at the clock on the wall ..so we will look in depth at this site in part two of this session in two weeks

**KimberlyNg:** I like the "Interactive Plot Creator".

**KaraLM:** I do too!!!

**KimberlyNg** smiles

**JohnRR**: There is NO equity---or fairness when it comes to equipment----learned that in the Army years ago....

**KimberlyNg**: It really lets the kids take off, because the main parts are there.

**CourtneyP**: Me too that is perfect even for first grade.

**KaraLM**: That will help kids with the inevitable- "writer's Block"

**KimberlyNg**: They just need to fill in the rest.

**KimberlyNg**: Indeed.

**DevetteG**: I like that one too!!

**EsmeraldaS**: Monies are the gap

**KimberlyNg**: Did you guys see the "Plot Pre-Write" sheet?

**SusanR**: that is the 4th Tuesday ..we will focus on the wealth of materials here at The Writing Fix

**KimberlyNg**: That's a great resource as well.

**KaraLM**: I also like the "Start and Stop" Game

**SusanR**: how we can adapt them for classroom use

**EsmeraldaS**: Yes

**SusanR**: and meet standards as well

**CourtneyP**: yes, very cute!

**EsmeraldaS**: Yes

**SusanR** . o O ( perhaps it will be revised as well )

**KaraLM**: we can put them in a literacy center

**BJB2** looks at the clock on the wall

**KaraLM**: do moderations in our class- such as writing settings, characters, and plots on strips of paper and having the students draw them out of hats to create a story to write on

**KaraLM** : not yet BJB!

**EsmeraldaS**: yes, a literacy center is a good idea

**KimberlyNg**: The "Plot Pre-Write" sheet could be a starter for the kids.

**BJB2**: Sue will meet again on November 27

**KimberlyNg**: They could complete each event block a day.

**SusanR** : I can leave you to debate amongst yourselves here in the Comfy Conference Lounge..so kick off your shoes and relax

**BJB2** . o O ( same topic...to be continued! )

**CourtneyP**: I agree Kim.

**KimberlyNg**: That way, they can have time to develop that event or scene.

**EsmeraldaS**: yes, it could

**SusanR** : yes, Bj same topic to be continued

**KaraLM** : Thank you for the resources, and your time Susan!!

**KimberlyNg**: See you on the 27th Susan!

**SusanR** : Thank you all

**DevetteG**: Thank you for your time!!!

**CourtneyP**: Bye everyone! See you at school tomorrow Kim!

**CourtneyP**: Thanks you!

**HelenK**: thanks Susan great as always

**KimberlyNg**: Thanks so much for all of this! I can't wait to share with my teacher tomorrow!

**KimberlyNg**: Bye guys!

**BJB2**: Thanks, Sue. Goodnight

**SusanR**: Great crowd