

Title of Session: Pupils Asking: Teachers Helping
Moderator: Joan Welch
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Room: After School Online

JoanW: Hi Kevin Nice to meet you

DaveBo: on PATH Kevin?

KevinMc: Can I be?

JoanW: Yes !!!

DrPatriciB: Kevin, my dear man, we would love to have you!!!!!!

DrPatriciB: Send an email to yzpat@pathwhelp.org and I will send you material about us.

DaveBo: Kevin - the Science room team awaits your help, for sure!

KevinMc: well thank you

RobinKi: Kevin, English and Special Needs room is at your service.

DaveBo: (or any other subject you feel comfortable with)

DaveBo: Kevin - we can arrange a guided tour of PATH for you after this presentation if you like

KevinMc: I am a special education teacher at the high school level.

DrPatriciB: Good evening and welcome to PATH's presentation on Disaster Preparedness for Students.

DaveBo: Kevin, meet Robin!

DrPatriciB: Tonight, we will present some technical ideas from an expert with 911 experience who can help you prepare for anything,

DrPatriciB: then give you plans for a Disaster Kit for your student—its contents and alternative uses;

DrPatriciB: how PATH can help in an emergency situation, a bit about PATH's daily operation, and an open period for Questions and Answers.

DrPatriciB: We will do this in just under an hour, so let's get started.

DrPatriciB: PATH means "Pupils Asking, Teachers Helping" and is a non profit 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization with tax exempt status from the IRS

DrPatriciB: We were founded in 2005 and have built a reputation since then as the leading Internet Homework Help site offering free assistance for students

DrPatriciB: I am the Executive Director, my email address is yzpat@pathwhelp.org.

DrPatriciB: You will meet several members of our Administrative Team and some of our teachers tonight.

DrPatriciB: We have 200+ volunteer teachers who give their time, education, experience, and talent to help your students each night

DrPatriciB: To begin tonight, we want to consider Disaster Preparedness: Who? What? Why?

DrPatriciB: This portion of our program was prepared by Darian Caplinger who has been called to duty with the storms in the Midwest so I am presenting his material.

DrPatriciB: Pay close attention. Darian is an expert in the field, experienced in 911 assistance and all kind of disaster rescue efforts.

DrPatriciB: Imagine it's 2:00 in the morning. You and your family are sound asleep, and you are

DrPatriciB: family are jolted awake by the sound of large hail striking and eventually smashing your door

DrPatriciB: What do you do? Okay, now, imagine instead of hail hitting your home, let's say

DrPatriciB: the ground starts to violently shake beneath you. What do you do?

DrPatriciB: Disasters, big and small, happen everyday in the United States and throughout the world.

DrPatriciB: It may be as simple as an automobile accident, or as complex and tragic as a full fledged

DrPatriciB: hurricane wiping out an entire region. Either way, the chances are that sometime in your

DrPatriciB: lifetime, you will be affected by a disaster of some type. Just remember, there is a big

DrPatriciB: difference between being affected, and being a victim to. What is the difference?

DrPatriciB: Preparedness.

DrPatriciB: One week ago (Mar 13, 2006), an unprecedented early year tornado outbreak struck Missouri

DrPatriciB: and Illinois. In one County alone, 127 homes were totally destroyed, and a total of 322

DrPatriciB: homes were destroyed or damaged in some form. Surprisingly, the path that the tornadoes

DrPatriciB: in that County took, took an almost identical path 3 years prior. The latest tornadoes

DrPatriciB: did more overall structural damage, but unlike in 2003, no one was killed in Christian

DrPatriciB: County Missouri, and only 1 person was injured. What made the difference?

DrPatriciB: Easy...

DrPatriciB: experience and preparedness.

DrPatriciB: Some disasters come with little to no warning, such as tornadoes, earthquakes, explosions

DrPatriciB: and structural collapses. With some, such as hurricanes, there is generally sufficient

DrPatriciB: warning to decide whether to escape by evacuation or to shelter in place. Simply knowing

DrPatriciB: that the threat of danger exists, is not enough. You must have plans, designed in

DrPatriciB: advanced, to facilitate your response in time of emergent need.

DrPatriciB: We all think about things like what route we'd take if we had to evacuate our home due to

DrPatriciB: a fire, and maybe about where you would shelter during a severe storm.

DrPatriciB: However, how many

DrPatriciB: have thought ahead as to what they would drink or eat or even wear if a major disaster

DrPatriciB: would strike their area, and they ended up being trapped in their area of refuge?

DrPatriciB: Disaster kits are an integral part of the preparedness planning that should be

DrPatriciB: considered, just to meet some of these needs.

DrPatriciB: Keeping a simple stock of necessities such as potable water, toiletries, a simple change

DrPatriciB: of clothes for each member of the family and preserved food (such as powerbars or

DrPatriciB: military type meals) can make a major difference in survival after a disaster, especially

DrPatriciB: if it may take time for assistance to reach you. Another important factor to consider

DrPatriciB: keeping emergency supplies of, are medicines. Make sure to keep any medication and

DrPatriciB: water/food products current (change them before they pass their expiration dates).

DrPatriciB: The US Government, the American Red Cross and several other organizations have made

DrPatriciB: available tips for preparedness for disasters that could strike you and your family at

DrPatriciB: any time. Below are some useful links that we have assembled for you:

DrPatriciB: US Dept of Homeland Security Readiness Site:

DrPatriciB: <http://www.ready.gov>

DrPatriciB: US Federal Emergency Management Agency:

DrPatriciB: <http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/>

DrPatriciB: American Red Cross:

DrPatriciB: <http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/beprepared/>

DrPatriciB: <http://www.prepare.org/>

DrPatriciB: Allstate Insurance Company:

DrPatriciB: <http://www.allstate.com/catastrophe/prepare.html>

DrPatriciB: NOAA's National Hurricane Center:

DrPatriciB: http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/english/disaster_prevention.shtml

DrPatriciB: US Centers for Disease Control:

DrPatriciB: <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/>

DrPatriciB: PrepareNow.org:

DrPatriciB: <http://www.preparenow.org/>

DrPatriciB: Getting prepared for a disaster isn't difficult, however, surviving one without being

DrPatriciB: prepared most certainly can be. Do yourself and your family a favor, and prepare now...

DrPatriciB: while you still have a chance!

DrPatriciB: let's get specific about you and your student. We here at PATH have developed a Disaster Preparedness Kit which we want to explain and help you to prepare for your own use.

DrPatriciB: . To make this part of our presentation we have Robin Kittai and Robin Christian.

DrPatriciB: RobinK?

RobinKi: First, let's talk about why we want you to consider building and using this kit.

RobinKi: As sinister as the previous remarks have been, we know that we face the reality of some sort of unexpected catastrophe in our lives and the lives of our family every day.

RobinKi: For coastal residents there are hurricanes, floods, even tsunamis; inland there are tornados, snow and sleet storms, mud and land slides, and avalanches; days of being closed off from daily life by weather-related activities and the ever present terrorism threat.

RobinKi: By establishing, accumulating and maintaining a Preparedness Kit for each student in your home, you actually prepare for a continuation of normalcy to a degree for your family in such a situation.

RobinKi: We recommend that you begin with a container at least 9 by 12 inches and 6 inches deep. A small case with a handle will facilitate carrying and make your student feel an identity.

RobinKi: Label the container boldly and place in it the following items:

RobinKi: 1. 2 writing pads appropriate for age level

RobinKi: 2. 4 #2 pencils with a small sharpener

RobinKi: 3. Colored pencils or crayons

RobinKi: 4. Graph paper if age appropriate

RobinKi: 5. 25 sheets of drawing paper (white typing paper is sufficient)

RobinKi: 6. An eraser

RobinKi: 7. A ruler

RobinKi: 8. A small calculator if appropriate with an extra battery. Solar is preferred.

RobinKi: 9. 12 – 25 work sheets for appropriate age. (Work sheets can be downloaded from aol@school.com. An age appropriate workbook can be purchases from a Teacher Supply Store and would be preferable. Most teachers will supply some work sheets for your student.)

RobinKi: 10. A list of 10 – 12 assignments for various subjects (these can also be downloaded)

RobinKi: 11. A small stapler with staples or a box of paper clips

RobinKi: 12. Some folders possibly

RobinKi: 13. 3 ring folder with a small hole punch

RobinKi: 14. Adhesive labels

RobinKi: 15. Stickers for younger children.

DrPatriciB: RobinC!

RobinCh: You likely will think of other items appropriate for your child, such as puzzles, coloring books, word puzzles, books and other items.

RobinCh: Go to your local Teacher's Supply store and pick out items that appeal to your child

RobinCh: Just be sure that you do not get things too easy or too difficult and buy supplies needed to go with each item, such as pencils, colors and etc

RobinCh: When your kit is assembled, place it in a location for easy and quick access such as a hall closet along with your flashlights and rain gear.

RobinCh: DO NOT ALLOW YOUR CHILD TO PLAY WITH THIS! Keep it fresh.

RobinCh: With any emergency, grab it and go!

RobinCh: You do not need to await a hurricane: suppose there is a death in your family and you need to keep the children occupied - you have the kit.

RobinCh: Perhaps you have a long car trip - grab it

RobinCh: Say there are snow days - a blizzard - use it.

RobinCh: You will not only keep the children occupied, but keep them learning.

RobinCh: Should you need to evacuate, take it along with your child's school books and you can keep your child working at his grade level for some time, at least until you can return or get him/her into another school.

RobinCh: We recommend redoing the kit each Fall to assure that you are always at the child's grade level.

RobinCh: When you redo the kit, let your child enjoy the things you had included. If you do this in late August, you give your child a splendid way to prepare for the new year.

RobinCh: What a marvelous addition to your parenting and your child's learning. Get yours ready.

DrPatriciB: In addition to the kit which we recommend, PATH is on duty to help your child during any such crisis. Joan Welch will tell us about this.

DrPatriciB: Joan!

JoanW: Good evening

JoanW: PATH is uniquely suited to assist during any crisis since our

JoanW: staff is located all over the country—in all time zones, and since our

JoanW: host network is operated as previously explained, full-time.

JoanW: Any location with a computer and Internet access can take advantage of PATH.

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JoanW: Most Evacuation Shelters are equipped thusly. In the Katrina/Rita

JoanW: crisis, evacuated students utilized the computer banks created in the

JoanW: Houston and Baton Rouge shelters to help the evacuees locate family

JoanW: members.

JoanW: PATH mobilized its staff and resources as soon as the gravity of the

JoanW: situation was realized and readied itself to meet student needs.

JoanW: Students began to find us with in a few days and we were on the way to

JoanW: helping.

JoanW: Since this evacuation was an extended one, students became antsy and

JoanW: homework was an opportunity to experience some degree of normalcy.

JoanW: When impromptu classes were set up in the shelters, PATH offered information

JoanW: and structure as well as assistance in academics.

JoanW: When evacuated students were enrolled in schools, PATH was able to help

JoanW: students get up to speed again to catch up in classes already ahead of

JoanW: them, and to find resources to replace lost or forgotten textbooks,

JoanW: even libraries.

JoanW: Other students relocated into the homes of friends or relatives in far

JoanW: flung locations found help via PATH to stay on task and even make

JoanW: progress.

JoanW: In some locations, PATH was able to offer help in explaining

JoanW: why testing was required to assess student placement in new schools.

JoanW: In a few instances, contact was made with evacuated teachers who pitched

JoanW: in to help students in shelters and like situations.

JoanW: With this experience, PATH has more fully prepared itself to be ready to

JoanW: assist students in future crisis situations by planning with teachers

JoanW: and staff on the best ways to be available.

JoanW: This includes getting the name of PATH better known through advertising,

JoanW: word-of-mouth, and online sharing. Teachers, now aware of their unique

JoanW: contributions, will be available for more hours.

JoanW: The open hours for live help will be extended and Message Board will be

JoanW: staffed in a manner to keep questions answered promptly.

JoanW: Aware that the student's computer access may be limited, we will do all

JoanW: within our power to be available to students and their parents should disaster strike.

DrPatriciB: You do not need to await a Disaster to get help from PATH. We are here all of the time. Dave Boswell and Sherl Engel will explain that for you.

DrPatriciB: Dave!

DaveBo: PATH is not restricted to operations only during disasters. The three

DaveBo: routes of Homework Help are available to students from first grade through

DaveBo: college every day of the week.

DaveBo: The live help rooms are open from 5 PM until midnight ET Sunday

DaveBo: through Thursday. Teachers do come into the rooms earlier when they can so students who need help should pop into a room on the chance that a teacher may be there and available.

DaveBo: Recently, we have noticed students signing on during the school day and we are working to make teachers available.

DaveBo: LIVE ROOMS

DaveBo: To receive help in a live room, the student signs on to www.pathwhelp.org and

DaveBo: selects the chalkboard icon representing the type of help needed. The onscreen instructions allow the student to access the age level and subject for which help is needed and will be placed

DaveBo: the appropriate room.

DaveBo: On arrival in a PATH room, the student is greeted and asked to type a grade

DaveBo: level and question.

DaveBo: The student should ask a specific question, rather than just saying, “I need math help.”

DaveBo: Instead, the student should say, “I need help with converting fractions to decimals.” Or, “I need help with geometry.” A teacher will then contact the student by private message and

DaveBo: ask for the specific question.

DaveBo: The teacher will lead the student through the steps to solve the

DaveBo: problem or find the answer to the question.

DaveBo: The teacher will NOT do the work for the student, but will lead the

DaveBo: student to solve the problem for himself.

JeffC: Is there an interactive whiteboard available for drawing problems, etc.?

DrPatriciB: Sherl!

SherIE: Another way to receive help from PATH is via our Message Boards.

DaveBo: not yet, Jeff - we're working on it!

DaveBo: The teacher will work with the student until the problem is resolved and the route to solve the problem is clearly understood. Then the teacher will thank the student for using PATH and

DaveBo: direct the student to exit the room so that another student may enter.

SherIE: The primary difference in the message board help and the live room help is that help is not

SherIE: one on one, or "face to face".

DaveBo: more to come form me, Pat....

JeffC: good luck Dave!

SherIE: GA Dave

DrPatriciB: K, go Dave!

DaveBo: A complete log of the private messages and the room conversations is made and

DaveBo: available.

DaveBo: A student who is disrespectful to others will be reminded of the rules and if the abuse

DaveBo: continues, the student will be ejected and unable to return for a period of

DaveBo: time.

DaveBo: No profanity will appear in the rooms: a filter is in place at all times

DaveBo: so that when a student attempts to use profanity, the only thing the room will

DaveBo: see is [censored].

DaveBo: Students should not bring their homework to PATH to be done

DaveBo: by the teachers. While we are ready to assist with problem areas, we will not

DaveBo: work through each problem with the student. We will instead instruct the

DaveBo: student to go and finish the problems, and return if necessary.

DaveBo: We have had great success helping students in all parts of the world and receive notes from parents and students who appreciate the help we give and respect that we do not do the work for the students.

DrPatriciB: Sherl!

DaveBo: PATH is partnered with WHOA-KTD (Working to Halt Online Abuse - Kids/Teens division) to provide Internet Safety information and tips.

DaveBo: <---hands mike to Sherl

SherIE: Another way to receive help from PATH is via the Message Boards.

SherIE: Upon using the Message Boards for the first time, the student is required to register with his screen name and create a “password”.

SherIE: This assures that in the future, the student can enter the Message Board area and post questions or pick up answers at any time.

SherIE: The student uses www.pathwhelp.org and selects the Message Board chalkboard icon.

SherIE: The succeeding screens guide the student to the appropriate message board for his grade level and subject. Again, the student is instructed to enter the specific question.

SherIE: For instance, the student would select the English Message Board and rather than posting, “I need help with literature.” would post, “I need help in determining the symbolism in ‘Death of a

SherIE: Salesman’.”

SherIE: That way, a teacher who teaches that play would be able to provide an immediate answer in how to pick out the symbols and their meanings.

SherIE: The student could then use the tips given and select the symbols and even post another question such as, “I have found the following symbols in ‘Death of a Salesman’ . .

. .

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. .

SherIE: After posting a question, the student should return to the board after a few hours and check for answers.

SherIE: Usually there will be more than one answer so that the student can gain from input from more than one teacher. Answers are usually available within 24 hours but may be sooner.

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SherIE: That's all I have for now

DrPatriciB: You have heard our experts give you advice and instructions as well as tips and techniques to

DrPatriciB: help endure and survive a disaster with the least possible damage to your students. We are here

BJB2: I do apologize for the interruption, everyone.

DrPatriciB: now to answer any questions you might have. Just enter a ? to ask a question and wait for us to call on you. If you have a comment, enter a ! and wait for us to call on you. We will stay as long as needed to answer your questions and hear your comments.

DrPatriciB: Any questions or comments?

DrPatriciB: OK, since we are mostly PATH folks, Thank you for your time and attention. We pledge our help to you and encourage you to prepare yourself and your students for whatever may happen

DrPatriciB: Thank you for your good work here. Good night all.

RobinCh: night all

SherIE: Good night.

DaveBo: good night, folks!