

Title of Session: Tech Leaders Round Table - Hit the ground running!

Moderator: Jen Wagner

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Room: On Tap Cafe

JenW: I am going to ask an opening question -- so I will post it NOW -- so that you can think about it.....

JenW: BUT PLEASE DON'T ANSWER IT YET!!!

JenW: Ok??

DuncanD: OK

BJ nods.

JulieC: sure

BJ . o O (we need to start with introductions)

SusanR: Our fingers are crossed for Duncan

JenW: BJB -- yep, I won't forget that

JenW: QUESTION for today -- What is the #1 reason you think your fellow teachers might give for NOT wanting to integrate technology????

JenW: Now just think about that -- and we will come back to it later

RaiannaS joined the room.

BJ tucks that question in the back of her brain....

DuncanD: I teach EFL at a Japanese university. My students are from first year to graduate school.

BJ: Welcome, everyone, to the Tech Leaders Round Table!

BJ: Thanks, Duncan.

RaiannaS: Hello, I am looking for "Hit the Ground Running" does anyone have an idea where I could find it?

BJ: Could everyone please introduce themselves and give the grade and subject they teach?

JenW: Rainana -- you are in the right place!

SusanR: I am K to 8 Occasional Teacher, former tech integrator and presenter here at TI

JulieC: I am newly credentialed, and currently applying for teaching positions

JenW: I work with 1st - 8th, Tech Coordinator, Southern California

JenW: Anybody else wish to introduce???

RaiannaS: Thanks! I am a 3rd grade teacher.

JenW: OKAY -- well let me introduce myself a bit more.....

JenW: I have been involved with Technology since 1992 but continually come across people who are NOT as ENTHUSED as I am about using Technology. <g>

JenW: thus -- our topic for today

JenW: How do we get others using technology in their classes.

JenW: KNOWING that their comfort zone is FAR less than our comfort zone

JenW: LOL-- or they would be here today! :)

JenW: so -- based on that -- lets go back to our intro questions

JenW: What is the #1 reason you think your fellow teachers might give for NOT wanting to integrate technology????

JenW: any ideas???

BJ: no time

BJ: no training

SusanR: too much effort

DuncanD: It takes work to do something new. It's easier to use last year's lessons.

SusanR: don't see the relevance

JenW: yep yep yep and yep

JenW: and yep

DuncanD: We spend too much time figuring out the computers and too little time using them.

JenW: This is a roundtable so I will be throwing out ideas and then ask that you throw ideas back to me

JenW: So-- how can we give them more time, more training, and see the relevance???

JenW: Duncan -- you teach in 1 room --???

JenW: Julie -- you are a new teacher -- just starting out???

JulieC: yes

DuncanD: No both the students and I move

JulieC: not yet a teacher actually

JenW: Yep -- you are JulieC!!

JenW: just not paid yet

JulieC: haha true

JenW: Okay -- so lets use JulieC -- if we could

JenW: how could we encourage JulieC to use technology

JenW: lets say for 1 hour per week in her classroom

JenW: BJ -- she has 1 hour -- any ideas

JenW: and it doesn't have to be 1 hour block

SusanR: a long range project

JenW: Smiles-- I am being the devils advocate -- cuz I do have ideas

JenW: OOOOhhh Susan, good idea.

DuncanD: Pick your spots carefully. Some things are better taught with technology others aren't

JenW: JulieC -- Duncan -- Susan --- BJ -- do you have weather where you live???

SusanR: that meets a curricular need

JenW: yes, Duncan.....I agree but also feel that technology compliments everything

DuncanD: We do. Every day!

SusanR: do we have weather???

JenW: I am finding that the #1 way to get teachers to integrate technology

StevenFe joined the room.

JenW: is to find something they are ALREADY doing and then help them use technology in doing it

JenW: Hi Steven

StevenFe: hi

JenW: Duncan -- I am sorry, what grade do you teach again??

DuncanD: University

JenW: I bring up weather since most K - 3 teachers at my school do a daily weather chart

JenW: and they do it daily -- its a habit

CynthiaPe joined the room.

JenW: Hi CynthiaPe

CynthiaPe: hi

JenW: How could YOU encourage a teacher who is doing a weather chart -- to add a bit of technology to it??

CynthiaPe: This is my first time using this chat and I'm kind of scared!

JenW: and DON'T just think computers

JenW: any ideas??

SusanR: graph the weather

JenW: with ????

SusanR: Appleworks or Word

JenW: good

JenW: any other ideas

JenW: remember it doesn't have to be computers only

JenW: My teachers cringe when I bring up computers -- but

DuncanD: Interesting point JenW. When we think technology, we tend to think computers. A pen and paper are technology if you've always written with a stick.

JenW: Yes, Duncan -- yep yep yep

JenW: My teachers embraced taking photos of the weather and creating graphs with the photos

JenW: then, I was able to show them how to import pictures later

JenW: The graphs they created were on the bulletin board (to start)

JenW: Okay -- lets move on -- another technology

JenW: You have a reluctant teacher who is doing a science fair.

JenW: How can you encourage HIM to use technology??

DuncanD: Why is he reluctant? What grades is he teaching??

JenW: good question -- lets say 6th grade

JenW: reluctant to use any technology

JenW: teaches science fair the same way every year with handouts

JenW: what could he add (with a bit of technology) to spice it up??

DuncanD: I've never been to a science fair. What do they usually do? What are the aims?

JenW: let me show you

JenW: if I may

SusanR: use the web to research possible science experiments

JenW: Here is a site of how a teacher -- 3rd grade level -- added technology to a science lesson

JenW: yes, susan

JenW: does everyone know how to view a site I post??

DuncanD: If I see a URL, I can find it.

JenW: Please click on this link

JenW: <http://www.liberty.k12.ga.us/techconnect/crowley.htm> -- this is a third grade class using technology

JenW: please tell me which technologies you see being used

JenW: Julie??? Cynthia?? Duncan???

JenW: were you able to see the site??

MiguelB joined the room.

JenW: hi Miguel

MiguelB: Hello!

JenW: Susan -- are you back from viewing the site??

JulieC: internet

JulieC: flx cam

BJ . o O (just click on the blue url to open a new window)

JenW: Great Julie --

JenW: anything else??

JulieC: tv

JulieC: computers

JenW: GOOD -- people forget that TV is a technology

JenW: Now -- this teacher could have had her students do PLANT REPORTS and have them stand up and read what they learned.

JenW: but she chose to use technology.

DuncanD: I use heavily edited home videos with my students to introduce aspects of Canadian culture

JenW: and do you think it worked??

JenW: Yes, Duncan -- you are meeting them with video!! Our kids love video. They learn visually!! They love graphics!

DuncanD: They get a kick out of seeing something that isn't a TV production and it's a good way to work on their cross-cultural observation skills.

JenW: Students of today are not the students from 10 years or more ago. Things cannot be stagnant for too long before they need motion.

JenW: and technology -- be it tv, camera, tapes, video, or more -- they embrace

JenW: using a laser pointer is technology

SusanR: I like to use technology to add an additional dimension to a project... along with the traditional ..

JenW: SusanR -- I totally agree.

JenW: It's the icing on the cake

JenW: but a necessary icing!! <g>

SusanR agrees

JenW: I like to see teachers use technology on something they usually do without it

JenW: For instance -- are you all familiar with the Very Hungry Caterpillar book

BJ Nods

SusanR: yep

JenW: Well, its part of our 1st grade curriculum

DuncanD: I find I have to be twice as organized when I use technology. If I don't keep on the students to do what I want them to do, I lose them. It's sounds very teacher centered, but otherwise they surf off in 25 directions.

JenW: JulieC -- do you have a grade preference

JenW agrees with Duncan -- technology does take time

JulieC: elementary level

JulieC: but I'm open as far as the grade level

SusanR agrees with Duncan ...especially with grade 7 and 8

JenW: Okay -- so you know the very hungry caterpillar

JulieC: yes I do

JenW: Okay --

JenW: now -- how could you integrate technology into that story?

JenW: Let's start with the younger ages

JulieC: maybe using clip art to create their own very hungry caterpillar page

JenW: Good job, JulieC

BJ . o O (or a simple draw program)

JenW: now -- as a teacher -- there might be some preparation in finding the clipart for the students to use

DuncanD: Use a digital camera to take pictures of things the caterpillar could eat.

SusanR: Kid Pix..illustrate the life cycle

JenW: OOOOOooooo great idea

JenW: So -- would you say TODAY we are going to insert clipart???

DuncanD: Do kids still bring lunches to school? That might be one source.

JenW: or could you say -- within the next 2 weeks, we will -----continue the scenario

JenW: I think teachers are afraid to use technology because they think it has to be RIGHT NOW

JenW: and if they knew they had a length of time -- I think they would be a bit more open to it

JenW: Duncan -- that's a very fun idea

BJ . o O (you could take the lunch idea and work with food pyramids....the very hungry boy/girl)

JenW: Yes

JenW: and you could collect images -- via camera, video camera, magazines, etc to build your pyramid

JenW: OR you could dress up and film your classes version of the Very Hungry Caterpillar

JenW: or you could use Kidspiration or PowerPoint or Hyperstudio to make a timeline presentation of the story

SusanR: good ideas...

JenW: but always encouraging YOU and your teachers to stretch it out

JenW: and NOT conquer it today

JenW: teachers cringe when they think all 30 kids have to have computer time today

JenW: but if you say 20 minutes over the next 2 weeks -

JenW: they usually can find time

JenW: so lets take it to the internet

DuncanD: Remind teachers to have a backup activity in case the computer(s) crash(es).

JenW: since we are speaking of computers right now

JenW again agrees with Duncan -- cuz it probably will happen

JenW: How could you do the Very Hungry Caterpillar on the internet for older students (4 - 6th)

DuncanD: Google image search to find the ugliest caterpillar

JenW: or how could you encourage teachers to incorporate the internet

JenW: LOLOL -- great idea Duncan

BJ: what about a diary/email account of what the caterpillar ate that day

JenW: oooo -- good idea

JenW: I like blogs

DuncanD: Try to find images of a caterpillar at various stages of development

JenW: Julie -- any ideas???

SusanR: write a sequel...create a reader's theatre production

JenW: "clapping"

JenW: do you think you could encourage a teacher to find pictures on the internet,

Susan?? A teacher who is reluctant to even touch a keyboard??

SusanR: daily diary of a caterpillar's day in blog format

JenW: using Google Images???

SusanR: ...hmmm...yes

JenW: We also need to show our teachers that its really NOT that hard to use technology.

DuncanD: A sequel would seem to involve reproduction. Would that fit in?

JenW: Do you remember when you first came to TappedIN?? Were you a bit overwhelmed

JenW: I was.

DuncanD: Actually Internet Explorer was :-)

JenW: Teachers need to learn that it's okay to go baby steps with technology

JenW: and I think sometimes I need to step back and let them do the babysteps. <g>

DuncanD: That's actually what I was referring to above by "pick your spots". Give them the idea that they don't need to do everything with a computer, etc.

JenW: Yes!!!

JenW: But use technology -- cameras, tapes, overheads

JenW: vcrs and dvds

JenW: television!!!

JenW: SO -- before we end today -- I have another question

MiguelB: We at the high school enjoy using lightware along with powerpoint to do lessons on our screens.

JenW: I am assuming that all of us are comfy using technology -- to the point that we were able to get here. <g>

JenW: what is one area you could think of that you would try using technology with that you haven't before -- OR

JenW: what is one way you could encourage a teacher to use technology

DuncanD: If I had the bandwidth and cameras, I'd love to set up chats where students can see the person they're chatting with. Keypals are great, but a bit remote.

SusanR: find her area of expertise..and take it from there

MiguelB: Using a TI83 calculator and computer, have students think about their dream car within reason and compute the monthly payment. Then have them compute how much they would need to get at a job to pay the car.

JenW: calculators -- great idea THANKS!!

JenW: webcams -- -Great idea

DuncanD: Find out what areas teachers frustrated with the way they're teaching now. See if there's a tech solution.

BJ . o O (or a tech enhancement)

JenW: sometimes technology can help solve time issues

MiguelB: Have students measure stairways using 12in rulers and do a graph using graphical analysis. Then determine the equation of the line. Why do I need to learn Algebra for?

JenW: For example, a grading program is a great time saver
JenW: --- Miguel -- I was watching Junk Yard Wars this week and they were using Algebra
JenW: and thought -- Our Kids Need To See That Video
DuncanD: EasyGradePro is great!
MiguelB: I use the formulas $(a+b)$ squared to show students how to multiply a number like 43 times 43.
JenW: I use Making The Grade..... <g>
JenW: smiles -- I think Miguel is our math guy
JenW: Well, that is about it for this months Round Table Discussion
JenW: Does anyone have any questions or comments??
JulieC: Thank you for the great discussion!
MiguelB: Naw!! we created about 30 lessons using technology and implemented them into our classroom and verify its value.
SusanR: Thanks Jen..some great ideas...
JenW: Thank you Julie -- and GREAT LUCK in your future teaching
DuncanD: Thanks for hosting Jen.
JenW: we will meet again next month for another rousing session!!
RaiannaS: Thank you! I got some great ideas as well.
BJ: I think we can consider this first meeting of Tech Leaders a rousing success! Thanks, Jen
JenW: Our topic for next month is -----
JenW: drum roll
BJ listens
SusanR listens intently.
JenW: Hmm, does Copyright really apply to me???
JenW: LOL
SusanR: good topic
JenW: gonna find great places to get free "LEGAL" stuff
JulieC: Maybe I'll see you then!
JenW: so you don't have to steal anything anymore!! :)
JulieC: bye
JenW: Julie -- I hope so!
BJ waves goodnight
JenW waves too
DuncanD: Good topic.
SusanR: Goodnight all! Thanks again.
DuncanD: Bye.
RaiannaS: Bye
JenW: Duncan -- I think it's my personal soapbox topic right now
JenW: Raianna -- thanks for coming