

Title of Session: Tech in the Classroom - Collaborative Online Groups

Moderator: Donna Hendry

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Room: After School Online

BJ: Welcome to the Tech in the Classroom discussion everyone

BJ: Donna Hendry is our discussion leader.

BJ: We usually start all the discussions in Tapped In with introductions

BJ: This helps Donna know who is here and what grade levels are represented

SherraM: Hi, I am Sherra from University of Houston, preservice teacher

BJ: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and a helpdesk volunteer for Tapped In

JimHi: Jim 7th Grade science KY school TRT and former ITL for state of Ky

KristiM: I am a student teacher from the University of Houston

BretB: Hi, my name is Bret, 4th grade in Vancouver, WA

DonnaH: Donna Hendry, Educational Consultant in Connecticut, and discussion leader:)

AndreaA: My name is Andrea. I am also a pre-service teacher from the Univ. of Houston.

AmyHa: Hi, Amy from Texas, preservice teacher, University of Texas at Tyler

HelenK: I work in Adult Upgrading Quesnel, British Columbia

KenM: Hi my name is Ken, I'm also a pre service teacher at the University of Houston

SusanR: K to 8 Occasional Teacher from Ottawa, Ontario and K to 3 Resources presenter here at TI

JPGst5: Hi, I am Jamie, a graduate student in instructional technology from University of Georgia and a middle school orchestra teacher.

AllisonLB: Hi! I'm Ali, from Indiana, a K-5 Spanish teacher.

AndreaA: this is so cool!

DonnaH: (holy moly. we're all over the place!)

DonnaH: *grins*

KenM: Hi to all those from U of H

KenM: looking forward to this chat

DonnaH: Tonight's topic is Collaborative Groups online

DonnaH: Using online to connect students with each other...what would be some good reasons to have students connect online?

JimHi: broaden perspectives

SherraM: having pen pals in other parts of the country for Social Studies

DonnaH: Just the country, Sherra?

JenniferDa: Discuss homework, share ideas.

DonnaH: What about the world?

JimHi: share information and data

SherraM: Actually the entire world

AllisonLB: Meeting groups of students they would not normally get to meet

AndreaA: well, this is a great example...to meet other peers around the world.

SherraM: with supervision from a teacher or adult

DonnaH: Jennifer, would that work in class?

SherraM: you can never be too sure

DonnaH: we're discussing more-so class time usage.

JimHi: It could

SherraM: I suppose it would be in a classroom situation

AndreaA: for group projects

KenM: I love the idea mostly because children can tap into online resources that they normally wouldn't have outside the classroom

DonnaH: Now, the hard questions...what would be different with the ideas you've shared by doing them online?

DonnaH: what makes them better?

SherraM: Things sure have changed since I was in school. I would love to have all of this tech they have today

DonnaH: (there IS a method to my madness, btw)

JPGst5: No f2f contact- don't really know who you are talking to.

DonnaH: JP, is that a good or bad thing?

SherraM: You don't judge them by the way they look. Kids can be tough

JimHi: Sometimes you are going to get different perspectives based on geographic location

KenM: What makes them better is that it's instant, email, info access, they are all at your disposal

JPGst5: In our online class presentations we show a picture of ourselves with a brief bio so we can get to know each other better

DonnaH: What would be the difference then, in having pen pals the traditional way?

AllisonLB: Students who are usually afraid to voice an opinion or talk can feel free.

SherraM: the news would reach them faster

DonnaH: Excellent point Allison

SherraM: and the lines of communication would be more open

AndreaA: Unfortunately, I am not seeing a lot of tech. integration in my mentor's classroom. The kids never use the computers.

MarsR: The difference is that it would be faster online.

JimHi: Kids are probably more familiar with this medium than adults

JimHi: They are less afraid of it

SherraM: There is not much tech in any of my classrooms as well

DonnaH: Realize, obviously, I'm not a technophobe. But I've dealt with it enough to know that you **HAVE** to have the answer to these questions in order to see it used.

AndreaA: I think that depends on the adult

KenM: I think children can look forward to hearing from their pen pals a lot quicker and without the worry of handwriting errors

DonnaH: That's true, Jim; BUT...most kids (say, under...6th grade or so) can't type quickly enough in their own minds.

RuthVe: I have seen some form of technology use in the elem classroom

SherraM: They could collaborate on writing projects via pen pals

DonnaH: it can create frustration.

DonnaH: Just writing projects, Sherra?

KenM: Plus via the internet you can have access to such remote places which may not be true with snail mail

SherraM: They could pass ideas on to one another

JPGst5: In order to make it work, the funding and technology has to be there (hi speed connections with computers for each student)

DonnaH: Think out of the box.

RuthVe: it does create frustration because some students are not very computer savvy

JeffC: Students could type in a word document... then copy/paste it into an email document... I recommend <http://www.epals.com> if you are interested in setting up epal relationships.

DonnaH: not just computer savvy...but typing speed does have a huge role in their frustration

KenM: this is true

MarsR: The biggest frustration I see is that it takes them so long to type something that they lose sight of their original ideas.

RuthVe: the question is do the schools have those resources

AndreaA: I agree! I feel like I am not fast enough right now!

JimHi: true so email is better for them

JPGst5: Ditto

AllisonLB: I only have students 45 minutes at a time-typing is a HUGE frustration for all of us

DonnaH: Now, taking this into consideration, is writing the best use of their online computer time?

KenM: Personally I feel children would prefer to type rather than write because writing can be very time consuming, not to mention all the mistakes you might have to erase

AndreaA: my school has the resource, but the students are not encouraged to use what is available!

MarsR: yeah, I'm having trouble keeping up too.

JeffC: I typed all my students' papers back at Richmond High... over 100 of them... and this was *high school*! Anyways... there are ways to get around the typing issue.

MarsR: Andrea, you hit the nail on the head! That is so true.

SherraM: How about sharing internet resources with each other

RuthVe: what I have seen is that computers are being used for students with learning disabilities

AndreaA: I like to type, but I miss writing. I barely remember what my handwriting looks like:)

DonnaH: Excellent point, Ruth.

JimHi: Our state and district are pushing email as another writing source

AndreaA: I haven't seen that at all!

DonnaH: (you don't want to see mine, Andrea. there's a reason I type everything)

RuthVe: for some reason it makes it easier for them to type their responses for assignments than to hand write them

AndreaA smiles

DonnaH: The point of using a computer is to see/learn things you can't learn traditionally...and to keep students attention.

JPGst5: Only with students who are not experienced is this good for. Experienced students would be bored just writing. There has to be more.

AndreaA: the students I work with are exposed to computers in the computer lab ONLY

SherraM: If they all had PowerPoint, then they could work on that type of presentation via pen pals

RuthVe: for example one child I have observed has difficulty transferring his ideas onto paper so he's typing them instead

DonnaH: I can't talk with a Muslim in Malaysia, but its quite possible I could do so online, given the right setting.

MarsR: that's a good idea Sherra.

SherraM: All you have to do is send the pp to the other person and they could add their part

JPGst5: We have the same thing- we have only one computer for the teacher in my room. Some of the academic teachers have more than one.

SherraM: It really would break down the barriers of all kinds

DonnaH: I've seen computers used to a great degree with ADD/ADHD students, as well as SED students.

JeffC: btw... if you are interested in hooking up internationally... both epals and www.takingitglobal.org are good sites

KenM: I think using the computer software with programs such as PowerPoint really appeals to visual learners like myself. I like to watch what I'm learning rather than hearing

RuthVe: Really?

KenM: thanks Jeff

RuthVe: interesting

KenM: I'm going to jot that down

AndreaA: computers are great to have in the classroom, but I feel like my mentor teacher is too busy to have the children use them

JPGst5: I do PPT with my gen music class - and let them pick topics they are interested in.

DonnaH: Oh, yes. kept them more involved.

MarsR: I really think that time is the biggest obstacle with the students using technology. They love to create these things but it can really be time consuming to do it.

JPGst5: I find that I get surprising results from students who do have add/adhd issues

RuthVe: wow

AndreaA: I agree Mars

SherraM: let them actually do it. They need to learn by their mistakes. They will remember more

BretB: I like that idea Donna, perhaps it would educate away some of our assumptions and stereotypes of the world outside the US

SherraM: It is a huge time investment

JPGst5: Once they make the investment, they will be able to use it in the future

RuthVe: could you elaborate JP

SherraM: Absolutely

JPGst5: They won't have to learn it over again.

DonnaH: There are companies who will set up chats online with such groups.

AndreaA: I think it is important to make time for technology, but since this is not my classroom, there's only so much I can do!

SherraM: They must also have support at home

JPGst5: That is a problem-

DonnaH: See, that is the whole problem.

AndreaA: support at home is also important

DonnaH: you're looking at it separately.

SherraM: what is the whole problem?

KenM: I think teachers think it takes too much time to set up

DonnaH: technology is a tool. its not a subject.

JPGst5: Students who don't have the tech at home take longer to complete despite ample class time

KenM: yet the rewards are so plentiful. Engaged students is my main goal with computers

DonnaH: if you integrate it, it takes the same amount of time as a traditional lesson.

JPGst5: Tech is the means, not the end. They use it to learn and explore

SherraM: but they must learn the tool and if they don't at home, it will take a lot of time at school

AmyHa: that is true

AllisonLB: But we have Technology standards to meet, so in a way it is a subject

DonnaH: Exactly, JP

MarsR: That's true Donna.

DonnaH: Then you integrate it Allison

BretB: so first we need to decide on the learning and then evaluate whether or not technology is a suitable tool/vehicle

RuthVe: let's not underestimate children

AndreaA: what happens when kids do not have these tools at home?

SherraM: I guess you start off small and build as the year moves on

DonnaH: Spot on, Bret

MarsR: But how much weight can you give to it over areas that they will actually be tested over?

AmyHa: technology is definitely a suitable tool

JPGst5: It will take a lot of time but you are teaching them something that they will be able to use outside of school forever.

KenM: I want to do all I can to integrate it but I want to make sure that I use the computer in a way that keeps the children engaged and not bored

DonnaH: you aren't giving weight OVER areas, Mars...you giving weight WITH

KenM: a computer program can be as boring as a boring lecturer

JPGst5: Many businesses require competency in Msoft office

SherraM: right, and they must be involved to stay engaged!!!!

DonnaH: It can be, Ken.

MarsR: I agree with that Donna.

AmyHa: you have to teach technology to your students to prepare them for jobs in the workplace environment

RuthVe: there is no question about it kids need to have a technology experience at school

DonnaH: Which is why you need to consider, can this be done traditionally?

JPGst5: We need to prepare our students better for the work place. Technology is a start.

HelenK: you can also eliminate some of the time involved by providing basic templates to get them started on their projects etc.

DonnaH: Is it better to do it traditionally?

SherraM: they will benefit in the long run.

KenM: teachers really need to take the time to research the software their integrating to see if it meets not only your standards but the child's as well

AndreaA: traditionally?

DonnaH: because if the answer is yes, then that's what you need to do.

DonnaH: By traditionally, Andrea, I mean with out the technology.

AndreaA: I agree with Ken

DonnaH: An example.

JenniferDa: Right on Ken

DonnaH: I'm teaching students...*shrugs* addition.

BretB: sometimes, it might be better to approach a topic "traditionally" I'm not so sure that technology is a panacea

AndreaA: how can you teach technology without technology?

DonnaH: I pop in Math blaster in the computer.

KenM: Thank you

AndreaA smiles

JPGst5: Tech is not always the answer

KristiM: technology can be used to make it fun

DonnaH: does it teach the students better?

KenM: some of these programs I see at my school are fun yet the kids are not really learning anything

MarsR: I definitely agree with that JPG!

JPGst5: Research indicates it can

SherraM: yes, it can be fun and different from the normal stuff.

AndreaA: technology is the key to the universe!

DonnaH: Exactly, Ken.

SherraM: however, tech must become the normal stuff

RuthVe: it makes learning interesting for the student

KristiM: no, but it gives them a different way to learn

AmyHa: technology is not always the answer but it can be integrated to help the students in learning

TerriC: I think that technology can be motivating to students.

KenM: the teacher lets them loose on the computer and then the kids don't know what they learned and that's the problem

AllisonLB: I did that my first year of teaching all the time!

JPGst5: It comes naturally for many of them

KenM: I see way too often

KenM: often

JenniferDa: I teach MS Office to adults.

TerriC: I agree Ken, you have to give them structure and purpose when using tech.

AndreaA: technology has brought us all a long way. I wish that I knew more about it.

SherraM: Some kids will have more skills and they can be the peer helpers and things might move quicker

DonnaH: I'm not saying that computer games don't have a place.

JPGst5: Often, we use the tech to teach and don't embellish- that is a problem

RuthVe: there needs to be some sort of direction when using this type of technology if not it is pointless

MarsR: I agree with Ken. It's what you do with the technology. Otherwise, it's the same thing as letting them watch a movie. It just becomes another form of entertainment.

JeffC: If you're looking for a program that combines constructivist K-12 lessons with MS Office, check out <http://www.schoolkit.com> and follow the link to Enactz.

JimHi: The importance of good lesson plans that incorporate appropriate technology is key

KenM: rather than explaining to the children what they're learning, the teacher hopes they learn themselves when all the kids really want to do is complete the game

DonnaH: but saying you're teaching the kids Technology by popping them in front of a screen with a game is not going to meet your standards either.

AmyHa: there are some subjects that need to be taught traditionally but they can have technology integrated with them to help the students learn better

DonnaH: Jim, I could kiss you *grin*

DonnaH: That is exactly it.

RuthVe: I agree with you Donna

JimHi grins too

SherraM: they must interact and create things with technology

DonnaH: You have to decide when is technology appropriate, and when it will further your goals.

DonnaH: (its an uphill battle)

SusanR: one for the primary teachers/students and one for the juniors

AndreaA: right on Terri

BretB: my district doesn't even want me to do TappedIn

KenM: wow **BretB**

SherraM: wow

KenM: talk about computer shy

RuthVe: Why Bret?

SherraM: why not

TerriC: Bret Why?

MarsR: Why not Bret?

JPGst5: We have tech buddies- teachers that help out those who don't know

AndreaA: that's sad Brett.

BretB: security issues

DonnaH: Our district locks it too.

KenM: wow

SherraM: we have to do tappedin at *UH

KenM: that is a shame

AndreaA: yep

DonnaH: See, Tapped in requires 3 open ports.[Ed. note: TI2 only requires port 8000]

BretB: I have to do it from home

KenM: oh I see

SherraM: I am doing it from home now

AmyHa: we are required to do it at Ut

DonnaH: firewalls only allow for one, usually.

TerriC: Jp= I love the idea of tech buddies. Any tips?

JPGst5: More people need to know about this so they can take advantage of it

DonnaH: They don't want students in chat rooms.

AndreaA: tech buddies sounds like a great idea

SusanR: reading buddies...tech buddies

DonnaH: so if they open it (in their eyes...though not entirely true) it opens all.

JPGst5: Making those teachers who are comfortable with technology available to the rest of the school for help

AllisonLB: I can't get on from school

SherraM: Something like Tapped In for students might work.

JPGst5: We have a technology cross functional team at our school that helps with that

SherraM: if it were a bit slower

MarsR: I understand not wanting students in chat rooms.

KenM: tell me, who's a more effective collaborator, someone who has access to only the teachers at their campuses or one who can connect to teachers from all over the world.

Tech helps us teachers out sooo much

AndreaA: only if it is professional "like"

MarsR: You can't really monitor what they are saying.

SherraM: only with supervision in class situation

AmyHa: I think that if chat rooms could be set up just allowing students through out a school to use the chat system, it would be beneficial

DonnaH: Actually, Sherra, we've just opened the SAC today. Students have their own area of Tapped In that teachers can register their classes to use.

SherraM: they could chat as a class

JimHi: Have any of you checked out the new student center of Tappedin

DonnaH: in a totally safe environment.

SherraM: with the teacher typing. She/he could type the student's responses

AndreaA: right, Donna

JPGst5: that is interesting

DonnaH: Its great for such things as say...an author interview

AllisonLB: How do we convince our schools to use it?

JenniferDa: Yes tonight

SherraM: exactly

DonnaH: beat them?

DonnaH: I'm not sure, Allison, I'm still working on mine.

AndreaA: stop the violence

BretB: yes a buddy of mine is using the student accounts for some great discussion groups with his students

DonnaH: Or interview a scientist of some sort.

JPGst5: It will help improve test scores, meet curriculum requirements....

JimHi: I have a science workshop room

RuthVe: that sounds like a great idea

JPGst5: Topical sessions like this one could convince

SherraM: author talks and expert talks within the classroom would be awesome

KristiM: you could have book discussions online

DonnaH: Some museums use things much like tapped in to hold virtual classes on their exhibits.

AmyHa: it is hard to convince school administrators to allow programs like this because many are not educated in technology themselves

AndreaA: so I guess that we all agree that tech. has some sort of positive influence with students?

BretB: yes

JPGst5: yes

AmyHa: yes

SherraM: Some poor districts would miss out

MarsR: definitely!

RuthVe: yes

DonnaH: One school last year had their knowledge bowl online, so they didn't have to move students from one school to another within their district

SusanR: Yep, bring in an artist, science expert or composer....

KenM: has anybody heard of the virtual reality classroom

MarsR: That's true Sherra.

TerriC: Yeah! we need help meeting standards. No child left behind says all students should be computer literate by 8th grade. Will we make it?

KenM: I would love to hear opinions on that

JimHi: it's not always the cost. it's the vision

RuthVe: I am not sure

SherraM: tell that to the politicians!

AndreaA: poor smoor! there's so much \$\$\$ out there. (if they are willing)

MarsR: No I haven't Ken. What is it?

JPGst5: Technology becomes outdated so quickly

JimHi: Sometimes the vision is rather narrow

SherraM: if they are willing

TerriC: No, I would like to know about virtual reality classrooms.

KenM: Mars, it's like regular virtual reality where you put on a headset and find yourself in another worlds

JPGst5: a school that got a 10000 dollar grant 4 years ago for tech in a poor county can't even use their computers for much anymore

AmyHa: as technology develops, I think that we will have to develop our thinking along with it or otherwise we will be left behind

KenM: well we spoke about this on our eclassroom discussion and it sounds amazing but so expensive

JPGst5: There is no further funding in that county

DonnaH: (and in all reality, 10k doesn't by much anymore)

SherraM: the computers are changing so quickly

JPGst5: but they are getting cheaper

KenM: imagine a social studies lesson where the children can actually see themselves in the revolutionary war

RuthVe: probably vc won't happen for a while

SherraM: that would be cool, Ken

KenM: how much more engaged can you get

MarsR: That sound good to me Ken.

JPGst5: maybe the future is pda's with wireless connectivity?

RuthVe: Children will have a 3d image in front of them

BretB: we got something called ThinClient, I guess it saved the district bundles

AndreaA: yes, tech. does change quickly, but does that mean that we shouldn't try to use it

TerriC: We are fortunate at our school to have a lab and computer in the classrooms but I worry about schools who are so far behind in their resources.

KenM: most kids hate history but if they sat in during the signing of the Declaration of Independence, how would they feel

RuthVe: how awesome is that

AllisonLB: We just got wireless last year, but it is already outdated

AmyHa: pda's would be an excellent idea

MarsR: We used the virtual field trip and that was pretty cool.

JenniferDa: Wireless is the way of the future.

AmyHa: true

JPGst5: I am looking forward to that at our school

BretB: I luv my wireless laptop

KenM: **MarsR**, too bad that can't be the norm, money money money

JPGst5: Me too

AndreaA: I read an article about VR. great idea. great experience!

AmyHa: I agree

AndreaA: I wish I had a laptop

SherraM: What about an after school computer class within the classroom?

MarsR: me too Andrea.

SherraM: They could work on something each week to reach an end result

KenM: I believe all teachers should have access to a laptop

TerriC: Is there a way to get set up with wireless at home? I am new to all the tech stuff

JimHi: yes

JPGst5: Yes there is

KenM: it makes life so much easier

AmyHa: yes

AndreaA: my daughter's school offers an after school imac class. she absolutely loves it

RuthVe: my question is if we do ever get the virtual reality classroom will all schools have the same opportunities or will it only be for those schools that have the resources

TerriC: Tell me more

JimHi: you need a cable modem or DSL

JPGst5: I have 3 computers hooked up

JenniferDa: Yes, I'm using a wireless laptop now.

JimHi: we have 3 at home plus a laptop

AndreaA: I'm so jealous

SherraM: It would not be mandatory, but the kids would like it

JPGst5: need a router and wireless hubs for your computers

SherraM: I am on a wireless laptop too

MarsR: I think that becomes another money issue Sherra. But it's a good idea.

TerriC: Is DSL a digital satellite?

JenniferDa: Worth the cost.

JimHi: Not that expensive anymore either

JPGst5: No, it is a hi speed internet connection

JimHi: DSL is high speed telephone

SherraM: DonnaH, can you give us preservice teachers some other ideas on tech in the classroom?

AmyHa: wireless sometimes allows for faster downloads

AndreaA: where's Donna?

KenM: please raise your hand if your teacher has computer just sitting in the corner collecting more dust than they did in the factory. What an injustice

JenniferDa: Share info with parents

AndreaA: hand being raised

RuthVe: hand raised

TerriC: See how blonde I am about computers but I am learning. Does anyone have a service they can recommend for wireless service?

MarsR: In my classroom, they mostly use it to take reading tests.

JimHi: I overwork mine and any other I can get my hands on

SherraM: I have seen a lot of AR tests on the computer

JPGst5: wireless can be slower- I know my laptop is slower on downloads than my computer near the router hooked up with a hard connection

AndreaA: it really bothers me , too. these computers are just sitting there. never used by the students

KenM: Seeing those computers in the corner just makes me feel horrible

KenM: what a waste

AndreaA: tisk tisk

RuthVe: lets put them to use!

JPGst5: many schools would kill for that

JPGst5: and they don't use them

DonnaH: seeing computers in the corner covered in an inch of dust...THAT bothers me.

SherraM: Sometimes, there is not enough time in one day

KenM: I bet if you ask every single student in the class the vast majority of the kids would love to use it too

JPGst5 -(

MarsR: That is a waste Ken. Maybe the teacher just doesn't know what to do with them.

AndreaA: not at all

SusanR used for report cards, worksheets, rubrics and administrative paper work

AmyHa: most computers are just used for testing AR

KenM: and not to just for games, but to actually research and learn

SherraM: Some teachers think it is not worth the time I'm sure

AndreaA: I don't know. I think she just doesn't make time for them

JPGst5: There are so many great programs that will help students learn

RuthVe: exactly

AndreaA: see what I mean

SherraM: Katy ISD has all of the grade books and objectives on line.

MarsR: Some schools tell teachers they are supposed to have a computer and just stick it in the room without telling them what to do with it.

DonnaH: How many people believe their students really understand how to research online/

SherraM: The administrators can access the teachers lesson plans on line

JimHi: somewhat

JPGst5: Not many-

KenM: I think that most teachers are just trying to fit everything in that they find the computer way too time consuming. Plus they might be worried about how to manage a class where some students are on the comp and some are not

JenniferDa: Not Many

AllisonLB: My 4th and 5th graders do.

DonnaH: that is part of the problem.

SherraM: I don't think the young ones do

KristiM: not in school

AmyHa: not many students do

AndreaA: I think it is becoming more and more imperative for preservice teachers to tech it up!

RuthVe: I think it all starts with the administration at the school

TerriC: I know a teacher who created a rotation system for her students so that they put in computer time each week, even if they were at the computer during teaching time.

They caught up when they got off it was that important to her. NO DUST COLLECTED

KenM: and tech it up I will

MarsR: UofH has a pretty strong technology program for preservice teachers.

JPGst5: It is imperative for your project to be successful that you teach them how to research

KenM: great Terri

AndreaA: that's what I'm talking about

RuthVe: if they don't do anything to help teachers integrate technology then they just wont bother to do it

DonnaH: teaching I think is starting to change a bit...learning is not a matter of spitting back memorized facts (okay, so some is...like the multiplication tables) but learning HOW to find what you need.

SherraM: A rotation would work good.

KenM: yes, we've been very fortunate at U of H

DonnaH: exactly, JP

KenM: still, I want to learn more

SusanR: There are some suggested projects here at epals...various age levels

<http://www.epals.com/projects/>

AndreaA: me too

KenM: especially as far as programs aimed for kids

JPGst5: The first project I ever did- had kids list google.com in the bibliography and not the sites they visited!

TerriC: My administration is very supportive. They are working on a mini -lab for project time.

AllisonLB: Treasure Hunts on line are a good start.

AndreaA: good for you Terri

DonnaH: See, I don't place all the blame on administration.

JPGst5: We have tech goals that the county wants us to meet

AndreaA: me either

DonnaH: okay, yes many should do a better job in supporting.

MarsR: Exactly Sherra!

DonnaH: but many don't. and that is just the way it works.

SherraM: it takes imagination to create tech lessons

KenM: How about the web quests idea, I loved that. Make learning fun by making it an adventure

JPGst5: Every teacher in Georgia has to pass a technology proficiency course to be certified

AndreaA: it's up to the teachers as well, not just administration

DonnaH: As teachers, how many people just do what they have to do anyway?

AndreaA: go Georgia

MarsR: Wow, JPG. I haven't ever heard of that.

TerriC: Virtual reality fieldtrips are fun. I have been on an underground railroad trip with my kids during our study of the Civil War.

DonnaH: like pay out their own pocket for conferences and such.

JenniferDa: A lot of lessons can be found on the internet.

JPGst5: It includes making websites, webquests, portfolios, etc

KenM: Donna I think most do what they want to do because they feel at ease doing so

AmyHa: I am working on a webquest right now and I believe that it is a great way to learn

DonnaH: Teachers are just as responsible to learn what they need to know.

SherraM: I am spending hours on the net searching

JPGst5: Every teacher at my school has to have their own site for their students

DonnaH: You get no argument from me on that point, Ken.

AndreaA: I think some people just want to get by

AmyHa: yes

SherraM: Teachers should have websites. There are places that give them for free

MarsR: Do your students like the webquest Amy? Cause I did one and I have to be honest with you. I hated doing it.

KenM: Teachers need to be like computers, constantly receiving updates, no viruses I hope, lol

DonnaH: which brings me back to my original comment...WHY is it important to use technology?

AndreaA: that 's a pretty bad example for our students

JimHi: Its not a question of getting by sometimes

RuthVe: teachers have a lot on their plate

SherraM: I love that idea and plan on having one

RuthVe: especially with TAKS around the corner

AndreaA: because technology is NOW

JimHi: I've been at this 29 years and it seems they add more and more all the time

DonnaH: because if teachers understand the uses, and what makes it a good tool. they'll work on learning how to on their own.

KenM: because technology brings the outside world in, how's that

AndreaA: I agree Donna

TerriC: Ken, I have just been introduced to Webquests and I am creating my own. I am exciting about this new medium for learning.

JenniferDa: Every job today uses some type of technology

JPGst5: agree

HelenK: if you want to see an open source development tool to help with putting work online - look at Moodle - most people can feel comfortable with this management system in about an hour and it has great flexibility - www.moodle.org

RuthVe: it is a great tool Terri

DonnaH: by doing things like coming here to Tapped In...or taking a class...or asking their STUDENTS!

AmyHa: most of the teachers who have been teaching for many years, see no reason to learn new technology because they believe that how they have been teaching has worked so why change it

SherraM: We are lucky to be preservice now with all the resources at our fingertips.

JPGst5: agreed

KenM: Terri, it was so much fun creating it. When I presented it to my class even people who hated history found my time traveling idea fun

AndreaA: does anyone say " why is it important to use a light bulb?" no! the invention is too important! technology will be the same

MarsR: I've heard that same statement several times Amy.

DonnaH: Webquests are one of the truly great ways to integrate technology into a preexisting lesson.

MarsR: Good point Andrea.

JPGst5: I am planning my first one for December

TerriC: Ken, what is the website? I will check it out!

AndreaA: thanks

JeffC: back

TerriC: Hi Jeff

JimHi: Jeff has a good Webquests site

KenM: Let me find it Terri

TerriC: Thanks Ken

JenniferDa: The Internet is the best library in the world.

SherraM: I agree Jennifer

TerriC: Jim what is it about?

JPGst5: much better than any encyclopedia

SherraM: I love it

AndreaA: I can't do any research without the internet

AmyHa: true Jennifer

JPGst5: same here

DonnaH: But you need to teach students to be wary of it too.

AmyHa: true

AndreaA: I wish I had it in high school

JimHi: Jeff has one he shared last night....Jeff?

SherraM: What did teachers do in the "old" days?

SherraM: No offense anyone

JeffC: Oh... there are many...

JPGst5: spend more time planning and creating

JeffC: <http://www.webquests.org> to get you started...

JenniferDa: How to research is really the same.

DonnaH: Students usually figure if its in print its true.

JimHi: I am not always sure the internet is always best for research

SherraM: The credibility can be an issue

JPGst5: I explain to mine that is not the case

KenM: Terri here is my website with the webquest, hopefully it's still up and running
<http://viking.coe.uh.edu/~kmaddock>

AndreaA: kids figure out lots of things

MarsR: I created my webquest through that site. It's pretty good.

SherraM: I am very leery of what I get on the web

JeffC: Here are some I put together for Social Studies and Science:
<http://www.oten.info/resources/webquests.html>

RuthVe: I think that if teachers are going to assign any project that involves the use of the internet for research then she should provide them with the urls

DonnaH: If you use the internet for research, you need to teach the students how to decide on the credibility.

JimHi: Jamie McKenzie always warns about info-junk and info-garbage

KenM: great point Donna

AndreaA: that is why they shouldn't be underestimated when it comes to utilizing technology

AmyHa: I agree Donna

KenM: children may believe whatever they find on the internet

MarsR: It should be Ken. Mine is still up.

AndreaA: I hate spam

TerriC: I love that my kids can use the internet for research but I still want them to use the "old resources" a book too!

RuthVe: because there is a lot of bogus info out there and we want our students to learn facts not opinions

JimHi: But this is a teaching point

DonnaH: Which is why I say teachers should use their students to learn the technology...

SherraM: yes, they need to know how to look thing up in a book

JenniferDa: Just because it is in black and white print (regular media) does not make it true.

DonnaH: nothing wrong with that.

JimHi: Teach kids to evaluate

AndreaA: it is important to use the "old" and the "new"

DonnaH: but teachers need to teach kids not to believe everything they read...and how to judge if the source is credible or not.

TerriC: Jim, good point

JimHi: They need to learn how

MarsR: I agree with Donna.

AndreaA: this is true and another good lesson as well

SherraM: Remember when the digital clock came out and everyone was afraid that we wouldn't tell time on a face clock?

KenM: Donna, it's just like a book. Whoever created the webpage may use personal opinion

AndreaA: no

KenM: that's how I would explain it to my students

SherraM: it is the same concept

TerriC: Students do need to learn to be more critical.

JimHi: Good

AndreaA: I remember that I was amazed when cds came out though

RuthVe: most definitely, I cringe when I hear that a student typed an essay instead of writing it

DonnaH: I mean. okay. really obnoxious example...a friend sent me a link to a CNN page...a medical report that well, women who ingested sperm were 60% less likely to get uterine cancer.

JenniferDa: True. How to read and be critical of what they read.

KenM: ha ha

RuthVe: they need to practice that skill

KenM: wow

DonnaH: Listed doctors, and medical journals, etc.

SherraM: So, our society will adjust. Parents have to have accountability

MarsR: I agree with that Andrea.

DonnaH: but OBVIOUSLY it was a hoax.

JPGst5: How many people actually still write?

AmyHa: students need to be taught using both internet resources and books, etc. as well

TerriC: JP, good point

AmyHa: you can't always depend on the internet

KenM: anybody can make a website nowadays

TerriC: I agree Amy

DonnaH: Exactly, Ken.

MarsR: JPG, I still write. Not to brag but I have beautiful penmanship!

SherraM: You must read the fine print

AndreaA: that is one thing I am afraid of...will kids still actually "write" in fifty years?

DonnaH: And you can take the code off anyone's page.

AllisonLB: You can get a study to prove almost anything you want it to.

JPGst5: I don't

AndreaA: me too

DonnaH: I think so, Andrea.

JimHi: They can make a site but that doesn't mean it's a good one

KenM: true Andrea, or steal images as well

NancyH joined the room.

RuthVe: yes an children need to learn that because what will happen when they are not near a computer

DonnaH: steal a whole page, and just change the actual story.

JPGst5: Our students do not like to write- however give them a computer and...

TerriC: Ken, that is scary now that I am trying to make my own. And there aren't many web police out there to stop the bad.

KenM: no there are not Terri

KenM: but don't let it impede you from making a top notch website

DonnaH: now granted, they aren't likely to catch the one I just got in the mail...but there are certainly similar cases that they could.

SherraM: Tech in the classroom seems to be a topic that most people agree with but finding the time can be a challenge

TerriC: I won't

AndreaA: teach between fantasy and reality, isn't that what we have to do?

KenM: finding time is a challenge for all teachers for all content areas

DonnaH: See, that's the whole problem, Sherra. shouldn't take time.

AllisonLB: Time is the challenge!

JPGst5: agreed

SherraM: I have high hopes to use it . Perhaps have a plan before the school year begins

JimHi: It is

DonnaH: Because it should be within the learning...not on its own.

JPGst5: Make sure you know your resources

MarsR: Why do you say that Donna?

KenM: yet we don't ignore the content areas so why should we ignore technology

SherraM: Right, within the learning. They can learn more at the same time

RuthVe: it should be a content area

AndreaA: right

TerriC: HEAR<HEAR KEN

AllisonLB: I must put it in the learning-being that I am Spanish, but it is still challenged by the time

SherraM: The students are so proud when they accomplish things on the computer

DonnaH: Mars, because technology is about integration. since its within any and all the content areas, it would take no more time than it would teaching it any other way.

KenM: exactly Donna

DonnaH: its not Technology that is challenged by time...its TEACHING that is challenged by time.

AndreaA: I can't believe an hour has gone by so fast

KenM: lesson planning takes time

TerriC: Computers can be used to enhance what is needed to be taught in the content area and what a super resource.

AndreaA: this is so great

MarsR: I totally disagree with that Donna. It shouldn't take more time, but it does.

SherraM: A teacher must look at each lesson individually and consider tech for each lesson

KenM: yet we still do it

JPGst5: There are things that you shouldn't lecture on- computers allow you to teach the same content w/o boring them with a lecture

AndreaA: there's never enough time for anything it seems

DonnaH: thinks on what Mars says.

MarsR: Students should be proud of doing a good job on anything they do whether its on the computer or not!

JPGst5: Don't get discouraged Andrea

SherraM: The teacher must be well versed in tech for it not to take more time and sometimes they are learning along with the students

DonnaH: perhaps if you aren't comfortable with the technology in the first place, it takes longer?

JPGst5: I think it makes my job faster

AllisonLB: Exactly, the kids teach us!

JimHi: Not for many others though

JPGst5: Can't imagine my job w/o email, word, ppt, etc

KenM: teachers are so time strapped for everything. If teachers get the mentality that technology is just as important as content then just imagine how much better our lessons can be

AndreaA: maybe, but the more you practice the better you get

JimHi: Try it for a few days

TerriC: Technology is the future and if we don't move along teachers will be left behind and our kids will suffer.

SherraM: I am pretty hooked on the computer myself and all that goes with it.

MarsR: I agree. It makes things easier for me. But in my KG class, it can be hard.

AndreaA: one day our students will be the same way

AndreaA: technology does seem to make things easier

SherraM: Remember that it must be DAP for the student

RuthVe: I guess some teachers feel that they will waste too much time dealing with the computer to get it ready for a lesson that they skip it all together

DonnaH: easier doesn't mean its less complicated though either.

MarsR: But it's not about making things easier for me. I want to do what's best for them. I hope that technology is what's best.

KenM: that's the main problem **RuthVe**

SherraM: So kindergarten would be very basic

SherraM: and they could build on that each year

NancyH left the room.

RuthVe: thanks for agreeing Ken

DonnaH: I've used computers with preschoolers....

TerriC: It has to be a stepping stone process.

SherraM: I think so Terri

MarsR: It is pretty basic. But it's not my class, so I kinda have to go with the flow.

DonnaH: no, they can't type... but there is plenty of things you can do that don't require typing everything out.

AndreaA: right, it builds on each other

SherraM: if they learn a little each year, then they are building toward something

DonnaH: spiraling

KenM: when I think of integrating tech to my class I look at it as if I'm integrating a great new strategy I learned from a workshop. The whole point is that I'm doing this because it will make learning so much more effective and fun for the kids.

RuthVe: I think that it's wonderful that the little ones are being exposed to this so early

TerriC: We have to help each other along the way so that they will be prepared by 8th grade.

RuthVe: what an advantage they have

DonnaH: and if the kids have fun, its more likely that the info will stick past the test

KenM: exactly Donna

AndreaA: these kids are so much more advanced than I was

SherraM: me too

TerriC: Agreed Donna

JPGst5: ditto

MarsR: There is some great software out there for Pre-K and KG students and my SBTE does use it in her classroom.

SherraM: If the lessons relate to them, they will remember more

DonnaH: I use lots of online programs.

SherraM: Like what Donna?

DonnaH: no sense to me in paying for something that is offered for free.

DonnaH: for early childhood?

SherraM: I agree with you

MarsR: That's true!

SherraM: K-5th

DonnaH: Disney and nickelodeon offer great online games.

TerriC: The possibilities are endless

SusanR: KidPix is extremely versatile for kindergarten students

AndreaA: there's so much out there

SherraM: I was not thinking of those sites

KenM: I ask this to all my fellow teachers out there. Would you not integrate a great new reading or math strategy that you learned at a workshop because it is too time consuming? Why do the same with technology. It does the children a disservice by not providing them with the best and most effective strategies out there.

DonnaH: There's a great online book place, called <http://www.storyplace.org>

TerriC: Try Liberty Kids for Social Studies

MarsR: I love KidPix and Kidspiration. Those are both great programs.

AndreaA: I will check it out

SherraM: I will check them out

TerriC: Kidspiration is a great program.

AndreaA: I heard KidPix was great

DonnaH: stories that are read to them, have games to follow to reinforce ideas or vocabulary.

NancyH: I will also

SherraM: Any more sites of interest you can pass on before our time is up?

RuthVe: I loved kidspiration

MarsR: Storytime is AWESOME!

TerriC: I am not familiar with Kid Pix What is it?

AllisonLB: You can create templates in Kidspiration that the kids can use.

DonnaH: (kidpix I've heard can cause computer crashes on some systems though)

SherraM: I think the graphics on some of these sites are awesome

DonnaH: storyplace also has books in Spanish.

AllisonLB: funbrain.com

NancyH: Kidspiration is great!

DonnaH: Funbrain has become a pay site though.

TerriC: NO Crashes--Yikes!

MarsR: Funbrain in good too.

AllisonLB: I'm going to storyplace!

DonnaH: Discovery channel has great things for teachers too.

JPGst5: check out <http://www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us> for teaching opportunities in a county with cutting edge technology It is a great place to teach and work with high expectations for kids.

TerriC: Thanks everyone for the great ideas!

AndreaA: Thank you for all of your thoughts. I have to go! Take care!

RuthVe: thank you all

DonnaH: It is time to go...:)

KenM: We had a great talk

KenM: so many minds, wow

TerriC: Thank you Donna!

DonnaH: If anyone has other questions, feel free to email me

techforteachers@yahoo.com)

SherraM: Thanks Donna H. for some interesting chat. I will have to re read the transcript to catch it all!

DonnaH: Excellent discussion...thank you all:)