

Title of Session: 7-12 Science Forum

Moderator: Jeff Cooper

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Room: After School Online Room

PJY joined the room.

JeffC waves to PJY

PJY waves

JeffC: Hi PJ... I was looking at your info... you're doing a new math lab? Excellent. I wish you made it to the session I just had for Math Resources.

PJY smiles, "thank you."

PJY: I wish I had too.

JeffC: I'll get you a transcript (when I get it).

PJY: Oh, I'd appreciate that, very much, thank you.

JeffC: So you're moving from language arts to math & science?

PJY shakes her head, "No, I'm a dedicated LA teacher, but I'm working with a group of teachers and teacher leaders in getting resources into the school..and #1 priority right now are two-fold, a math lab, and solid mathematics software."

JeffC nods

JeffC: What solid math software are you looking at right now? And for how much?

PJY: One of my teachers, however, is a dedicated CMP teacher..she believes in it, and she flies." She makes a face, "Successmaker, but it's really a lot..nearly our operating budget."

JeffC: Yeah... software can be incredibly pricey.

JeffC: You want my two cents on the subject?

PJY listens.

SusanR joined the room.

JeffC: I'm against spending exorbitant (sp?) amounts on software. I just spoke with a support provider who will be spending \$39K on software for a school. For that kind of money you can have an entire computer lab.

PJY noddles.

JeffC: One school I work at currently uses Plato... are you familiar with it?

PJY nods, "yes."

JeffC: It's pricey, kind of glitzy, and popular. School spent a lot on it. It is difficult to administer, which is a bit of a problem but not overwhelming. The overwhelming problem is that the students are *bored with it after 20 minutes.*

JeffC: In my not so humble opinion, *no software will reach all* or even a majority of the students.

PJY nods, "that is a problem with the reading program we have right now. It's hugely boring - which is why we were really looking at Successmaker."

JeffC: Because of the different learning styles that are out there... because of the different needs, we need to stretch out how we use technology in the classroom.

PJY understands and listens.

JeffC: I think you would be better off seriously looking at the Net.

PJY isn't sure what you mean.

JeffC: Let me show you a site where I have a few science links. I'm going to open a new window on your computer, ok? Come back to this window after you open the "Mr.C's Links" and then the Science folder... ok?

PJY noddles.

JeffC projects <http://www.mybookmarks.com/public/mathscience>

PJY is impressed how you did that..

JeffC: That's one of the cool features here.

PJY grins

JeffC: You can bring students online to Tapped In (although if your district uses a heavy filter, you will need to get them to open up this port... which is undoubtedly filtered due to the chat feature).

JeffC: You can get them all to one site using the project tool. Just type: /project <url>

PJY also appreciates that this will be sent to her in a log.

JeffC: That will open a new window on remote computers in the same room as yourself. However, I wouldn't advertise that to the students, because they'd go nuts opening windows on each others' machines.

JeffC: Yeah... I go pretty fast PJY, sorry...

PJY laughs low "I'd never tell them...my normal reply is just "because I'm that good."

JeffC lols

SusanR . o O (they would probably figure it out, Jeff)

JeffC: BTW... here is another site for math... I showed it last hour: <http://onlymath.com>
...I'm not going to project it, but you can click on it if you like.

JeffC: Well... they would *want* to know how to do it... and isn't that what you want... enquiring minds?

PJY: not that much...I like limiting some abilities.

JeffC: Continuing on my anti-software theme... aside from spending major dollars on software, which will be dated soon, and lock students into one general "stream of learning"... and I'm sure aligning to standards... my one question is: Does this represent best practice? Can we do better? Oh... sorry... that's two questions.

PJY grins "actually, they are the same questions I've been asking myself over the reading/writing software."

JeffC: Right

PJY sits back, "so actually, what you are saying is "write curriculum using what is there now.."

JeffC: The trouble is that NCLB has somehow brainwashed (read: politically mandated to us) that students need to know certain "things." It doesn't approach what I (and I think most educators) consider critical to learning: Facilitation-- Validation-- Motivation-- Collaboration.

JeffC: I'm saying... transcend curriculum...

JeffC: Get things working so that students actually become *intrinsically interested in learning*. Ever been to yucky.com?

PJY: but it still comes to lesson plans and goals - a better term.

PJY shakes her head, "no."

JeffC: Well... get ready

JeffC projects <http://www.yucky.com>

ConnieSa joined the room.

JeffC waves to Connie

PJY grins and likes this.

JeffC: Connie is an educator from Forest Grove, and an ex-student teacher friend of mine. She is sitting next to me in the library.

JeffC: Right PJY... and more importantly.. *students & teachers* will like it.

PJY waves

SusanR waves

PJY: I wouldn't trust the kids not to get sidetracked into the advertising here.

JeffC: There are a myriad of ways to get science curriculum across... I have created about 100 links in my bookmarks, and would like *you* to add to them.

SusanR: Love those icky experiments, Jeff

JeffC: <http://www.mybookmarks.com/public/mathscience> is the site. You can login there and add your own sites. Login: mathscience Password: tappedin ... by getting educators to think outside of the box... we can really cut down the wheel spinning time.

JeffC: Unless of course, you want to do a lesson on wheel spinning... in which case... I can show you another site.

JeffC: Question: Why aren't educators collaborating like this?

SusanR: wheel spinning???

SusanR: Time, Jeff

JeffC: Why do we outsource our curriculum?

JeffC: Wheel spinning= going around and around... when someone else has already;... oh... mixing my metaphors... *reinventing the wheel!*

JeffC: Let me show you something called Trackstar Susan... are you familiar with it?

JeffC: I mean PJY

PJY: Where should we begin when we talk about tutoring programs and getting kids just to grade level? Unless we are back to using what is there?

PJY noddles.

SusanR . o O (you introduced me to Trackstar !!)

JeffC: Ah... well... first I think we need to ask ourselves why these kids are below grade level, and whether what we are doing to remediate is effective.

JeffC: Plato is being used with students who are below grade level. Teachers tell me their students are bored after twenty minutes. Do I need to see a bunch of test results to say that plan doesn't meet the need?

PJY thinks about the question, "what has gone before has not been." She nods "exactly."

JeffC: Let me show you Trackstar PJ and Connie. I'm going to open a site I created, and there is much more besides this site... ok?

ConnieSa: After 2 years in my own classroom, I am trying to figure out how to keep everyone on task and working.

PJY noddles.

JeffC projects <http://tinyurl.com/amen>

JeffC: It will say "Collaborating" on your task bar... you will see Tapped In in the first frame... don't let that confuse you.

PJY is good.

JeffC: Trackstar allows you to annotate up to fifteen sites... more significantly than keeping the students on the pages you want, it is *searchable*...

JeffC: You can register at <http://trackstar.hprtec.org/> (it's 100% free and ad free), and then do keyword search for... oh... frog...

JeffC: or science

JeffC: or whatever

PJY shakes her head, "this is just a frames web page which opens the first page into the integral window, right?"

JeffC: ... and you will see tracks that other teachers have made...

JeffC: Yes... it's a frames page, but you will note that the top frame is my annotations... very easy to create a track... very user friendly... You can put the "task" (hate that word) at the top of each website for the students.

PJY blinks and wow's and never thought of that! "I could...just design the template load it up to the learning village, then go from there..

ConnieSa left the room (signed off).

JeffC: I often ask people "What is the best search engine on the Internet?" People invariably answer "Google" or "Dogpile" ... etc.

PJY likes MSN...but listens.

JeffC: I answer that it's a trick question... the best internet search engine is *human*. We all have tremendous amount of knowledge... but unlike computers, we tend to horde it.

SusanR: Have you heard of mooter?

JeffC: Hmm... think so... got a url handy?

JeffC: If we as humans really start to facilitate collaboration between each other, we can do so much more and not be so "time swamped" with lesson planning, etc.

JeffC: We feel pigeonholed because of NCLB (and other) standards based requirements, that we really are losing the joy of teaching... which bottom line comes from students who are enjoying learning.

JeffC: Tech itself used to hold a mystique for the kids... no longer true.

PJY sits back and contemplates this fully, and nods quietly, "and not just once every 3 months in a day-long inservice, taking my time on things that I can do better if I'd just thought of it myself."

PJY: NCLB, North Carolina?

JeffC: Right PJ... educators need to be able to support each other *constantly* and receive sustained support.

JeffC: No Child Left Behind

PJY phibbits.

SusanR: <http://mooter.com/index.html> ... here's the URL

PJY: no child left behind because they will take qualified teachers out of teaching.

JeffC: Oh... I haven't used mooter before... but I've used search engines like it. It's very cool to have that visual representation.

PJY smiles as her own website ends up being #1 just in a keyword search.

JeffC: Excellent!

JeffC: Type in MUVE and see if I come up?

SusanR: It's giving Google some competition, Jeff

JeffC: Hehe... #1 in the "muve" folder... yeah... it's good Susan.

PJY: say <http://www-ed.fnal.gov/lincon/w99/projects/muve/present.htm> ?

JeffC: MUVE= Multi-User Virtual Environment... yeah... that was my project for LInC way back in 99.

SusanR . o O (impressive, Jeff)

JeffC: Times have changed... but I'm still pushing MUVES like Tapped In and Diversity University!

JeffC: I'm finishing another article on MUVES, and have others... about creating Virtual Communities of Practice...

PJY: Jeff, I showed two teachers Tapped In, and both were really amazed, they had no clue.

JeffC nods

JeffC: I have to run and pick up my kids... I'm at the library now, because I couldn't get my computer to connect to Tapped In at home.

JeffC: I'll try and reconnect in twenty minutes or so.

PJY noddles.

JeffC: PJY, it was great meeting you... I'd like to leave here by taking you to my office, so you can look around a bit... ok?

PJY nods, "sounds good, I'll follow."