Title of Session: Technology in the Classroom
Moderator: Jeff Cooper
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Room: After School Online Room

JeffC: OK... well... the regular leader of this session isn't here, but I'll pinch hit.
HollyP: Do you know who is leading the discussion?
MelodieW: no I do not
JeffC: My name is Jeff Cooper, to see my profile, click on my name in the "Here" tab on the left, and then click the little "i" in the green circle.
JeffC: So I will lead the discussion since Donna isn't here today.
MelodieW: It sounds good
HollyP: alright
JeffC: OK... check out my profile... and tell me a little about yourselves.
JeffC: I'll try and cotton to your individual needs today.
HollyP: I am a preservice teacher from the University of Houston.
JeffC: What grade(s) and subject(s) Holly?
MelodieW: I am a middle school teacher from Covina California
HollyP: EC-4 and all content areas
JeffC: OK... great
JeffC: Let's continue this meeting in my office.
HollyP: I have to admit that I am not the best with technology though. I am here just to learn a little more about it.
JeffC: 1) Click my name in the Here tab 2) Click the "i" in the green circle 3) Click the link to my office.
MelodieW: me too Holly!!
HollyP: Glad I'm not the only one.
JeffC: I'll help you both as much as I can.
HollyP: Ok let's go to your office.
JeffC: I'll follow both of you to my office... there are resources there.
HollyP left the room.

Room: Online_Support

JeffC: Welcome to my office.
HollyP: Do you have discussions that you lead Jeff?
JeffC: Scroll down and browse at your leisure. I lead several groups here: Math, Science, Collaboration Community, Advanced Tips and Tricks.
JeffC: I'm probably better suited to actually lead a Tech in the Classroom group though. Take a look at this link: http://snurl.com/netc1
JeffC: That was an article that I wrote for the
Northwest Regional Education Lab.
JeffC: It starts with a project I did ten years ago at Richmond High. Almost all of the article is about integration of tech and curriculum.

JeffC: There are many links in the article, ideas to put into place.

JeffC: Take a look at it, and get back to me... I'll give you a few minutes. Please respond with any questions or comments.

HollyP: Yeah, I see the links. Is it okay to read the article when we aren't in a discussion?

HollyP: Ok, I'll look over it.

JeffC: Yes

JeffC: But the article also has many ideas within it to use in the classroom. For example, do your students have email accounts?

HollyP: I'm not sure yet because I'm in the early part of the program and I have an orientation at the school tomorrow.

JeffC: Right... well... my guess is "probably not."

HollyP: I hear the school is wireless though so who knows

DonnaH joined the room.

JeffC: Recommendation #1: Create an epals account for
yourself, and then create up to 35 student accounts.

JeffC waves to Donna.

DonnaH: *waves*

JeffC: Holly, Donna is the regular facilitator for today's meeting.

HollyP: Hi Donna

JeffC: But she's late, and will have to clean the whiteboard after class.

DonnaH: (who is currently wondering why she loves technology so much)

JeffC:

JeffC: One thing to consider Holly is joining an online project or two with your students

JeffC: Check things out with your mentor teacher...but there is a lot you can do online.

HollyP: What kinds of online projects?

DonnaH: there are all sorts.

JeffC: Mayaquest, Jason Project, Newsday.... many of which are mentioned in my article.

DonnaH: Don't forget the LOC runs some too, Jeff.

DonnaH: and so do a lot of science museums.

JeffC nods

HollyP: So when I read the article, I can click on the links and learn more about the projects?

JeffC: My first suggestion though is to get yourself an email account at
http://www.epals.com

JeffC: Yes

DonnaH: the Franklin museum I know does...and the big one in San Francisco does...and I believe there is a really good one in Minneapolis.

JeffC: Without email, you will have a harder time with the students getting projects going.

JeffC: Epals is filterable email.

DonnaH: I'd make sure the epals acct works through whatever filter your school uses first though

HollyP: I'm actually going to the Museum of Natural
Science tomorrow for my first face-to-face professional development.

JeffC: Excellent!

HollyP: Can I can check with the technology specialist about the epals acct?

JeffC: Absolutely... don't do anything without getting some sort of approval.

DonnaH: ummm *chuckle* depends.

DonnaH: because it might not do any good if the district has a no email policy.

DonnaH: *ours does* same with chat.

DonnaH: even if it is academically based

JeffC: If however, they give you a bunch of nonsense as to why the students can't have email, ask to see the Internet Usage Agreement form for the District...and feel free to email me at jc@**JeffC**ooper.info for further support. I'd be happy to talk to your district techies about it.

HollyP: What do you recommend for a teacher, who is not a technological expert? Although, I should be because my generation is. How can I start to integrate technology?

JeffC: Like I said... start with getting your kids email, and then take a look at online projects and join one.

JeffC: Another recommendation would be Webquests, and Filamentality.

JeffC: I'll hand the floor over to Donna... and let her discuss.

HollyP: We did work with WebQuest in my technology course.

DonnaH: one simple thing I've seen it used for is basic daily integration.

DonnaH: have the class join a "word of the day" site, use it for vocabulary building.

JeffC: brb

DonnaH: quote of the day, the weather...use the computer as a "news desk" and report 3 major headlines...

HollyP: Can I do a search or how do I find a site like that?

DonnaH: absolutely...though there are a number of them.

DonnaH: (I know the history channel has a page that is "today in history")

DonnaH: which is very useful.

HollyP: What grade level is it for?

DonnaH: I've used it as young as 4th grade, and as old as seniors in hs.

HollyP: Ok because I'm majoring in early childhood EC-4.

DonnaH: well, the weather one is still really useful.

DonnaH: and even the quote of the day can be; though you would probably want to preview it.

DonnaH: (most quotes I've been able to teach to 2nd and up.)

DonnaH: they just need it explained to them, rather than socratically.

HollyP: Do you use technology to show the quote?

JeffC is back

DonnaH: there are a few quote sites...(or if you can wrangle the email, many will send them to you daily)

DonnaH: use it as one of the morning "jobs"

DonnaH: have a student call up the weather site...and report to the class.

DonnaH: (that sort of thing)

JeffC: http://wordsmith.org/

HollyP: Great ideas

DonnaH: the history is a great one too.

JeffC: If you have $40 and want an instant website, that you'll be able to add content to with the click of a button: http://www.myschoolonline.com

DonnaH: especially if you put up a timeline...and have them clip their newsbit to the appropriate year.

HollyP: What kind of website is that Jeff?

JeffC: Very user friendly, they have Quick Content and a Content Gallery that will allow you to build a website in under 5 minutes.

DonnaH: gives them a better idea where different events occurred.

HollyP: What's out there for math and language arts?

DonnaH: math, I'm really better with things like worksheets.

DonnaH: but the whole quote and word of the day are language arts.

DonnaH: another thing is there are a number of online books now.

JeffC: I just found a bunch of good new math sites.
http://www.mybookmarks.com/public/mathscience

HollyP: I'm being taught that worksheets are bad. Are they still ok to use?

DonnaH: I was taught that any worksheet is bad...because they are busy work.

DonnaH: do I agree with it? no.

JeffC: you can't use it if you call it a worksheet...you can use it if you call it a graphic organizer

DonnaH: in school, they teach you the ideals of teaching. Which is good; you need to know what to strive for.

DonnaH: but...that doesn't mean that what they are teaching is always...possible, or in some cases even right.

HollyP: I like that Jeff

DonnaH: (least in my own experience)

DonnaH: but to answer your question a bit better...worksheets have a purpose...but their purpose isn't to teach;

DonnaH: its for review

DonnaH: and practice...AFTER the concept has been taught.

HollyP: That's what I thought.

DonnaH: (in case you can't tell, I'm rather opinionated in how teaching is taught *laugh*)

JeffC: I just designed a lesson in long division for a job interview...
I played around with the "Magic Number: 144"... taught the interviewer a few things.

JeffC: Making things fun and interesting is good teaching imho regardless of whether or not tech is involved.

DonnaH: *nods*

HollyP: I definitely agree

DonnaH: but, that doesn't mean that the other stuff doesn't have a place.

DonnaH: My students knew things like notes were a necessary evil in order to get to the cool stuff.

HollyP: The children definitely will remember things better when it is made fun and interesting.

DonnaH: (sorry so late, but we're far over time)

DonnaH: *chuckle*

HollyP: Okay well I have some work to get to, but I want to thank you both for all of the good resources that you have given me. Is it okay to come and look at your office latter Jeff?
JeffC: Any time Holly.
JeffC: Did you add it as a Favorite?
HollyP: Yes I will. Thanks a bunch! Goodnight!
JeffC: Gnite Holly