

Title of Session: Middle Level Science

Moderator: Jan Naher Snowden

Title of File: 20050426midsci

Date: April 26, 2005

Room: Tree House Conference Room

Jan_NS joined the room.

BJ: speak of the devil!

BryanGst6: Hello Jan

BJ cheers wildly

Jan_NS: the devil, eh?

DavidWe: Hi, Jan.

Jan_NS: Hi, David

Jan_NS: Hi, everyone.

BJ: before we get started, a reminder to go to the actions menu in the top right of your chat window and click on detach

Jan_NS: We usually start discussions with introductions.

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

BJ . o O (and I love science)

Jan_NS: I teach Science Methods and Instructional Technology courses at Univ. of Akron, OH. Also doctoral candidate.

BryanGst6: I am an Instructional Aide in Ohio studying to get my Middle Childhood license in Science and Math

BJ: please tell us where you are located and what you teach or hope to teach

MichaelRu: Tech Integration Teacher, Williamsville NY (suburb of Buffalo)

DavidWe: I help teachers learn more about technology - especially math and science - and I'm in New Jersey, near New York City

ErinML: I teach 6th grade science, reading, and English.....in Silver Spring, MD

SharonWr: I'm currently teaching middle school technology; formerly elem. classroom. Also in Silver Spring, MD, Erin!

TiffanyW: I am pre-service Secondary Science Education, all of the sciences. I am attending the University of Akron, and actually I am in Jan's class.

Jan_NS: So that is all of us.

Jan_NS: I would like everyone to feel free to share resources or websites, etc. this evening.

Jan_NS: Our topic: Science in the News,

Jan_NS: Many good science websites offer free subscriptions to weekly e-newsletters.

BryanGst6: Right now my number one resources are all the science teachers I work with on a daily basis

DavidWe . o O (My Dad was in the news)

ErinML: I agree Bryan

ErinML: I'm always working with my cohort and I learn a lot from her

Jan_NS: Yes, RL people are the best resources.

Jan_NS: David - please share about your dad (now there is a resource!)

DavidWe: Research on Alzheimer's will proceed with a clinical trial to see if an immunization may not only prevent the disease but actually reverse some of the problems - very, very preliminary stuff

Jan_NS: but a great example of the scientific process of research in action!

DavidWe: But very cool if it may in fact lead to something

TiffanyW: What are they 'immunizing' with?

DavidWe: Immunoglobulin G (IgG)

TiffanyW: Oohhhh! Thank you, that makes sense now.

DavidWe: Welcome, Tiffany

Jan_NS: reminds me of a grad. level immunology course a long time ago.

Jan_NS: Some research has been done that "News-worthy science" is a great motivator for some students.

Jan_NS: especially middle level students

Jan_NS: Not all of us have personal connections to science news

Jan_NS: Like David

David We smiles

BryanGst6: I have noticed you have to try to relate things as much to real life experiences to get middle school kids motivated

Jan_NS: However, some of the best science news comes along with those weekly newsletters in email

TiffanyW: I can see how news would pertain to and therefore interest them. Middle school is a time when students are seeking a way to identify themselves, and whether they intend to or not become more aware of the world around them (including the media).

Jan_NS: One of my favorites is "the Internet Scout Report"

BJ: one of my favorites too.

TiffanyW: What is the Internet Scout Report

Jan_NS: here is the URL - go explore a little. -then come back to share what you discovered.

Jan_NS: <http://scout.wisc.edu/>

Jan_NS: Notice that you can view past issues for topics of specific interest.

Jan_NS: and easy to get on the mailing list.

Jan_NS: I use websites from this newsletter all the time.

Jan_NS: I don't always have the opportunity to just browse.

BryanGst6: It's got a little bit of everything

Jan_NS: so this website and newsletter really makes a difference in keeping up with news and new websites.

TiffanyW: Out of curiosity....

Jan_NS: NSDL is the one to check for the science.

BryanGst6: I will go look at it more when I am not making brochures and databases

Jan_NS: yes, Tiffany

TiffanyW: How 'recent' is the news? I know that when I read say, 'Discover' the articles are already three months old!

Jan_NS: all the back issues are here, too.

Jan_NS: The newsletter subscription gives you the up-to-moment info.

Jan_NS: That is where the power is!

Jan_NS: Note the links to the subscription options near the bottom of the page.

TiffanyW: That is awesome.... sounds as great as the journal 'Science' (which I know some of my college professors read.

Jan_NS: David - do you have any lists to share?

Jan_NS: No problem, Erin

DavidWe: I get email from Science magazine...that's something you can sign up for.

Jan_NS: Ah, there you go, Tiffany.

DavidWe: Weekly report of topics from the journal

Jan_NS: Oh, that sounds great.

DavidWe: It's got great stuff and if you have some science background you can really learn a lot.

Jan_NS: . o O (like I have enough leisure time for extra reading! <grin>)

TiffanyW: Are there costs to these email updates? Not to be a greedy penny pincher, but college isn't cheap.

DavidWe: Nope, Tiffany. This one is free...I'll try to find the web site or other info for you

Jan_NS: Do you have a URL for signing up, David?

ErinML: Tiffany, even when you're out of college it isn't cheap

TiffanyW: Awesone! Thank you so much!

DavidWe: Take a look at this:

DavidWe: <http://sciencenow.sciencemag.org/cgi/alerts/etoc>

TiffanyW: Erin, I hope you are talking about regular expenses, house car repairs, gas, insurance, etc. Otherwise you are making me worry.

TiffanyW: David, thanks again for this site!

ErinML: yes I am.....not to scare you, but even with a salary.....

TiffanyW: Okay - I feel a little better.

DavidWe: Welcome, Tiffany - do you know about ENC - the Eisenhower National Clearinghouse - www.enc.org ?

Jan_NS: Oh, great one, David!

TiffanyW: No, I do not.

ErinML: David, thanks for sharing these resources!

TiffanyW: I will definitely look it up though - Thank you!

Jan_NS: If you are interested in Ecology or Environmental news, you can try Environmental News Network

Jan_NS: http://www.enn.com/todays_news_main_d.html

ErinML: ENN seems like a great resource as well

Jan_NS: There are newsletters for most science organizations.

DavidWe nods

Jan_NS: And non-profits, like PBS

MichaelRu: In the free and lots of resources area, may I offer Science Netlinks, <http://www.sciencenetlinks.com/> - they have a newsletter as well

Jan_NS: Here is the one for the Nova weekly newsletter for teachers.
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/teachers/mailling/>

DavidWe: And science museums often have very good web sites - Franklin Institute
www.fi.edu - the Exploratorium

DavidWe . o O (www.exploratorium.edu)

Jan_NS: or NASA

DavidWe: NASA is truly great!

TiffanyW: Yes I really like this site!

DavidWe wonders if anyone knows WHY NASA is a 4-letter government agency?

TiffanyW: Even the live satellite feed is fun to watch.

TiffanyW: National Aeronautic Space Association?

DavidWe: Right, Tiffany, but why is it a 4 letter agency when the FBI, CIA, etc. are only 3?

Jan_NS: Interesting

TiffanyW: No idea!

DavidWe smiles

ErinML: David do you know?

DavidWe: They are smarter than we are, they need more letters, because they ARE Rocket Scientists!

DavidWe grins

DavidWe . o O (old joke)

SusanR: LOL

TiffanyW: Clever....

Jan_NS: Now, here is a unique one, if you are interested in WebCams for working on observations skills with students.

DavidWe smiles

TiffanyW: Would we by chance cover WebCams in class - this is something I have no familiarity with?

BryanGst6: Sometimes the school district that I work at teachers don't have to find websites, because we have a librarian who is constantly e-mailing us sites that would interest teachers of all subject areas

BJ: Sue mentioned webcams during her K-3 Resource discussion on weather

SusanR: Let me see if I can dig it up

ErinML: sounds like my media specialist

DavidWe: What do you want to DO with a webcam? The trick is to find a compelling reason to use the technology

TiffanyW: Any info would be greatly appreciated!

Jan_NS: the great real-life resource people.

BryanGst6: Yeah our media teacher is wonderful

Jan_NS: check the following link to a newsworthy webcam. - not real-time but with updates every minute.

Jan_NS: <http://www.falconcam.apk.net/>

Jan_NS: You can also subscribe to the update newsletter that lets you know when it is a good time to check the website archives.

Jan_NS: given that it is dark right now in Cleveland, check the archives for sometime during the daylight hours.

Jan_NS: Students can also watch the updates for modifications in behavior minute by minute.

Jan_NS: The best ideas for WebCams is to visit a site that has a streaming webcam where you can observe animal behavior or changes in weather. Even some volcanoes have streaming webcam coverage.

ErinML: that's really neat.....the children would love it!

ErinML: in fact, I'd like to see things like that as they happen!

BryanGst6: That I would like to find, because I am fascinated with volcanoes

TiffanyW: I get it... gaining the real experience without actually going. That would be so much more intriguing than still photos or even recorded footage.

Jan_NS: Many zoos and nature centers have streaming webcams as well as some animal breeders. i.e. horses that are about to foal, dogs about to give birth, birdfeeders at nature centers.

Jan_NS: People set them up to keep an eye out for the action.

Jan_NS: Even daycare centers have them now so that parents can peek in on their toddlers during the day.

Jan_NS: although those webcams are privacy protected.

Jan_NS: We are just about out of time for this evening. Thanks, David, for sharing some of your science newsletters.

BryanGst6: I think somebody should set up a webcam in our Instructional Tech class to watch the master teaching going on

Jan_NS giggles.

ErinML: funny

Jan_NS: Any last comments or thoughts or newsletters to share?

TiffanyW: Thanks everyone for all of the info. and resources. I feel like I have a new archive of teaching materials, and a better chance to teach efficiently.

BJ: thanks, Jan. The next Middle Level Science session will be in June

ErinML: I agree with Tiffany.....thanks everyone!

DavidWe: Thanks, Jan

MichaelRu: thank you

ErinML: Thanks Jan

SusanR: Thanks Jan

Jan_NS: Thanks, everyone for joining us for our discussion.