Title of Session: Tech in the Classroom-Internet Safety
Moderator: Donna Hendry
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Room: After School Online

BJB2: I'm going to ask everyone to please give a brief introduction telling us where you are located and what you teach/do

RoseAH: Am I in the right room for Tech in the Classroom?

BJB2: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and a helpdesk volunteer for Tapped In

BarbaraMu: I am a former elementary school counselor now in private practice in NJ

LisaMa: I teach in-school GED at an Alternative School in Louisiana

EmilyW: I am a web designer and helpdesk volunteer on Tapped In

GinaS: I teach high school seniors in Louisiana- near the Gulf (English)

NancyI: I am working in elementary special ed in Virginia

RoseAH: I'm a displaced computer teacher and building level tech coordinator from Belle Chasse, Louisiana

BJB2: wow...we span K-12 here! ...and then some

BJB2: since we're still waiting for Donna, I get to play hostess with the mostess

JeffC joined the room.

LisaMa: Rose are you in the EIT online class

GinaS: May I ask Rose a question?

BJB2: and I'd like to know if you all know about the new group started in Tapped In called Hurricane Central?

RoseAH: Yes

BJB2 nods to Gina

GinaS: Are you in your hometown?

RoseAH: nods yes

LisaMa: Great, I'm in it too and WE were worried about you

RoseAH: No, I am in Shreveport, Louisiana

BJB2 . o O (Hurricane Central is designed to provide resources for the teachers effected by the hurricane...both directly and indirectly)

GinaS: oh okay

BJB2 . o O (influx of students, no school, etc)

RoseAH: I found out today my house has roof damage and a lot of water damage from roof leaking

GinaS: we have received an influx of new students today

BJB2: would you all like to visit the group room and see what we've started there?

GinaS: yes-

RoseAH: They won't let us in to repair, hopefully our insurance will cover all of it. In the meantime our school board is trying to get us one more paycheck

LisaMa: I wish you the best, we have also gotten many in NE Louisiana

DonnaH joined the room.

DonnaH: Sorry!

DonnaH: Just got back!

BJB2: whoo hoo.,..thar she be!

RoseAH: Yes, oh, hi Donna!

DonnaH: I'm assuming we just finished introductions?

BJB2: we knew you might be late, Donna so we did intros

DonnaH: *nods then*

BJB2: you have a group spanning K-12 with sped and ESL

BJB2: I was telling everyone about Hurricane Central

DonnaH: Excellent.

BarbaraMu: lots of lucky survivors with us from LA tonight from the introductions

DonnaH: Did you finish?

BJB2: Emily and Barbara have added some wonderful resources to the group room...

DonnaH: (I have friends in AL and Miss)

BJB2: and Barbara is leading a School Counselors discussion on Sept 22 on resources to help everyone cope

BJB2 hands the virtual floor over to Donna

RoseAH: I definitely need to be in on that one

DonnaH: It's in the newsletter, right, Bj? (can pass it on to the appropriate people)

BJB2 . o O (if we have time at the end, I'll show you all how to join the group)

DonnaH: *nods*

BarbaraMu: please reach out before then if you need to....

BJB2: yes, there will be an article in the newsletter

DonnaH: Well, I'm going to go out with my usual first tech lesson of the season, with a twist:)

BJB2: thanks, Barbara, for the offer

DonnaH: Those who have been to my first of the school year session know I always do Internet Safety.

RoseAH: I just attended an all day workshop on that and did it with my 4th graders before Katrina

DonnaH: As teachers, we certainly need to know this; but lately, I think perhaps it is also our responsibility to teach parents it as well...and what they can do differs slightly from a teacher's

RoseAH: So I am glad that it is followed through in other places

DonnaH: For those that don't know; I work as an administrator at a writing website...which happens to be for 18+

DonnaH: And we are finding a huge jump in underage poster.

DonnaH: (we can usually tell by the sophistication of the writing...but we dont' delete unless we can prove it.)

DonnaH: And what we are finding is quite frankly, SCARY.

DonnaH: I'm talking, full names, pictures, schools, activities...

DonnaH: *shudder*

RoseAH: I agree with that from what we saw during the workshop

NancyI: As a not very technical person -what do you mean by underage poster?

LisaMa: We who deal w/teenagers understand

DonnaH: an underage poster is someone who is attempting to submit 'post' a story, who is under the legal age given on the website (which is 18.)

DonnaH: So what we are going to discuss is ways and means we can give PARENTS to help them keep their children safe online.

DonnaH: Some things are the same; nothing can take the place of watching, and assisting a child while they are online.

LisaMa: I'm amazed at the "educated" parents who don't know to monitor their children

RoseAH: Are these stories in blogs?

GinaS: I am not familiar with the term blog

DonnaH: Parents often don't think of checking their child's tool bar...where they can hide inappropriate material behind appropriate work.

RoseAH: After attending the workshop I have started monitoring my son's computer use and sites more carefully

DonnaH: (blog: an internet journal...)

DonnaH: (lots of free sites offer space for them..Live Journal being one of the biggest)

LisaMa: Some parents don't know where or what a tool bar is

DonnaH: And no, the stories are on a moderated website.

DonnaH: Exactly my point Lisa.

GinaS: how do you monitor usage without looking directly over shoulder?

EmilyW: check the internet history afterwards

DonnaH: There are plenty of ways, Gina. First, teach the parents to check histories.

JeffC: Make sure the kids don't erase them though.

DonnaH: And many children have learned to delete the histories...but most dont' think to delete the cookies and temporary internet files.

DonnaH: These can tell you where they've been surfing as well.

EmilyW: some don't know how to delete them

GinaS: explain

DonnaH: Okay. when you go online, most sites will leave a part of themselves on your computer.

DonnaH: this is to make it easier/faster to upload if you come back.

DonnaH: they DO take up a bit of room...and are usually named in such a way that you can see where they've been.

DonnaH: I usually just do a search for cookies...and it will give me the file they're hiding in.

DonnaH: (you can delete them directly from the browser; but then you can't see them.)

GinaS: my 15 yr old mostly uses IM's as far as I can tell

LisaMa: I have AOL since I have 2 teenagers and it emails me -- with every site they visit how many times they visited it. Also who they emailed and IM with. I love it and tell everyone it is so worth the money.

DonnaH: My next hit, Gina.

DonnaH: Not everyone has AOL.

DonnaH: Iming can be dangerous.

DonnaH: for a number of reasons. it's not just a matter of strangers.

BarbaraMu: IM'ing seems to be the way kids are living on line...even the young ones

DonnaH: students find out each others accounts, and feel when they aren't in school, its a safe venue for bullying.

DonnaH: Parents need to know that they CAN record their children's im's.

DonnaH: I'm not saying they should read every word...but certainly, it's a threat to hold over a child's head if they think you might on occasion.

DonnaH: (or, if it warrants it.)

LisaMa: Can parents seek legal action for the bullying.

DonnaH: over IM? That's a good question.

BarbaraMu: I would say that it falls under the harassment statutes

DonnaH: I heard of an issue last year at my new school, and the principal said he didn't get involved in back yard fights...until the student uploaded a recorded conversation on the lab computers...

LisaMa: I am thinking like if a child threatens another child.

DonnaH: exactly, Lisa.

BarbaraMu: we teach cyberbullying as part of state mandated bullying and harassment curricula

DonnaH: This is also a place where the recorded IM could come in handy.

LisaMa: I have never heard of the term cyberbullying, very interesting.

DonnaH: (I do know that recorded IM's are legal evidence at least in some states...-a friend had used it in his divorce)

DonnaH: Do you have information on that Barbara? I'd like to see it, as I know we don't have any of that around here.

BJB2 . o O (September 15 Nancy Willard is leading the Cyber Savvy group)

BarbaraMu: http://cyberbully.org/

DonnaH: Two other things i would highly suggest to parents...Do NOT let your child have a live journal/blog

BarbaraMu: has parents and educators guides and a good working definition

DonnaH: or, many of those sites allow you to lock it down to 'friends only'.

JeffC: Why not Donna?

LisaMa: Thanks for the link. Why no blog??

DonnaH: Don't let it become public...it is too easy to let friends names out, school information,

JeffC: That's like saying "no email"

DonnaH: Blogs allow you to post personal information.

LisaMa: Email is more private than a blog

DonnaH: like birthdays, pictures, names.

DonnaH: not true.

DonnaH: Blogs, anyone can see.

JeffC: Gotcha... but you're right... if they make it private... or... better still... *scholastic*.

DonnaH: And students under 18 should not be putting full names, pictures, school information etc.

DonnaH: private could do that...you could 'friend' your teacher, etc.

LisaMa: What about student pictures on school websites?

DonnaH: Live journal is a perfect place for a cyber stalker to find information.

DonnaH: There are a number of ways around that, Lisa.

DonnaH: You CAN have pictures...but they suggest you only post in groups...and never use names with pictures.

DonnaH: never use teacher name and first name of child together.

DonnaH: So...I could say first grader Emily's work.

LisaMa: Do groups mean like cheerleader group or random group shots.

DonnaH: or Mrs. Nagler's class worked on blah blah blah blah

DonnaH: either or.

DonnaH: as long as individuals are not labeled.

JeffC: To me though... this thing about not putting pictures, etc. on the net feeds into the whole realm of paranoia. Stalkers and pederasts can snatch kids off the street. If they are going to try and grab someone off the Internet... kids should be trained to report suspicious contacts to their parents (and/or teachers) immediately. I think this is a saner route than forbidding kids to participate.

DonnaH: I should not have a picture of a single student saying, "Elizabeth won this award this month" with a pic of the child holding the award.

BarbaraMu left the room.

LisaMa: Our school has teachers name, hobbies, education background, (everything but our SS #) can't wait to discuss tomorrow.

DonnaH: It's not saying kids can't participate...it saying you need to control the level of information.

DonnaH: Teachers are different than students.

JeffC: I disagree Donna... I think having a picture of Elizabeth with her award is perfectly legitimate.

DonnaH: If some guy comes to school and say's "hey Lisa!" you aren't likely to approach them.

LisaMa: My mistake you said "never use teacher's name and first name of child together" I misunderstood, now I'm back on board

DonnaH: you get a first grader with someone coming up to them saying, "hey, Emily..." kids aren't going to say...this is bad...they're going to think. hey...they know my name.

DonnaH: Now, Jeff...realize I do agree with you...from a parental position.

JeffC: So you put a picture of Elizabeth online... that's going to attract pederasts? What we're doing is raising the kids in fear of the one in a million shot... without really giving them positive outlets. Sickos can call her name anyways (just hang out around the playground).

RoseAH: That's right and they start giving out personal info, like "do you know"...

DonnaH: if I want to post a picture of my daughter, with her name (first...I'm still good about that) that's my business.

JeffC: They need to learn that just because someone calls them by name it isn't a legitimate contact.

DonnaH: but...from a district position, I need to be a bit paranoid.

DonnaH: Certainly. but I can list at least a dozen kids to whom that wouldnt' sink in when actually faced with the reality.

JeffC: Absolutely... I agree with that Donna... but most districts now are operating from *a foundation of paranoia*. No email, no blogs, highly filtered, no chat (Tapped In is blocked on most servers)...

JeffC: No contact with the outside world.

DonnaH: The last thing I would suggest a parent do is HELP their child pick out their usernames.

DonnaH: (my school isn't...I can get on here from work.)

RoseAH: The form we have parents sign specify if we post their child's work on our school site that first name only is listed

DonnaH: I mean, go onto an IM program with the nickname 'kitten13" and see how quick you get hit on.

DonnaH: Exactly, Rose.

RoseAH: You're right about tight security, for kids and teachers

LisaMa: I think schools must set these limits.

DonnaH: Make sure they aren't picking a purposely ...erotic nickname...and conversely, not one that is too childish, as it can be a draw to the wrong sort.

LisaMa: Teenagers are naturally curious and no telling what they can get into.

DonnaH: Certainly. But it doesn't help if the parents leave the gate wide open at home.

DonnaH: I'm not saying they can't chat with friends. Not saying they can't make internet friends across the world...

DonnaH: but parents do need to be aware of how to watch for issures.

JeffC: They need safe spots to be directed to... like Tapped In, Whyville, etc. They also need to be directed against sites like Habbo Hotel (it's like a sex clinic for 12-20 year olds). Basically... they need to be taught *good judgment*. Kind of like in life I guess.

DonnaH: A lot of teens won't report to their parents sexual innuendo/conversations, because it's cool; it makes them feel grown up...they don't know what dangers they're putting themselves into.

RoseAH: On IM my son had a chat friend named "redhotty11"--tells hair color and age--I knew who it was and told him she either had to change that name or he couldn't chat anymore with her

LisaMa: So, how do we get the word to parents? Notes home, articles, etc

DonnaH: Good for you Rose!!!!

DonnaH: That's exactly what I'm talking about.

LisaMa: Kids love names like that, I see them on notebooks

DonnaH: Well, me personally, I'm going to hold a session at night for parents. (yes, its my newest windmill...)

RoseAH: I plan to present the info at our monthly PTO meeting, if I ever get back in my school

DonnaH: but sure; make a sheet to go home.

DonnaH: email parents.

DonnaH: post it on the school's website...whatever you can do that you think will work.

DonnaH: (pto is a great idea)

DonnaH: let me share one last thing with you...

LisaMa: We don't have PTO and I rarely see the parents. posting is a good idea. They do go there

RoseAH: This year we had set up a webpage for each teacher to post info on, that would be a way to reach parents also

DonnaH:
http://www.ncmec.org/missingkids/servlet/ServiceServlet?LanguageCountry=en_US&PageId=178

DonnaH: The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has an INCREDIBLE bunch of information

DonnaH: tests for parents, kids...and rules for staying safe online.

RoseAH: That's great! The one we use and you may have shared already, since I got kicked off line and missed some of the session

JeffC: Does your PTO have a website Donna? I created several for my kids' elementary schools. Very easy to do with www.myschoolonline.com ...something like $40 a year. Here is one I did: http://snurl.com/dilleypto

DonnaH: I didn't share any other links..

RoseAH: It is www.isafe.org

DonnaH: Yes, they do, Jeff:)

JeffC: I haven't had my kids at Dilley for years... so no one is editing the site now... (or paying for it). Myschoolonline continues to host it for free.

RoseAH: I think that is right

DonnaH: this is another link from NCMEC...

RoseAH: This site will send you lessons and CD with film clips to show

DonnaH: http://tcs.cybertipline.com/

DonnaH: (love the 'id the creep' game.)

LisaMa: I think by stressing this to the students it will make them more aware of the Internet when they become adults. . .

LisaMa: And maybe more aware of their children's activities when they are online.

DonnaH: well, I think too, even knowing their parents are attending such a session...knowing their parents KNOW the ins and outs, will make them more wary of doing things they know their parents wouldn't approve of.

RoseAH: I agree. I posted the rules of safe internet use in my class

RoseAH: I am so glad we had this discussion

DonnaH: Great! I'm glad it was useful!

RoseAH: I kept having my students repeat "Web Smart = Web Safe

DonnaH: excellent catchphrase!

JeffC: Remember to tell them: You haven't won *anything*! Don't click it!

RoseAH: Hey I'll have to use that one next!

LisaMa: Thanks for all the tips everyone and Rose I'll "see" you in class.

RoseAH: What about discussion boards? Since the hurricane I have been accessing our local news channel where they have set up discussion by parish, and some things being said has little to do

RoseAH: with finding family and friends and the condition of homes and businesses

RoseAH: waves to Lisa

RoseAH: Are discussion boards usually that public?

DonnaH: depends on how/where you set them up.

RoseAH: Oh

RoseAH: I really like using the one in Blackboard

NancyI left the room (signed off).

RoseAH: I would like to use Noodle for my 4th graders to set up an ongoing project on, except I'm told they are to young for it

JeffC: Create one *here* Rose. Just set up a K-12 Classroom... instant message board!

DonnaH: blackboard is relatively safe, as it is password protected.

JeffC: You can also use Ikonboard... it requires registration... it's free.

RoseAH: I asked about accessibility of Tapped In and I wasn't told no by our district tech watchdog

JeffC: Tell your watchdog *this is the safest place on the Net for kids to interact*.

DonnaH: (yay! I'm the official tech watchdog now!)

DonnaH: *laugh*

DonnaH: I don't think you heard, Jeff... I got a new job.

RoseAH: giggles softly

RoseAH: I did start setting up a "practice class" here. The more I understand how this site works the better I like it

DonnaH: It is an excellent site.

RoseAH: I have told several of the teachers at work about it, including our district tech facilitators

JeffC: Great Donna!

RoseAH: It looks like everyone is starting to fade out

JeffC wonders if Donna can hire outside consultants now.

DonnaH: nope...

RoseAH: too

JeffC: dang

DonnaH: I am the consultant...my official title is 'technology integration specialist'

JeffC: You need to change your Occupation on the Profile page then Donna.