

Title of Session: Technology in the Classroom

Moderator: Donna Hendry

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Room: After School Online

DonnaH: about 75% of the teacher pop. will retire in the next 5 years.

SusanR: just went to a workshop on the new Kidpix

SusanR: teachers were having trouble with it

DonnaH: I'm hearing good stuff about the new kidpix.

DonnaH: there's an opensource program out there called tuxpain that is very similar...

DonnaH: the kids like it.

SusanR: quite neat

SusanR: I am searching for Tux Paint for Mac OS X

JeffC: You had mentioned a freeware version of kidpix?

DonnaH: I dunno if it is, Sue...our system is PC.

DonnaH: yeah, it's called tuxpaint.

JeffC: (trying to catch us all up... Brenda... this is a cool group... teachers using technology).

SusanR: <http://www.newbreedsoftware.com/tuxpaint/download/macosex/>

SusanR: found it

DonnaH: What sold my boss on me, over some teachers with masters in ed tech was when he asked them to point a teacher to a good website for overall integration, where would you send them...

DonnaH: they couldn't answer.

JeffC: where'd you send them Donna?

SusanR listens

DonnaH: on the other hand, I asked what grade, what subject, and actually rattled off half a dozen...and in my interview presentation (which I was asked for a 7th grade lesson on the human body...) a kinder teacher asked me about literacy...and I gave them a site off the top of my head.

EmilyW: wow

DonnaH: (pbs...discoverychannel...mentioned here as a pd...)

DonnaH: and the literacy one, I sent them to storyplace.org

SusanR: cool

DonnaH: (and I found out later, I was the only one who actually brought hand outs, an actual lesson plan, and an explanation of each step etc,)

JeffC: put the list up Donna... I'm going to apply for a position where they want a masters as well.

SusanR: well that cinched it

DonnaH: exactly.

DonnaH: list of what Jeff? the sites I mentioned?

JeffC: sure

JeffC is always looking for new sites

DonnaH: like you couldn't mention at least a half dozen jump off points off the top of your head? puhlease.

DonnaH: oh, did I mention, this was the demonstration I had to do, incorporating smartboard, when I'd never even touched one before?

DonnaH: (god, I panicked over that:))

EmilyW: I remember that

JeffC: I'm helping in my daughter's second grade class now... they wouldn't be using computers at all if I wasn't there to help. Got them to a cool site on Aesop's Fables the other day.

SusanR: why don't you sub, Jeff

DonnaH: oh, here's a cool site for you then, Jeff...I know in CT 2nd does oceans/continents...

DonnaH: check this out:

JeffC: Because I have to leave too early... have to get the kids to school.

DonnaH: <http://www.sheppardsoftware.com>

DonnaH: (thinks that's it...I'm going off the top of my head)

DonnaH: <http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/Geography.htm>

DonnaH: (more specifically)

DonnaH: the way they have the games formatted are brilliant for structuring the lesson.

BJB2: speaking of games...

SusanR: checking out Canada

BJB2: there is an elementary games for reading, math and spelling next week

BJB2: free sites

SusanR: why isn't Ottawa on the map..it's the capital of Canada

DonnaH: DC isn't on the US map either.

DonnaH: it's not for cities, so much, as provinces/states.

BJB2: The creators of <http://www.SpellBEE.org> have just launched <http://www.MoneyBEE.org> <http://www.PatternBEE.org> Both new websites, like Spellbee.org, are FREE and are part of a scientific study of a new kind of interaction discovered at the Brandeis University DEMO lab.

SusanR: I remember SpellBee

DonnaH: I don't.

DonnaH: pattern bee?

DonnaH: hrm.

DonnaH: (could feasibly use that.)

BJB2: next Tuesday at 9pm EST

DonnaH: I'm checking it out now.

DonnaH: *gah* its interactive...I need someone else on to play.:(

SusanR: That's after my session

SusanR: I could login

DonnaH: *wants to test it to see if it's something she can use.

DonnaH: I can see though, I'm already going to have to ask the principal.

DonnaH: Did I tell you all, I'm working on doing a parent workshop?

SusanR: go on..

SusanR: topic...

DonnaH: How to keep your kids safe on the internet.

DonnaH: you know how I've been working as an administrator at a writing website that is for 18+?

BJB2 nods

DonnaH: we get a ton of teenagers sending in stories...now we can usually tell by the sophistication of the writing...

DonnaH: but we still need to prove it before we can remove their acct.

DonnaH: so, armed only with the name of their story, their webname, and an email, we go hunting.

DonnaH: and in some cases it's downright scary what info they put up.

DonnaH: one 14 year old sent in a story...(get this) with her catholic high school email address.

DonnaH: which of course, had her full name.

BJB2: Donna, you should join the cybersafety discussion

DonnaH: Another student, I can tell you how old she was, her full name, had her PICTURE...

BJB2: . o O (meets next Monday)

DonnaH: what time?

DonnaH: So what I want to do is help parents know how to check how safe their kids are online.

LouiseBG joined the room.

BJB2: 8pm EST

DonnaH: how to save im chats, teach them to help their kids pick out appropriate screen names

SusanR: Have you seen ethics in computing

BJB2: Hi, Louise

SusanR: <http://ethics.csc.ncsu.edu/>

DonnaH: (ie, kitten13 is NOT appropriate)

LouiseBG: Hi,

DonnaH: I haven't Sue.

SusanR: This is a website worthwhile exploring...

SusanR: A well-chosen list of links in all areas of computer ethics including copyright, intellectual property, e-commerce, hacking etc...

SusanR: recommended by our tech integrators

DonnaH: How to do vanity searches on their kids (type in the kids name to a search engine; make sure info isn't all out there...check their screennames too, make sure they aren't being completely stupid)

DonnaH: The safety issues about blogging.

DonnaH: (HUGE safety issues with blogging)

SusanR: we can only use bloglines

DonnaH: blogs are fine, as long as they are locked.

DonnaH: (I hang out with the wrong sorts of people...truly...) blogs are stomping grounds for predators...

DonnaH: all the info they need is in those things.

DonnaH: ages, who their friends are, their birthdays, what school, what activities...

JeffC remembers to change his kitten13 login on eblogger...

SusanR hoots with laughter

DonnaH: no no no...eblogger is not the 'in' thing with the teenyboppers...now Live Journal...

DonnaH: that's a different story.

DonnaH: but the point is, a lot of parents aren't aware there are other ways of checking up on the kids online beside sitting with them...which they aren't really going to do.

DonnaH: and kids KNOW IT.

DonnaH: so even if a parent doesn't do any of those things, kids knowing their parents know it, can use that to their advantage.

SusanR checks out the latest posts on Live Journal

DonnaH: (come on, do you REALLY think my kids would ever blog? no. because they know mom's techsavvy enough to actually find and read what they write, and catch them at all sorts of naughty stuff)

JeffC: actually... I have a live journal account... don't use it much.... but that's not the place the kids *really* hang out at either.

DonnaH: no, aim is.

JeffC: <http://www.myspace.com/>

JeffC: that's where they're picking up each other... the teens are anyways.

DonnaH: hrms.

DonnaH: perhaps a list of places teens go that they really shouldn't?

DonnaH: *thinks on it*

JeffC: hard to say

JeffC: it's not the site... it's what the kids do at the site

JeffC: and of course it's a matter of educating the youth... which teachers and parents really can't do (most of them anyways).

JeffC: the other day my son said "Dad... free ipod! Look!"

JeffC: I said... uh huh... let's go see how free free really is.

JeffC: so... lesson learned.

JeffC: trouble is... most parents and teachers really don't have a clue... and more importantly... don't *want* to have a clue. That's why most districts try and ban everything they can... thinking that's the way to safety.

JeffC: of course... the students figure out a way around it and then can declare "but it wasn't filtered!"

JeffC: this is of course a ludicrous approach to anything.

JeffC: teachers *know* that tech is something the kids love... but since they don't have a full grasp on it themselves... they ignore it in the classroom for the most part.

DonnaH: well...not exactly.

JeffC: which only makes it something more enticing for the students... since it's almost something that is taboo.

DonnaH: I'm actually in a district where the teachers are pretty damn with it.

DonnaH: well, at the middle school anyway.

JeffC: isn't that because you're there to help point the way?

DonnaH: the only thing that's filtered that is truly irritating is the image search on like google.

DonnaH: (but i mean, hell, at home we put in 'volcanoes' and ended up with a naked statue of Pele...I can understand that.

DonnaH: not exactly...they were all pretty savvy before me.

JeffC: they actually *unfiltered* that this year in my district. don't know why... I do know that before I go in I have to reset the preferences to have max filtering (the student machines have deep freeze on them... which makes it impossible for anything to stick).

DonnaH: (and some of the teachers are even geekier than me...which is saying something!)

JeffC: yeah... where are they Donna? why aren't they *here*?

DonnaH: (the little birdie's chirpin')

DonnaH: *snicker* cuz god finally figured it was time to cut me a break:)

SusanR: where are the techies

DonnaH: if we're curious, I'll share the notes about our video conferences next session.

DonnaH: (I have 5th year interns working on it.)

SusanR: I would love that

DonnaH: great...then figure that's next session's topic...

DonnaH: and how we're going about it budgetarily.

DonnaH: (I went to a conference, where they discussed it...and was so irritated, as they were talking about spending 100's of thousands of dollars to do it...I snorted and thought what public school district has that sort of funding?)

DonnaH: very disappointing overall.

BJB2 waves goodnight

BJB2: thanks, Donna

BJB2: next Tech in the classroom is December 7

DonnaH: np!

BJB2 . o O (Pearl Harbor Day)

DonnaH: okeydokey:)