

Title of Session: SIGTC - Why Youth Love MySpace

Moderator: Karen Connaghan

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Room: SIGTC Group

KarenConna: A few housekeeping items before we get started...

KarenConna: You should detach your chat window for easier viewing...

PriscilaT: ok

MarinF: I'm not sure how to do that

KarenConna: to do this click the down arrow next to actions in the top right corner of the chat window and choose detach

KarenConna: This allows you to make the chat window larger

PriscilaT: you can change your font too hehe!!

KarenConna: That's right Priscila

PriscilaT: yep

KarenConna: if you check on the Font menu on the top left side of the window you can make the font bigger

SarahGad: That is much easier to read

KarenConna . o O (good for my aging eyes)

KarenConna: If someone types a hyperlink in the chat...

KarenConna: you need to hold down the control key (the apple key on the mac) while clicking the link

KarenConna: otherwise you will be knocked out of Tapped In

KarenConna: We'll begin by doing brief introductions...I'll start and we'll move down the participant list on the left side, so BJB will go after me, then Shannon, Marin, etc...

PriscilaT: there are a lot of people in the room!! Nice!

KarenConna: I'm Karen Connaghan, President-Elect for ISTE's SIGTC and an Educational Technology Consultant at an Intermediate Unit outside of Philadelphia PA -- An intermediate unit is similar to a county office of education

ShannonL: I am Shannon Ligon. I am a graduated student at the University of Mary Washington studying elementary education.

BJB2 waves hi. I'm a remedial communications teacher in Pennsylvania

ChristineL: Hi, I'm Technology Director at St. Matthew's Parish School in Pacific Palisades California

MarinF: I'm Marin Fons, a student at University of Houston studying Art education

LoriBu: I'm Lori Burch, an instructional technology specialist. I work with teachers district wide and with teachers and students more specifically at the elementary level. I'm in Hilton, NY which is a small community along Lake Ontario in the northwest part of New York State between Buffalo and Rochester.

KeikoS: I am Keiko Schneider. I teach Japanese in Texas. HelpDesk volunteer today.

KeikoS bows properly like a Japanese

MonicaAd: My name is Monica and I am a student teacher teaching 1st grade. I go to the University of Houston.

BeckyHo: My name is Becky and I am from Missouri. I am the library media specialist at a small rural school.

CandyMo: hi I am an elementary asst. principal in Corpus Christi Texas

KevinBo: I teach 7th grade Civics in Fredericksburg Va

ShayneT: I'm Shayne Train. I teach art and computer literacy to high school girls in Canada.

SarahGad: I am Sarah and I am currently completing my elementary education degree at the University of Regina.

HeatherWi: I'm Heather Willer, A presevice teacher, at the university of Regina Sask.

JoseMH: I'm Jose Heredia from San Antonio, Texas. I'm a graduate student from Texas A&M Kingsville studying Instructional Technology.

MonicaPM: I am Monica Martinez. I am an undergraduate seeking a degree in 4-8 Mathematics at the University of Houston.

CharlesES: I'm Charles Schultz, a student teacher from the University of Houston. I hope to teach 3rd 4th or 5th grade.

NicoleG: I am an elementary education student from the University of Regina

JeffC: Jeff Cooper, Tapped In Helpdesk, living in Forest Grove Oregon. Education Technology Consultant and also single dad of 3. I have a couple of stories to relate regarding MySpace as well (perhaps can fit them in later).

PriscilaT: Hello I'm a college student that wants to be in the discussion

PriscilaT: I need to do a paper over this

JoyceL: I teach art 7-12 in Wellsville, MO

KarenConna: Great - Once again, welcome everyone...

PriscilaT: thanks

ThorP: I'm Thor Prichard from Clarity Innovations. We match promising tech with the needs of education.

KarenConna: Tonight's topic is Why Youth Love MySpace

KarenConna: We'll be talking about how teenagers are using this site and others like it.

KarenConna: Our discussion will center around how youth are using the site for identify production and socialization in contemporary American society

PriscilaT: ok

KarenConna: How many of you have visited my space -- just type yes or no

BeckyHo: no

MonicaAd: yes

MonicaPM: no

LoriBu: yes

NicoleG: yes

MarinF: yes

CharlesES: yes

KevinBo: yes

BJB2: yes

ShayneT: yes

SarahGad: yes

ChristineL: yes

JoseMH: no

JoyceL: no

AmyKA: yes

PriscilaT: yes

ShannonL: no

KarenConna: How many of you have a MySpace account? yes/no

NicoleG: yes

BeckyHo: no

LoriBu: no

ShannonL: no

MonicaAd: no

SarahGad: no

MonicaPM: no

CharlesES: yes

MarinF: yes

KevinBo: yes

ShayneT: yes

JoseMH: no

JoyceL: not me

ChristineL: no

JeffC: yes

ThorP: yes, yes.

PriscilaT: no

HeatherWi: yes

KeikoS: No

KarenConna: Those that have a MySpace account, do you keep your page up to date?
yes/no

CandyMo: nope

CharlesES: no

ShayneT: no

NicoleG: no

AmyKA: I don't have one

KevinBo: yes

MarinF: yes--for the most part, I check it about once a week for messages

CandyMo: I logged in one time to see a cousin that sings but didn't want to go any further

HeatherWi: not recently

KarenConna: I have a MySpace account, but don't really update the page. ISTE has a MySpace page also

MarinF: it basically doubles as email for me

KarenConna: How many of you think MySpace is a problem? yes/no

MonicaPM: yes

JeffC: daily... not just my account, but keeping tabs on my kid... and not just him... his friends... because the school thinks it does enough by banning it. and they're nuts (the school).

MonicaAd: no

BeckyHo: yes

CharlesES: yes

BJB2: no

ThorP: I'm not sure we're asking the right questions...

LoriBu: yes and no

KeikoS: I see a lot in News and that is usually not a good coverage

NicoleG: it can be used either productively or negatively

KevinBo: yes if used improperly (libel, etc)

JoseMH: not enough info. to decide one way or another

MarinF: I don't think it's a problem in and of itself

JeffC: MySpace has serious problems as well as benefits... the problem lies in the fact that schools would rather ignore it than proactively deal with it.

ShayneT: I agree with Kevin

JoyceL: We heard that it was a way for students to bully someone

ChristineL: myspace has been a problem for us in some cases at our school....we just had to expel a student for his myspace page which was hurtful to a teacher

PriscilaT: In my school I actually know students that unblock it !!!

ShannonL: I think it was meant for good in the beginning

KevinBo: I taught a mini lesson on how the site can lead to civil action

ChristineL: I'm at a Private School so we have very strict and clear rules about and we take the time to investigate and check up, then deal with

BeckyHo: I think that schools sometimes think that if they block it at school then it is not their problem.

MarinF: it's a good way to keep in touch with people

KarenConna: I'm going to give some brief background on the MySpace site before we begin looking at how students use it.

PriscilaT: ok

MonicaPM : I think many people abuse it!

PriscilaT: good

JeffC: And you're all dealing with negatives of it. Do you know about the Suicide Prevention site on MySpace? Do you think you *should* know? How about the kids in your school who have threatened suicide and posted it there?

KarenConna: MySpace was launched in 2003.

KarenConna: Initially it was home to 20-somethings interested in Indie music in Los Angeles.

KarenConna: It was originally owned by a shady LA-based online marketing shop called Intermix—it was a riotous social network and by 2004 had become the Net's premier teen hangout.

KeikoS . o O (fascinating facts)

PriscilaT: ok

MonicaPM : cool

MarinF: interesting

KarenConna: Today you will be hard pressed to find an American teenager who does not know about the site, regardless of whether or not they participate.

KarenConna: In a nutshell, It is the biggest mall; nightclub; 7-11; parking lot ever created

KarenConna: and that thought will be important later in our discussion

KarenConna: Today---Over 50 million accounts have been created

ChristineL: it has some really powerful positives, but unfortunately there is no way to truly keep young children who are not responsible from belonging...they are not only capable of doing things they shouldn't, but SEEING and being exposed to things they shouldn't

JeffC: over 150 million Karen.

KarenConna: majority of participants are what would be labeled youth—ages 14-24.

PriscilaT: wow

KarenConna: Oops, sorry typing error - Jeff is correct with 150 million

CandyMo: It would be nice if it were monitored better

KarenConna: MySpace has more pageviews per day than any site on the web except Yahoo! (yes, more than Google or MSN).

CandyMo: Parents should really monitor at home

ShannonL: more than Google?

LoriBu: if it were monitored, kids wouldn't use it

ShannonL: wow

JeffC: MySpace encourages schools to create self-monitoring users, etc.

ChristineL: I don't know if we can really say how old the average myspace user really is because any child who wants to belong has to say they are at least 14.....young kids are lying about their age

KevinBo: our resource officer checks some of our kids daily

KarenConna: MySpace is really a blended network...Blended networking is an approach to social networking that combines both offline elements (face-to-face events) and online elements.

PriscilaT: ok

KarenConna: MySpace builds on independent music and party scenes, Facebook was originally designed to mirror a community college

DavidWe . o O (wow!)

PriscilaT: is it the same as myspace or what?

KarenConna : Most of you have heard about MySpace, most likely due to the moral panic brought about by the media's coverage of the potential predators and bullying.

MonicaPM : that's true.

ChristineL: We have a parent education training about Myspace and cybersafety/digital civility in general...I wish all schools would do the same. Parents know NOTHING about this cyberworld their kids are living in

PriscilaT: yes

ShannonL: I'm on facebook

CandyMo: that is great

LoriBu: that's for sure, Christine

CandyMo: that's a great idea-I may look into that

ShayneT: Facebook is huge at my kids' school and my own as well. I'm active, too.

HeatherWi: I'm facebook, it allows you to add more photos

KarenConna : There's no doubt that the potential for dangerous activity is there, but there are more articles on predators on MySpace than there have been reported predators online.

ShannonL: my church is trying to have an information session on Myspace

ThorP: I just posted an excellent article I recommend on this topic. It's in the Files section of the SIGTC room. (Look for the link to WhyYouthHeart.pdf).

CandyMo: neat Shannon

KarenConna : Furthermore, bullying is a practice that capitalizes on any available medium

KarenConna : not just online medium

ChristineL: I'm more concerned with digital civility than I am with cyber safety really.....I worry about the way that kids are portraying themselves and communicating with each other in social networks....not at all the way they would in real life

KarenConna : Keep in mind that...

LoriBu: bullying was certainly around long before myspace or other online tools

KarenConna: Moral panics are a common reaction to teenagers when they engage in practices not understood by adult culture. There were moral panics over rock & roll, television, jazz, and even reading novels in the early 1800s.

CandyMo: true

KevinBo: It is scary that many of our kids cannot escape bullies even at home due to the site, however, it is positive for many others to communicate and advertise

PriscilaT: yes that is right!!

KarenConna: Think about when Elvis was on TV

CandyMo: building a trusting relationship with your teen is key

KarenConna: many may remember the "moral panic" over that

CandyMo: there will always be issues

PriscilaT: I know

KarenConna nods to Candy

LoriBu: Unfortunately the common reaction in schools is to block it. But the trouble with blocking is that it makes it much harder to teach responsible, ethical use, and we know they are using it outside of school with no instruction or guidance

KarenConna: and, the media, typically run by the parent generation, capitalizes on and spreads the fear with little regard for data or actual implications.

JeffC agrees with Lori and Karen.

CandyMo: kids then will want to get on more if they are not supposed to out of curiosity

JoyceL: I agree

LoriBu nods

BeckyHo: Me too

JoseMH: Yes

MonicaPM : I also agree.

CandyMo: Id rather allow it with monitoring and trust

KarenConna: So, tonight we will put aside those concerns to look at the value/role that MySpace plays and why youth love it so much

ChristineL: INSTEAD of myspace, I teach web design and have kids build sites about themselves that live on our INTRANet rather than the worldwideweb....they can connect with each other without putting themselves at any risk

MonicaPM: yes

MarinF: I think myspace could be a good way to teach students about file sharing, and even writing

ChristineL: they still get the tech skills and the social networking, but in a safer environment that is supervised

CandyMo: they love chatting with friends all over and to put pics on the web of themselves and friends

DavidWe: but isn't teaching ABOUT RISK an important thing, too?

LoriBu nods in agreement with David

KarenConna: In many ways schools and adults aren't able to get beyond the "panic" to see the role...The message media delivers is clear—if you don't protect your kids from this evil, they too will suffer great harm to their minds, bodies, or morals

ChristineL: I can teach kids about the dangers of drugs without exposing them to drugs....why not cyber space dangers? same thing

ShayneT: They need to hear the rules: don't post your sex and age and location.

MonicaPM: Yes, they need to learn about being safe.

JeffC: Yes, and the kids aren't taught how to be safe with what they post on their profiles, who they can share with, what to do about bulletins, phishing, etc.

CandyMo: yes David

ThorP: One way to think of what MySpace is for kids is through analogy... here's an article that suggests it's the 21st century bathroom wall of graffiti, etc.

PriscilaT: You think so>?

ThorP: http://www.commonsenseblog.org/archives/2006/10/the_new_bathroo.php

KarenConna: Remember to hold the control or apple key when clicking on any links

BeckyHo: I have heard that comparison before.

KarenConna: There are potential risks on MySpace but it is important not to exaggerate them.

KarenConna: And...

ShayneT: Except that MySpace is interactive. Someone can "reach out" to the kid.

KarenConna: I am not saying that we don't need to pay attention to the risks or educate youth about them

JeffC: Not if the kid knows how to set his profile Shayne.

KarenConna: but for tonight's discussion, we'll be putting the fears aside and look beyond them

NicoleG: sounds good

PriscilaT: ok

JoyceL: okay

HeatherWi: yeah

MonicaPM: ok

ThorP: Nancy Willard, director of the center for safe and responsible internet use (<http://csriu.org>), knows a thing or two about these issues. She took a tour of the MySpace corporate headquarters and met with their leadership about these issues.

JoseMH: excellent

KarenConna: so, to repeat...

ThorP: http://www.andycarvin.com/archives/2006/03/nancy_willards_myspa.html

KarenConna: There are potential risks on MySpace but it is important not to exaggerate them. BUT....The risks are not why youth are flocking to the site

ThorP: bingo.

ThorP smiles

KarenConna: To them, the benefits for socialization outweigh the potential harm. For this presentation, we will set aside our fears and try to see the value and role MySpace plays in American teen culture

PriscilaT: ok

LoriBu: lead on, Karen

CandyMo: youth love to gossip and talk in person or not

KarenConna: and keep in mind that for youth, benefits of socialization are more important and we'll look at why

KarenConna nods to Candy

MarinF: It's a way to socialize past their curfew

CandyMo: right

KarenConna: MySpace is the biggest aggregation of people on the Web.

MonicaPM: I think it is easier for them to socialize than in person.

KarenConna: It has become the most disruptive force to hit pop culture since MTV

KarenConna: Yes it is Monica, but the conversation continues offline

ShayneT: disruptive?

KarenConna: and it's interesting to note that kids understand when conversations should be "in person" or "online"

MarinF: besides the predators, I don't really see how it's disruptive

MonicaPM: That's true.

PriscilaT: I think it is dangerous

KarenConna: they are becoming very discriminating in understanding the different

KevinBo: I think that it offers this generation a new form of identity..we had instant messenger, they have myspace

PriscilaT: but then it's very beneficial at some point

CandyMo: I think it's ok if they stick with friends they know

PriscilaT: but then people can track people!!!!!!

KarenConna: At its core are profiles that are connected by links to friends on the system. Profiles are personalized to express an individual's interests and tastes, thoughts of the day and values. Music, photos and video help users make their profile more appealing.

CandyMo: true- it would be good if they wouldn't give out so much info to track

PriscilaT: yes

ShannonL: yeah

JoyceL: yes

KarenConna: Identity is a very important component of MySpace appeal for youth

MonicaPM: Especially with so many predators.

PriscilaT: because this is where the problem starts

MarinF: what do you mean by "tracking" people?

KevinBo: Some kids don't realize that once something is on the web, they cannot take it back

PriscilaT: well they sort of stalk people

KarenConna: True Kevin

BeckyHo: and it goes out to millions of other people

CandyMo: the predators track with the info they get

LoriBu: I'm not sure that all adults understand the permanence of the web

KarenConna: however, youth don't seem to worry about even when educated

KarenConna: The friend network allows people to link to their friends and people can traverse the network through these profiles

CandyMo: true

PriscilaT: people can look for you and do harmful things

KarenConna: Bands, movie stars, and other media creators have profiles within the system and fans can "Friend" them as well

ChristineL: the unfortunate thing about Myspace is that your friends are now exposed to other friends. If your site is open to the public and your friend visits it and leaves you a message, everyone can see it and can connect to that friend. It's not like opening the phone book and just picking a name and calling it...you see an image of that person and can get an idea of what they are like by their comments. To some, this is a great way to connect...to others, it desperately lacks privacy

ShannonL: they just want to fit in with the rest of the kids

ChristineL: the word "friend" has a very new definition....you no longer have to actually know your "friend"

BeckyHo: good point

PriscilaT: yes

PriscilaT: good point

JeffC: My kid's profile is set to private, and I've also advised his friends to do the same (almost all have)... included in that is the fact that you need to know their email address to even request a friendship. Also... most don't have their pic on their profile page... these are just a few of the safeguards.

LeighZ: Have we discussed bullying on Myspace?

KarenConna: Unlike the 20-somethings who invaded Friendster, the teens on MySpace have more reason to participate in profile creation and public commentary and that's part of the appeal for them

ChristineL: most of the student sites I've been to have pictures....many of them quite inappropriate

KarenConna: MySpace's messaging is better suited for youths' asynchronous messaging needs. They can send messages directly from friends profiles and check whether or not their friends have logged in and received their email

JeffC: The focus of this is on the positive uses of it, and why teens are using it Leigh... it's not the usual Myspace witchhunt.

PriscilaT: yes, it's too much info that is been given our

LeighZ: Thanks. sorry for the misconception.

KarenConna: Unlike adults, youth are not invested in email; their primary peer-to-peer communication occurs synchronously over IM. Their use of MySpace is complementing that practice.

PriscilaT: or posted in the internet

ChristineL: I thought it was an open discussion....are we only allowed to comment if we like it?

KarenConna: For most teens, it is simply a part of everyday life—they are there because their friends are there and they are there to hangout with their friends

PriscilaT: yes

JeffC: I think you can say what you wish Christine... bear in mind Karen is leading the discussion.

MonicaPM: so they can hang out with each other any time they like.

KarenConna: Christine, Jeff was just noting my comment at the beginning that we are setting aside the fears and "negatives" of MySpace for this particular discussion

ThorP: somewhere I read that our sense of friendship is dramatically different for various age groups... folks who grew up before the Web, IM, social networking, etc. could reliably say they had 30-50 "close" friends. Kids today, when asked how many "close" friends they have, answer "200-300". The research also evaluated whether this was from exaggeration, etc. but controlled for this... bottom line, today's kids are just more comfortable having a significantly larger number of friends, and don't make as much distinction about online vs. offline.

KarenConna: to look at MySpace from a new perspective

ShayneT: My university student daughter and classmates used it to put together a presentation.

BeckyHo: there is always positives Shayne

PriscilaT: I agree

JoyceL: I agree

KarenConna: Right Thor, I can't believe the number of friends that are listed on my daughter's site or even in her cell phone

KarenConna: When I was a teen....

JoyceL: I agree with Shayne

MonicaPM : They love to socialize and this site has made it easier for them.

LoriBu: I think that's a reflection of the world we live and work in too. People now have a larger number of collaborators or coworkers all over the globe.

JeffC: A friend of my son's posted a bulletin to the effect of "click this link and you can have 90,000 MySpace friends." long story short I contacted her and her mother and gave them some insights about what that meant.

KarenConna : here in PA, we use to have something called a circuit that we cruised around and chatted with friends and hung out

PriscilaT: yes I guess it's because they don't find it hard to talk to each other since they don't see each other face to face

MarinF: their friends are really just contacts...so relationships are more superficial

LeighZ: What's really interesting is that right after they come home from school or a date, they go right into linking with the same people online.

KarenConna : We had slang books that we passed around for everyone to sign and list their favorite songs, movies, etc

PriscilaT: In school instead of asking for my phone number they ask if I have a myspace!!!!!!

JoseMH: Yes Marin

JeffC: Another friend wrote my son for "HELP" because a girl threatened suicide if my son's friend didn't go out with him.

KarenConna : In middle school we hung out every sat morning at the bowling alley

ThorP: that's cool.

KarenConna : Today those options are limited for kids

ShayneT: Teachers are also using MySpace/Facebook, too. I've contacted my students with reminders. I've also put together a fundraiser with teen volunteers using it. I sometimes talk to me own teens through Facebook - they like it better

MarinF: so is it more dangerous at the mall-or on myspace?

BeckyHo: good question

PriscilaT: Yes!! in a writing class they use myspace for research

KarenConna: So with this little bit of background, we're going to look at three issues related to MySpace and its role in teen culture

KarenConna: Excellent question Marin

PriscilaT: ok

JeffC: Were either of these things negatives? Yes... and no. Because I found out about them, I knew what to do with the info... also strengthened communication between my son and myself... because one of the major things about "MySpace" is that the kids know the teachers and parents "don't get it and don't want to get involved with it" ... so that it becomes an important point for the parent (or teacher) to help the kid make intelligent decisions as far as what to do with information.

LoriBu: I think the danger exists in meeting someone face to face.

ThorP: If we want education to remain relevant and meaningful to students, we need to seriously invest in using the tools they are most familiar and comfortable with.

PriscilaT: yes

KarenConna nods

LoriBu: definitely

MonicaPM: yes

LoriBu: and we miss important teachable moments if we don't

SarahGad: that is so true

KarenConna: Issue One: Teens use MySpace for identity production -- it plays a prominent role

KevinBo: I am afraid that some students rely on the site as their primary source of communication and are not developing valuable social skills that need to be nurtured in person

ThorP: student achievement isn't lagging... relevance to student's lives/needs is... but then I'm getting on a soapbox that I'll leave for another time.

MarinF: I agree

JeffC: I have links to about a dozen educational myspace sites on my myspace page... it could be a great site for global project based learning... but I fear that paranoia runs too deep for that to happen.

PriscilaT: me too!

ThorP: Kevin, can you tell us more about this?

BeckyHo: it could be a great educational site

KarenConna: and relevance is the only thing that can help use creating a learning environment that is active, enriched, and authentic

MonicaPM: I agree with Becky.

LoriBu: it's really hard to use it educationally because it's blocked in so many places

ThorP: Is it that they aren't developing good social skills because they aren't empowered with the tools, training and examples at school on how best to use social networking sites?

BeckyHo: tis true I can't get into it now

JeffC: that's because schools would rather ignore the issue entirely rather than deal with it.

PriscilaT: but then it's easy to unblock it

PriscilaT: everybody does it in school

KarenConna: And are the social skills they learn in online communication less valuable in the 21st century?

MarinF: schools just don't want to be liable

KevinBo: I just think that some of our students take full advantage of remaining somewhat anonymous and do not learn to interact with others

NicoleG: good question

JeffC: nice rhetorical question Karen!

JeffC: of course, with pedagogy stuck in the 19th century, we'll only have to wait another hundred years to get to the answer!

LoriBu: Karen, I think an essential 21st century skill is to be an effective online communicator and collaborator

KevinBo: Online social skills are more valuable than ever, however, i feel that our kids need to learn to interact in person as well

PriscilaT: yes

MonicaPM: Yes

KarenConna: If we agree that we are in a global economy and global community then online communication skills are just as important as face-to-face

CharlesES: I don't think the problem of myspace is that people use it to express their identity, but that many use it to escape their real identity, or what their identity has the potential to be.

MonicaPM: True.

KarenConna: I don't think it has to be either or

KarenConna: it should be both

JeffC: but they're not learning those skills in school, right Karen?

KarenConna: Right Jeff

MarinF: true Charles

LoriBu: although many of the kids I see at school communicate socially online, I would have to say they communicate socially very much in person too!

KarenConna: and that's because fear and "moral panic" cause it to be blocked

MonicaPM: yes, they love to chat!

PriscilaT: I know

KarenConna: The second issue with MySpace is kids use it for hanging out

LoriBu: just try to stop them!

ShayneT: And for the shy ones sometimes it's easier to break the ice

KarenConna: and hanging out is very important for youth

KarenConna: think about your own youth

BeckyHo: I agree with the shy kid comment

MonicaAd: I agree with you Charles. On the computer you can be whoever you want to be and sort of live a double life.

PriscilaT: yes they don't see each other face to face!!!

KarenConna: Monica - that's identity production

MonicaPM: Even now, I love to hang out with friends.

KarenConna: a chance for youth to "try on" personas

BeckyHo: It is like taking an online course - I am more "social" on online classes.

JoyceL: Especially if they are not popular at school

LoriBu: which is a natural part of youth, Karen

PriscilaT: I think we should try to help them or make them to learn to communicate or socialize with each other more!!

MarinF: also it helps them to feel accepted

ShayneT: It also keeps kids in the loop and they learn something about how others interact

KarenConna: In the area of identity production...

KarenConna: Teens are waffling between identities, misbehaving like kids while trying to show their maturity in order to gain rights

BeckyHo: But like we said some kids don't portray their true selves

ThorP: Priscila is right... we need schools to start using these tools more in interacting with each other, and modeling best practices, etc.

KarenConna: Participating in distinctly adult practices is part of exploring growing up. Both adults and the media remind us that vices like sexual interactions, smoking and drinking are meant for adults only, only making them more appealing

NicoleG: do youth really know their true selves? they're exploring

PriscilaT: Yes

KarenConna : and this carries over into MySpace

JoseMH: I believe so

MonicaPM : True.

KarenConna : The dynamics of identity production play out visibly on MySpace. Profiles are digital bodies, public displays of identity where people can explore impression management

ThorP: no one regularly portrays their self as the same with different audiences. Kids just exaggerate (too much).

MonicaPM : They love to impress each other.

KarenConna : and part of what scares adults about MySpace is that for the first time...

ShannonL: I think that schools are not involved as much because they still need training themselves

ThorP: How I present myself at home is different than how I portray myself when making a presentation.

KarenConna : we are able to actively observe the culture of youth in a way never before possible

ThorP: (for example)

LoriBu: and if you spend time in a middle school, especially, you'll see kids trying on personae in person as well. It's part of adolescence.

KarenConna : many of these things always took place, in the hallway, passing notes, on the phone

KarenConna : we just never could view it

ThorP: Kids though, portray themselves as trying to be as cool as possible.

KarenConna : with MySpace we get a chance to observe the youth culture

MarinF: passing note is text messaging now

KarenConna nods to Thor and Marin

KarenConna : so really they are doing the same kinds of things in just new ways

ThorP: and it's fascinating to see. Myspace (and sites like it) finally give us a means to observe aspects of human development never before.

ThorP: bingo.

KarenConna nods to Thor

KarenConna: Because the digital world requires people to write themselves into being, profiles provide an opportunity to craft the intended expression through language, imagery and media

LoriBu nods

KarenConna: and kids love to write themselves into being

MonicaPM: it's all about entertainment

PriscilaT: yes

JoseMH: Technology changes but kids will be kids

KarenConna: Explicit reactions from their peers, adults, etc to their online presence offers valuable feedback to them

ThorP: and, to document the evolution of one's self identity... these folks are going to try new ideas, colors, friends, artists...

MarinF: myspace is an introduction to web design, and could be taught as such

KarenConna: The goal is to look cool and receive peer validation -- same as 50 years, 30 years, 20 years ago

BeckyHo: what are my kids going to be using in ten years!!!

LoriBu: technology just provides a different tool for what kids have always and will always do

KarenConna nods to Jose

KarenConna: Kids are doing what kids have always done

MonicaPM: yes

KarenConna: just more publicly

ShannonL: yep

MarinF: true

ThorP: Becky: something so unimaginable to us, that it'll leave us scratching our heads.

LoriBu: technology also provides a safer place to try on who they want to be

KarenConna: There's a whole form of cultural currency on MySpace

LoriBu: and then switch and try on someone different

KarenConna: if you "friend" someone you expect them to "friend" you back

JeffC: I'd like to recommend the article by Danah Boyd that Thor posted in Files here. Also... I think that this is a time when we as educators start to really get involved with sites like MySpace and not take a "head in the sand" approach.

KarenConna: The rules of friending are also very important

KarenConna: and they have been created by and are "enforced" by youth

JeffC: But part of the appeal for kids at MySpace is that adults (or non-peers) generally *aren't* there.

BeckyHo: I never thought of friend as a verb - I like that

KarenConna: Absolutely right Jeff

LoriBu nods to Jeff

KarenConna: For teens, It is important to be connected to all of your friends, your idols and the people you respect.

MonicaPM: They like to keep things from their parents and other adults.

JeffC: And that's what I mentioned at the beginning Karen, that MySpace has a way for students to peer moderate and mediate... but virtually *no school shows kids about this*!

KarenConna: Thanks for the add is a common comment that people write in reaction to being friended by interesting people

ShayneT: I have a rule that I don't add any students as a friend until after they graduate. I don't want to be perceived as spying on them.

KarenConna: And I think you are right Jeff, hence this session to help us look at MySpace from a different viewpoint

MarinF: or be spied on

JeffC: My job as a parent and an educator is to help my kid make safe choices. That's why when his friend asked him for help regarding the girl who committed suicide, I had a good talk with him (my son) about why he needs to tell me about things like that, when they happen at MySpace.

CharlesES: It seems as though myspace can be a great place to make a ton of surface level relationships and never truly learn what a real relationship is.

KarenConna: The dynamics are rooted in the ways in which youth jockey for social status and deal with popularity

PriscilaT: yes

JeffC: I offered to do a Net Safety class for our school district... still waiting to hear back. They don't even know what phishing is, let alone that it is rampant on myspace... many other things that kids can protect themselves about *now*... so they'll be better prepared in the future.

KarenConna: I think you are correct Charles and why many of the relationships are more blended

MarinF: and who's in the top eight

BeckyHo: We put way too much emphasis on popularity

JoyceL: Our school probably would not unblock it

LoriBu: kids have always wanted/needed to be "connected" and this certainly allows them to do that in a way that makes sense to them, even if it doesn't appeal to us.

KarenConna: Right Marin - I was so disappointed not to be in my daughter's top 8
<grin>

KarenConna: Adults often dismiss the significance of popularity dynamics because, looking back, it seems unimportant

JeffC: My kid's district bans Wikipedia for crying out loud. No point in showing them how to be skeptical thinkers, critically aware that not everything they read or hear is true... or to check for other sources and opinions. Same thing holds true for MySpace.

KarenConna: Yet, it is how we all learned the rules of social life, how we learned about status, respect, gossip, and trust

PriscilaT: yes

KarenConna: Status games teach us this, AND MySpace is a status game

MonicaPM: yes

KarenConna: again - just a different medium

JeffC: How many of you have kids who have myspace accounts? Do you interact with them online? Or talk to them about safe and best practices... use it to open up real f2f communication between yourselves?

KarenConna: So what exactly are teens doing on MySpace?

JeffC: . o O (pimping their pages!)

MarinF: nothing--same as what they do on the phone

MonicaPM: communicating

PriscilaT: I think it is a way to flirt with each other or find out or judge people by what they have in myspace.

JoyceL: finding new friends and keeping up with old ones

KarenConna: Simple: they are hanging out

PriscilaT: yes that too..

KarenConna: they are just hanging out

BeckyHo: a continuation of the school hours

KarenConna: Of course, ask any teen what they're doing with their friends in general and they'll most likely shrug their shoulders and respond nonchalantly with "just hanging out."

ShayneT: Share pictures of the times they are together.

JeffC: learning javascripting while uploading the latest video from Belladonna... talking about each other *a lot*... and actually having myspace friends who are acquaintances from school... giving a different layer to friends.

ThorP: or "nothin' "...

KarenConna: and that's what they are doing on MySpace

KarenConna: Although adults often perceive hanging out to be wasted time, it is how youth get socialized into peer groups

BeckyHo: thanks

PriscilaT: bye and this was a grate discussion

KarenConna: Hanging out amongst friends allows teens to build relationships and stay connected. Much of what is shared between youth is culture—fashion, music, media. The rest is simply presence

MarinF: bye everyone

MonicaAd: This was very enlightening, but I have to go. Thank you Karen!

JoyceL: Thank you Karen

KarenConna: Night all

KarenConna: who have to leave

ThorP: thanks for doing this!

KarenConna: Thanks Thor

KeikoS: Thank you Karen, for moderating such a wonderful session

KeikoS claps and bows

KarenConna: Thanks Keiko

CharlesES: Thanks and bye

ShannonL: bye everyone

ShayneT: Thanks Karen

KevinBo: Thanks, goodnight

MonicaPM: It was a great discussion, bye everyone!

JoseMH: Thanks for the insights Karen

KarenConna waves bye to all who are leaving

SarahGad: Thanks I really enjoyed this session

NicoleG: thanks so much

SarahGad: I really appreciate you taking the time to put this on!

HeatherWi: thanks so much

JeffC: Thanks Karen