Title of Session: C3 - CyberSmart
Moderator: Davina Pruitt-Mentle
Guest Speakers: Barry Manfield and Mala Bawer
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BJB2: Davina, would you like to start with introductions?

DavinaP: sure

BJB2: please tell Davina where you are located and what you teach or hope to teach

SadieW: Hi, I'm from Houston, TX and hope to teach Pre-K.

DavinaP: Welcome I am Davina Pruitt-Mentle and I host the c3 session each month--I am the director of ed tech policy, research and outreach and teach at the University of MD welcome!!

BarryM: I'm in Newark Delaware and I'm with CyberSmart! Originally I'm an ESL teacher

MalaB: Hi all, I'm with CyberSmart! in NJ and I helped develop the free CyberSmart Curriculum for grades k-8. In process of developing free HS curriculum now.

MalaB: Barry you are modest - he's working on his Phd in ed tech and is our Director of Education.

DavinaP: Barry Manfield, the CyberSmart! director of Education, will be our guest speaker this evening. His Bio can be seen at http://cybersmart.org/directors/ I asked CyberSmart! to share their program and initiatives and several tools I find of interest

ScottEl: Hi, I'm Scott from Gannon university in Erie, PA I am in the principalship program

DavinaP: Please welcome Barry

DavinaP: Barry tell us a little about CyberSmart!

DavidW: I'm David Weksler. I'm one of the HelpDesk volunteers for Tapped In. I'm in New Jersey, near New York City

BarryM: sorry

BarryM: okay

BarryM: CyberSmart! has been around since 2002

BarryM: CyberSmart!® fosters the acquisition of 21st Century skills for all stakeholders in the K-12 community through professional development, Web tools, student curricula and a collaborative learning community.

BarryM: This is our mission statement

BarryM: Is anyone here familiar with CyberSmart!?

SadieW: Not yet! :)

DavinaP: Yes!

BJB2 listens eagerly

BarryM: My colleague Mala Bawer is here - and she is one of the founders of the company

MalaB: Barry is focusing on our online professional development efforts, I'd like to give you some background about the free curriculum

BarryM: Mala, maybe you want to tell us how cybersmart came about

MalaB: It was launched in 2002 in Houston and to this day we get 1M page views a month and 68,000 Pdf downloads of student activity sheets

MalaB: the idea is to look at safety,

MalaB: within the context of good research skills,

MalaB: manners and security - a holistic concept

MalaB: shall I go on?

BarryM: All too often we feel that cyber safety is taken out of context

BarryM: and some organizations make it an issue of fear

MalaB: precisely. We WANT students to use the internet. We don't want teachers scared of using this wonderful tool

SadieW nods:

BarryM: so we are trying to counteract a lot of the fear mongering out there these days

MalaB: which is why our curriculum focuses on giving students the tools to use the Internet effectively

BJB2 cheers

BarryM: getting away from predators happens to be a critical thinking skill

MalaB: Scott - you are a science teacher - so you get your students online a lot?

BarryM: do that's the context we address cyber safety

ScottEl: most certainly. they love online chats for review sessions

MalaB: and do you encourage collaborative online projects?

ScottEl: I would love to! We are coming up against some roadblocks with security issues

BarryM: What kind of issues?

BJB2 wonders if Barry and Mala have been following the threads on some of the listservs about kids accessing my space through other sites?

ScottEl: are you familiar with cff in PA?

BarryM: sorry, no

BarryM: BJ - we haven't been following the listerservs - maybe you can elaborate

ScottEl: we have been given enormous amount of money from the state for technology

DavinaP: this sounds like a great thing

ScottEl: every student in our district will be equipped with a laptop by this spring

SadieW: wow

MalaB: and you're afraid of ......???

BarryM: Do you think you're district is ready?

BarryM: your

ScottEl: we are trying to keep up with teacher training but many teachers are frightened

BarryM: There was an article in the NY Times over the summer

BarryM: that said some districts are getting rid of their laptop programs

BarryM: Some of the reasons were that the computer was getting in the way of the educational process

BarryM: i.e., students were distracted

BarryM: in the classroom

BarryM: teachers couldn't "teach"

MalaB: Scott - has there been any training put in place for teachers? or expectations set?

ScottEl: we are required to complete 5, 30 hour online courses

BarryM: wow

BarryM: that's a lot

MalaB: on topics related to using the internet to support classroom content?? or what?

ScottEl: one course per year for five years

BJB2 . o O (reports from the Maine laptop program report that reading scores improved and more kids were writing)

BarryM: That is good news from Maine

SadieW: Interesting

BarryM: They've been doing this for several years now

BarryM: I was speaking to some folks up there

BJB2 smiles...you mean success doesn't happen over night?!

MalaB: Most reports about technology not working are coupled with no training in place...

BarryM: they seem to think that things are starting to "kick in"

BarryM: Scott

BarryM: We feel our free curriculum complements laptop programs

BarryM: shameless plug!

SadieW grins

BarryM: www.cybersmartcurriculum.org

ScottEl: you should get your foot in the door in Pennsylvania. big things happening

MalaB: very exciting. Is this statewide or is your district leading the way?

ScottEl: We are one of the start up districts. Let's hope the funding lasts!

BarryM: Just wondering about the security issues you raised - Do you have the experience that educational activities are suffering because of overzealous IT depts.

MalaB: going back - what are big security concerns?

BJB2: usually it's that the kids know more than the teachers re: tech...they don't want to look stupid

ScottEl: online chats during school time are a big no no. I wasn't happy about this. I think that it can be monitored properly.

DavinaP: BJ also mentioned some interesting things about how kids get into Myspace (and other sites) just shows how we are all out of touch with the latest SNS--but how they get around the school districts blocks--BJ share again

MalaB: but are we guilty of throwing baby out with bathwater when we let "dicipline issues" interfere?

JeffC: students know how to set up proxy servers.

BJB2 nods...the my space issue was that the kids set up Unprotected.org -- click on Personal Hygiene Products

JeffC: most teachers and admin don't even know what proxy servers are... and IT departments don't even know about blocking them.

MalaB: Scott are initiatives coupled with strong training in how to use technology to make lessons more relevant [like collaborating etc.]

ScottEl: a neighboring district just litigated a major court case over my-space abuse against a principal. It went to the state supreme court. (Layshock vs Hickory board of ed) people are a little hesitant

MalaB: yes, like is it worth loosing your job to take kids online....

BJB2: very windy out....I lost my connection earlier when the power went off

DavidW: Increasing concerns about online bullying is also becoming an issue for many folks

BJB2 agrees with David

ScottEl: Mala-yes we are just now getting training time

BarryM: I was at a district meeting tonight in which publishing to Teacher Tube was prohibited

DavidW: the reason being...?

JeffC: [sarcasm] great Barry [sarcasm]

BarryM: Never got a good reason

ScottEl: I use teacher tube at least twice a week

BarryM: it was something about privacy - putting kids faces on vid

JeffC: you'd think that if a district was savvy enough to even *know* about teacher tube, that they'd be smart enough to permit it.

BarryM: but that reason got lumped in with everything else

SadieW: hmm

BarryM: and was banned outright

BarryM: I find that small knee-jerk reactions lead to overreactions

MalaB: so how strong are the arguments for 21st Century skills making it against the immediacy of bullying etc??

MalaB: amidst teacher hesitancy and even fear - is there also a feeling coming from the top that getting online is an important skills and/or that science classes can be made more fun/relevant/real-time

MalaB: Davina - is there a direction you would like Barry to go in at this point?

BarryM: How many have you experienced the "throw the baby out with bathwater"

when it comes to internet use?

DavinaP: share more about curr folks have found of most interest and the toolbar

MalaB: Barry - I'll speak about curriculum - then you take over toolbar ok?

BarryM: k

MalaB: the curriculum, free - is 65 lessons for K-8, although many teachers have told me they use them for high school too.

BarryM: http://cybersmartcurriculum.org

MalaB: they deal with safety, ethics, research, advertising and technology [SMART - ethics becomes manners to make this work ;)

MalaB: lessons are online and offline and are non-sequential, pick and choose, use when you need

BarryM: thanks

SadieW: Good to know. :)

MalaB: lessons are designed to prompt discussion and get out basic skills

MalaB: One of most used lessons is from grade 4-5 - where students analyze their AUP. Teachers in

BarryM: Mala, maybe one example would help.

BarryM: in ethics maybe

MalaB: high school actually use this lesson. If students know consequences of their AUP they are less likely....

MalaB: another lesson in ethics examines the power of the internet - one keystroke .... and has students consider this

MalaB: Barry - can you tell about the free toolbar?

BarryM: sure

BarryM: http://www.cybersmarttoolbar.com

MalaB: actually - you can get to it through www.cybersmart.org [Barry the .com address is being dismantled because people were confused. It is a free toolbar]

BarryM: also free - this toolbar gives educators access to the the creme-de-la-creme of educational resources

SadieW: understandable

BarryM: connections to education news

BarryM: lesson plans

BarryM: web 2.0 resources for edu

BarryM: links to your state library to access subscription databases

BarryM: all in your browser

MalaB: check it out - on our web site we list everything that it links to

BarryM: please feel free to download it - try it out and give us feedback

SadieW: I see :)

BarryM: we'd love to hear from you

MalaB: and we've done careful security checks - so no worries about viruses etc.

SadieW: Thanks ;)

MalaB: yes, we'd love to hear your reactions. email Barry at barry@cybersmart.org or me at mala@cybersmart.org

BarryM: no spyware etc.

DavinaP: Well looks like some wonderful resources for us to try out

SadieW agrees

ScottEl: thanks, I will take a look and pass it on.:)

DavinaP: are there any other questions for our WONDERFUL guest speakers before we start to close?

SadieW: None here.

DavinaP: Before everyone checks out--I wanted to pass along two items of interest

DavinaP: 1. the national C3 baseline study is now live and I urge everyone to take the survey and to pass along to others to take. It takes ~15 minutes but your input is essential for us to help document the status of cyber ethics, safety and security education within our nation's schools. It is voluntary and confidential http://www.edtechpolicy.org/BaselineSurvey/ BJ perhaps you could also distribute to the Tapped In general groups???

BJB2: I'll put it in the newsletter, Davina

DavinaP: The second item..and I am going to cut and paste here so hang with me..

DavinaP: There is a grassroots drive that is writing the senate to express their strong support for S. 2344, the Internet Safety Education Act, along with their concern with similar legislation, H.R. 3577. S. 2344 would authorize $50 million for a competitive grant program open to all eligible organizations—without advanced preference—to carry out Internet safety education programs spanning fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

DavinaP: Although H.R. 4134 would also authorize $50 million spanning fiscal years 2008 through 2012, $25 million would be dedicated funding for i-SAFE alone. i-SAFE is only one of many nationally recognized organizations that offer Internet safety programs, and in the ever-changing world of technology and youth online safety, the best way for Congress to protect children online is to support collaborative, comprehensive and diversified approaches to online safety education.

BarryM: Wow, that's a lot just for I-SAFE

MalaB: the $25 Million was ALREADY passed and designated to i safe - a lot of people in industry are very upset..

MalaB: I think its important to recognize that safety - in terms of what kids do at home - and use of the Internet at school to gain 21st Century skills are 2 different things-

DavinaP: I should mention I have worked with isafe and had them do workshops at our annual conference and many educators utilize the resources and seem to be happy...however some are concerned that all funding to one organization does cause concern (sort of like the elect and cable and telephone companies

JeffC: yeah... I've talked to Nancy Willard about that one.

DavinaP: Over the past 7 years, two separate Congressionally appointed Commissions made recommendations to Congress about the need "to educate adults about the need for Internet safety and about the dangers of the Internet" (National Academies' Youth Pornography and The Internet Report, National Research Council, 2002) and for "government and the private sector to undertake a major education campaign to promote public awareness of technologies and methods available to protect children online" (The COPA Commission Report, October 20, 2000).

MalaB: yes, Davina - that is exactly why people are a bit upset

DavinaP: The concern comes from groups that represent broad and diversified programs, constituents, target-markets, prescriptions and immense resources and expertise, which together constitute comprehensive solutions to markedly increase youth online safety on both the national and local levels. The groups are working successfully with and through state departments of education, regional and local school districts, law enforcement, and community organizations and many collaborate and share insight and information with each other—an essential factor in this ever-changing environment.

DavinaP: It has been proven repeatedly that open competition returns the best value to the government and the public, per the Competition in Contracting Act of 1984. organizations learn together as they seek to better understand the issues and concerns related to youth risk online, and each offer critical elements of a larger protective network of supports that—only when taken together—can hope to stem the tide of harmful and significant Internet risks. It is the concern that to authorize such significant funds to only one organization, as stipulated in H.R. 3577, would undermine our proactive and innovative efforts.

DavinaP: The Internet Safety Education Act, S. 2344 provides a much-needed, positive step forward in the collective effort to protect children and families online by acknowledging that the issues surrounding protecting kids online are complex and are most effectively addressed on multiple fronts. If interested please contact your Senate representative to ask they to adopt S. 2344 and to reject H.R. 4134.

DavinaP: or you can contact me via email dpruitt@umd.edu and I could place you in touch with the person to add you to the letter that will be presented to Senate this Friday

DavinaP: Just food for thought

SadieW: Thanks for the info.

BarryM: Yes, thanks!

DavinaP: please a big hand for our WONDERFUl speakers!!! It's always great to hear more about other materials and expertise out there we can all use and to find kindred spirits

MalaB: thank you for inviting us!

DavidW: Thanks, Mala, Barry

BarryM: Thank you for the opportunity!

BarryM: Bye everyone - thanks!

BJB2: thanks, Davina.

SadieW claps! Thank you!

ScottEl: thank you! good night

DavinaP: good night!!