Title of Session: Teacher Tools That Integrate Tech: Publishing on the Web
Moderator: Kimberly Lightle
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Room: Middle School Portal

KimberlySL: Hi all - while we're waiting why don't you go to the NSDL Middle School Portal and look around for a couple of minutes - http://msteacher.org - there is a math pathway and science pathway

PrapannaS joined the room.

KimberlySL: Hi Prapanna - Just about time to start - welcome

PrapannaS: Great. Thank you.

KimberlySL: Hi all - hope everybody is where they want to be - this is the Middle School Portal room - we're going to talk about blogs this evening.

SergioC: Ok.

KimberlySL: Would everybody like to introduce themselves

SergioC: I'm Sergio. I am a Senior at The University of Texas-Pan American in Edinburg, Texas.

KimberlySL: I'm at Ohio State University and I work with preservice and inservice teachers - math and science

KimberlySL: Sergio - Are you working on getting your teaching license

ElizaM: hi everyone my name is Eliza I'm from Mission Tx

KimberlySL: Hi Eliza

SergioC: Hi Kim, hi Eliza.

PrapannaS: Greetings. I am Prapanna Smith, founder and principal of an elementary school in San Diego, and a Doctoral Student at UC San Diego and CSU San Marcos.

ElizaM: Hi Kimberly How are You?

NormaG: Hi everyone, I'm Norma and I am a Junior at The University of Texas Pan American in Edinburg, TX

KimberlySL: Hi everyone - looks like a wonderful group - let's get started

KimberlySL: How many of you have a blog - personal or professional?

SergioC: I don't. But after this, I will be interested for sure.

NormaG: I have been thinking about starting one.

KimberlySL: Well - it's an amazingly easy way to publish on the web

PrapannaS: I have one up, but it has not been officially launched. I have some test videos posted though. I can send URL if you like.

RosalindaR: No, I don't have one

ElizaM: I don't have one

KimberlySL: Do any of your read a blog regularly

PrapannaS: No anything in particular.

RosalindaR: no

SergioC: no

ElizaM: no

NormaG: I read one once from a woman in New York who kept one daily which tracked her revenge on her cheating husband... very interesting!

SergioC: Interesting Norma.

KimberlySL: Let's go ahead and look at a blog post about starting a blog - http://expertvoices.nsdl.org/middle-school-math-science/2008/08/05/teacher-tools-that-integrate-technology-educational-blogging-middle-school-version/

PrapannaS: The blog for our school is intended to be space to engage people in discussion about our school, what we do here, how, and why. The address is; http://integralelementary.com/wordblog/category/fam/

SergioC: okay Kim.

PrapannaS: OK. I'm there.

ElizaM: do we click on that site?

NormaG: yes click on the link

NormaG: it should open a window with the site

KimberlySL: Click on the link and look at the post - especially the right side of the post - you'll see categories, archive, search, and Syndicate

KimberlySL: I also have the link on the TappedIn Welcome page of the Middle School Portal under the heading Links - click on Educational Blogging

PrapannaS: Wow, there's a lot of categories.

NormaG: very interesting

KimberlySL: Eliza - go to the welcome page and click on the Feature Link called Educational Blogging

PrapannaS: Is there and Elementary School version?

KimberlySL: There is - you can click on the Beyond Penguins link in the first paragraph

KimberlySL: I wanted to show you that just about any blog you read has the same layout

PrapannaS: Sweet!

SergioC: Ok.

KimberlySL: About the Categories - you add categories as you blog so that search engines and regular people can find your posts

PrapannaS: OK. Bookmarked it. I will have my teachers check it out.

NormaG: I bookmarked this also...

KimberlySL: The Middle School Portal has two blogs - the other one is http://expertvoices.nsdl.org/connectingnews/

KimberlySL: I wanted you to see that you can embed blogs into a webpage - if you go to http://msteacher.org/science.aspx you'll see that we have embedded the Educational Blogging post under Quick Takes on the left of the page and the Connecting News blog on the right side of the page

SergioC: Interesting.

KimberlySL: How you do it is via a RSS feed - how many of you have subscribed to a

RSS feed?

NormaG: very nice...

SergioC: I haven't.

NormaG: what is RSS feed?

ElizaM: cool

ElizaM: No I haven't

PrapannaS: Yes, I have.

ElizaM: Yes what is RSS feed?

KimberlySL: Go back to one of the blog posts and look way down on the right side of the page - it says Syndication

RosalindaR: no I haven't

SergioC: Ok.

KimberlySL: You'll see Bloglines - Add to Google - My Yahoo, etc. Do you see those?

SergioC: Yes.

PrapannaS: Yes.

NormaG: okay found it...

ElizaM: got it

KimberlySL: If you have a "personal" Yahoo or Google page (there are all sorts of RSS feeds) and click on the button - your personal homepage will open a window so you can "subscribe"

SergioC: Ok.

KimberlySL: Click on one of those buttons and see what happens

NormaG: what if we don't have a personal yahoo or google page?

PrapannaS: You get a list of articles/postings.

NormaG: what would be an option for us?

KimberlySL: Click on one anyway

KimberlySL: Outlook has a place for RSS feeds too

NormaG: ok

SergioC: It adds the blog site to Yahoo for example. That's interesting.

ElizaM: very cool

NormaG: makes it very accessible...

KimberlySL: As you navigate around the web - reading newspapers, etc - look for the RSS. It's a great feature - the content comes to you - you don't have to go looking for it!

SergioC: I've learned something useful now.

KimberlySL: One other way to subscribe - many blogs will have a Feedburner subscribe button (it's below the RSS)

NormaG: ok

KimberlySL: Feedburner sends a good ole email to your inbox when a new post happens

KimberlySL: I personally do Feedburner anytime I see it - just cause I'm old (fashioned)!

SergioC: lol.

NormaG: so it keeps you updated whenever a new blog is posted?

KimberlySL: Anytime a post happens you will get an email in your inbox

KimberlySL: With the actual content in the email - you don't have to go to site

PrapannaS: I use a program called, Net New Wire Lite, to keep track of mine.

NormaG: nice

KimberlySL: Cool - I'm not familiar with Net New Wire Lite - it's impossible to keep up with everything

KimberlySL: So the two blogs that we have been looking at are WordPress blogs

KimberlySL: Wordpress is a free blogging platform

PrapannaS: It's part of suite, DevonThinkPro.

NormaG: so it's sort of like tapped in, when you add a join a group in tapped in, we receive an email whenever a discussion is posted with the actual posting in the email

KimberlySL: Go back to post on Educational Blogging - scroll down to where it says - Get Started

PrapannaS: Yes, we had a customized template made for our WordPress blog.

PrapannaS: OK.

NormaG: ok

KimberlySL: Blog URL http://expertvoices.nsdl.org/middle-school-math-science/2008/08/05/teacher-tools-that-integrate-technology-educational-blogging-middle-school-version/

SergioC: Ok.

ElizaM: ok

KimberlySL: I highlight three free blogging platforms - epals, Edublogs (runs on WordPress) and blogger

NormaG: ok

SergioC: ok

KimberlySL: ePals is really amazing - education environment - the blogging software is just one part of the entire suite of services

ElizaM: ok

PrapannaS: Sorry, I don't see where that is on your blog site.

SergioC: Ok.

KimberlySL: Blogger can be dangerous because anybody (and I mean anybody) can blog in it

KimberlySL: Prapanna - scroll down the blog post to where it says Getting Started

PrapannaS: OK. Now I see it.

KimberlySL: Oh good!

KimberlySL: Blogger doesn't really have any limits so there is naughty stuff

SergioC: Oh, ok.

KimberlySL: All the platforms are really easy to use - you can have multiple blogs, public and private

PrapannaS: I think I would go with Edublogs. It's WordPress based and we have it with our ISP.

KimberlySL: Makes sense to me - that is the one I'm most comfortable with

KimberlySL: Number 2 - Pick your audience - maybe you would like a blog that is directed at parents

NormaG: ok

SergioC: True.

KimberlySL: Maybe you want a blog where students read books and post book reviews - any other ideas

PrapannaS: I like their "10 ways to use your edublog to teach" page.

SergioC: I would make one for student teachers.

KimberlySL: there are really some wonderful ways that teachers are using blogs as teaching, learning, and communicating tools

NormaG: maybe a blog where students can get together to discuss classroom content and help each other with assignments

SergioC: Maybe students can read a teacher's blog after school for an assignment or interaction.

KimberlySL: All great ideas!

PrapannaS: Wow! Look at this: 8. Organize, organize, organize

PrapannaS: You don't only have to use your edublog as a pedagogue… you can equally easily use the tools to organize everything from sports teams in your school, to rehearsals for the upcoming production. You can set up as many edublogs as you like, so don't be afraid to use a dedicated one for a dedicated event - your can even use it as a record to look back on down the line.

KimberlySL: Number 3 is Stay Focused - nobody likes a rambler!

PrapannaS: That's powerful stuff.

SergioC: That's right!

SergioC: True.

NormaG: yes, very important to keep that in mind

PrapannaS: OOPS! Sorry.

SergioC: lol.

KimberlySL: Absolutely! - so about Staying Focused - you can have multiple blogs each with its own audience and purpose

KimberlySL: Number 4 is include media (if you can)

KimberlySL: Pretty pictures really are compelling - its also easy to embed videos from YouTube or TeacherTube

SergioC: Media can be very useful.

KimberlySL: You know - a picture is worth a thousand words

SergioC: Especially when it relates to the topic!

NormaG: it's nice to keep that in mind, some people are more visual than others and need that

SergioC: True.

KimberlySL: You have to be careful in terms of copyright and licensing - I have included sites where you have a much better shot of finding images that you can use

PrapannaS: I like the idea of using videos.

SergioC: Thanks.

RosalindaR: I like that idea also, using videos gets everybody's attention

KimberlySL: Click on the link to the National Science Foundation image gallery - http://nsf.gov/news/mmg/

SergioC: Ok.

NormaG: ok

AngelicaT: got it

PrapannaS: There.

KimberlySL: NSF has fabulous images - for most of them you just need to email NSF (email address is right there) and ask for permission - they get back with you almost immediately and always say yes

PrapannaS: Very cool.

AngelicaT: nice

NormaG: very useful

ElizaM: got it

SergioC: Ok.

RosalindaR: ok

KimberlySL: Number 5 is Post Often with Meaningful Content

ElizaM: My little girl is fascinated with the images

KimberlySL: Nobody likes a lazy blog!

SergioC: That's good Eliza.

KimberlySL: We try to post 2-3 times per week (but it does depend on the focus of the blog)

SergioC: True.

KimberlySL: Keep people interested and wanting more

NormaG: of course!

AngelicaT: That makes sense

KimberlySL: Another feature of blogs is the ability to add comments

SergioC: That's important.

KimberlySL: One thing I should have included in my article is that there is a lot of spam associated with blogging

NormaG: feedback, very important

PrapannaS: Can't you screen posts before they go on-line?

ElizaM: how can we deep spam out of our blogs

KimberlySL: I have a spam filter called Askimet that catches 99% of the spam (most of it porn) but every once in a comment will get through

SergioC: That's good.

KimberlySL: I always check my spam filter and the comments file to see what has been stopped (sometimes they aren't spam and I do want to link them)

ElizaM: ok

NormaG: very necessary, too much spam now a days

PrapannaS: I think WordPress Admin allows you to screen all posts. But does that get old with lots of posts?

KimberlySL: At the end of the post, I added some really good blogs - you can peruse the links at your leisure

KimberlySL: Prapanna - yes it does get really old - some of them are quite graphic and there can be 100s of them a week

SergioC: Very useful!

PrapannaS: Looks like some great stuff!

PrapannaS: Oh. OK.

PrapannaS: Kim: I'd like to follow up with you later to learn how you use your spam blocker.

KimberlySL: Some people just delete all the spam without even giving it a look - I look it over because I want to be as highly ranked on Google and one of the ways to do that is to have lots of links

NormaG: ok

KimberlySL: I would love to follow up - my work email is lightle.16@osu.edu - just shoot me an email and we'll set up a time to talk

NormaG: sounds great!

PrapannaS: Makes sense; I do the same with my Earthlink email spamblocker.

PrapannaS: Ok. Thanks. I'll be in touch.

SergioC: Thanks Kim.

KimberlySL: BTW - if you read the original description of this chat - I was going to talk about wikis too but decided it was just too much - that will be the topic next month

NormaG: thank you, very useful information!

ElizaM: Thanks Kim

AngelicaT: Thanks

PrapannaS: I'll try to join you for that. We are very interested in Wikis.

ChristiGst2: thank you for all the useful info

NormaG: looking forward to it!

SergioC: Thanks again Kim.

NormaG: Thank you and have a great afternoon everyone!

PrapannaS: Thank you, Kim.

KimberlySL: You bet! Please sign up to get the Middle School Portal blogs!

PrapannaS: OK. Will do so.

RosalindaR: ok

SergioC: Ok.

ElizaM: thanks for the reminder Norma

KimberlySL: I'll put the entire transcript into a folder in the Middle School Portal room just as soon as a get it so you can get the whole thing

ElizaM: Great thanks Kim

KimberlySL: The transcripts are in a folder called "Chat Transcripts"

PrapannaS: Thanks. Have a great evening.

KimberlySL: Any last questions?

SergioC: No, thanks Kim.

ElizaM: No, I'm good

KimberlySL: OK - Thanks for coming - remember next month - Wikis as a publishing tool