Title of Session: Special Education Forum
Moderator: Paul Bohac
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Room: After School Online Room

PaulDB: I have 7:08 pm CST so maybe we need to get started. Last session we discussed the use of technology and the issue of motivation, can we start there?

ChantaratP: yes,

BJB2: Let's start with introductions for the transcript, please, Paul

PaulDB: Who among you is currently using any form of technology in your class?

BJB2: I'm an art teacher in a correctional facility in Pennsylvania

PaulDB: Sorry BJB.

BJB2: I use some simple tech in my assignments

PaulDB: Chantarat, what about you? What and where do you teach?

ChantaratP: I never used the technology in the classroom due to be the policy and planning for education officer

PaulDB: Can you explain that a little more?

ChantaratP: May I hear from you all for the policy information

BJB2: Chantarat, most schools in the US encourage integrating technology into the curriculum

BJB2: but we often don't get instruction on how to do that effectively

BJB2: what is the policy in your country?

BJB2 . o O (and each school varies in what technology they have available)

PaulDB: The integration is also varied between "whole class" and individual units to assist certain youth.

ChantaratP: it is opposite Thailand, the technology material be used in the science class and secondary level

BJB2: do teachers get training in using technology?

PaulDB: Then you do not use "assistive devices" such as personal computers or talking electronic devises, etc.?

ChantaratP: yes, but not enough due to the budgeting constrains

PaulDB: It is the same the world over!!

BJB2 nods sadly

BJB2: you are learning to use technology to collaborate with educators, Chantarat...

BJB2: what motivates you?

ChantaratP: now we try to supply computer to primary school also. and provice teachers around the country

PaulDB: Are there plans to increase the budgets for expanding use?

BJB2 wonders if Thailand has tsunami issues to deal with before tech issues?

PaulDB: Are you using television as a form of technology to introduce distance learning?

ChantaratP: yes, we are. for the implementation is quite slow BJB

BJB2 nods to Chantarat

PaulDB: It will likely continue that way for a while.

ChantaratP: yes, we have one channel for provide distance learning but not popular

PaulDB: Is it a state-run channel or is provided by some other entity or agency?

ChantaratP: state run,

BJB2 wonders how students with special needs are met

PaulDB: Is there a specific focus, such as teaching reading or history or some other discipline?

ChantaratP: in fact, the program is prepared by special teachers. but there is a little budgeting support and difficult to find sponsors too.

PaulDB: I too am wondering that as well but am also wondering if the programming is repeated or is a one-time presentation according to a sequence.

PaulDB: How do the special teachers structure the programs?

ChantaratP: yes, it can be repeated and allow school to borrow the materials for using in the classroom

PaulDB: So students who do not "get it" the first time can go back a review one or more times?

ChantaratP: yes, Paul,

PaulDB: Jeff, what are you thinking about this?

BJB2 thinks Jeff is chasing his kids around the house

JeffC: I've been multitasking... just along for the ride... and yes... chasing the kids.

BJB2: Chantarat, in addition to providing this monthly chat for special ed...

BJB2: Paul has started a group room to serve as a resource room for special ed

ChantaratP: yes, I like to participate

PaulDB: Well, I happen to think that TV is either a much under-utilized resource or a much mis-used resource.

BJB2 . o O (same with radio, although you need good listening skills for radio)

JeffC: Kind of like the Internet Paul.

PaulDB: It will depend on what the teachers are trying to accomplish.

PaulDB: Yes, that is true. But as teachers, we need to be actively involved in guiding and sometimes we do not do that.

PaulDB: Radio is a very good source of information, true listening skills are necessary, but the radio also offers a way of developing such skills.

ChantaratP: Previously radio and TV are more popular but I thing internet come to interesting, it is ?

BJB2: cool, Paul. I think aural literacy would be a good topic for one of our discussions

PaulDB: Listen to a news report and have students share what it is that they thought they heard. Listen to rap or a song and see how many students can repeat the words.

JeffC: Not only repeat but decipher meaning

PaulDB: The internet and the World Wide Web are (good **JeffC**) very useful, but even more than TV or radio require active teacher guidance.

ChantaratP: Oh I get the point and agree with you aural literacy is being used

PaulDB: I would suggest that each of you go to the North Central Regional Education Laboratory web-site (www.NCREL.org) and look through the articles on that site regarding technology.

BJB2: can you add that url to the group room, Paul?

BJB2 . o O (click on the url, Chantarat)

PaulDB: Sure if you will tell me how.

BJB2 smiles. Chantarat, would you like to join the special ed group?

BJB2: then we can all go there and learn how to add links

PaulDB: I would also suggest that we look at the Council for Exceptional Children web site (www.cec.org) and see the range of articles regarding technology including a substantial variety of "assistive technologies" as well.

BJB2: thanks, Paul

PaulDB: On a more economical note, the use of sand boxes are wonderful for teaching children how to write both letters and numbers. Maybe not hi-tech, but sometimes easier than trying to use a pen or pencil.

BJB2: oh, what a cool (if somewhat messy) idea!

PaulDB: A simple "etch-a-sketch" pad can be used to help develop eye-hand coordination as well as left-right orientation.

ChantaratP: BJB I can not access to this url properly

BJB2: very tactile. I have a little etch a sketch that the kids just love playing with

PaulDB: Ok BJB, you can use a clay tablet instead.

BJB2: Chantarat, let's get you to join the group and then we can work on accessing the urls, ok?

PaulDB: Which url Chantarat?

ChantaratP: both

BJB2 smiles. Clay tablet sounds lovely

BJB2: Chantarat, you may have a pop up blocker...

BJB2: or have a screen minimized

BJB2: the urls will be in your transcript when you log out so you can access them later

ChantaratP: Sorry BJB, what's the Clay tablet ?

PaulDB: Also, they may be case sensitive so do not use capital letters, instead try www.ncrel.org

BJB2: Paul is letting me use mud to write letters instead of sand

PaulDB: I also like using the newspaper.

ChantaratP: Yes, BJB I can get ncrel.org

PaulDB: It is current, it usually offers several different types of letter formation and oftentimes available at little or no cost. Again, not hi-tech but is example of technology.

LavaughnR joined the room.

PaulDB: Hi LaVaughn

BJB2 hugs Lavaughn. Heya!

LavaughnR: Hi, how is everyone?

BJB2: doing great, LaVaughn. And you?

PaulDB: We are talking about technology both the hi-tech kind and low-tech examples.

LavaughnR: doing well, just staying very busy

ChantaratP: Hi Lavaughn

LavaughnR: one of my favorite low-tech examples I use in my classroom is a Franklin Speller with the various discs

PaulDB: Could also use a Bell and Howell Language Master (if they are still available).

LavaughnR: if you have bi-lingual students they are great for saying the word out loud

LavaughnR: does anyone use any math gadgets?

PaulDB: A tape player with a microphone could also be used.

BJB2: good idea, Paul.

BridgetBe joined the room.

BJB2: Hi, Bridget. Welcome

BridgetBe: Hello.

LavaughnR: with the Franklin, whatever word they are defining, it will pronounce out loud for them to make sure they have the word they are looking for

BridgetBe: I'm very new at this.

BridgetBe: Do I just join in on a conversation?

BJB2: this is the end of the special education forum, Bridget

BJB2: are you a teacher, Bridget?

LavaughnR: I am so sorry that I was late, I was having technical difficulties with my cordless mouse--

BridgetBe: Yes. I'm a teacher at Fresno Adult School. I teach CBET.

PaulDB: Chantarat, would you click on the "search" tab at the top left of your screen?

LavaughnR: What does CBET stand for?

BJB2: Bridget, we're going to move to the special ed group room if you'd like to join that group

PaulDB: Then click on GROUPS and then Special Education.

BridgetBe: Community Based English Tutoring. I teach ESL to adults who pledge to tutor any school-aged child, which is usually my students' own children.

BJB2: when you see the match click on the group name

BJB2: cool, Bridget.

BridgetBe: I'll go to special ed. How do I get there from here?

BJB2: to join the special ed group click on SEARCH in the top right of your screen

BJB2: then click on GROUPS

BJB2: enter SPECIAL EDUCATION FORUM

BJB2: click on the group name and join the group

PaulDB left the room.

BridgetBe: Thanks, BB.

BJB2: once you've joined the group you can enter the group room

LavaughnR: that sounds very interesting, do you teach both male and female?

LavaughnR: Hey Bjb, I went ahead and joined the Sp.Ed Forum

BridgetBe: Lavaughn, I think you were talking to me. Yes, both male and female.

BridgetBe: I teach in the morning, so I have mostly housewives.

BridgetBe: I have one male in my class.

LavaughnR: I am glad to see the interest, that means they are learning as are their children so it would seem

BridgetBe: The evening classes have more males than the morning classes. Generally, there are more females than males in all the classes.

BridgetBe: Each CBET class is held on an elementary school campus.

LavaughnR: wow, that is an interesting concept, do you have many young people?

BridgetBe: I have students from 18 to "mature" adult.

BridgetBe: I'm in California. Where are you located?

LavaughnR: I am in Florida

LavaughnR: I guessed that was where you were as I have a friend who works for Alameda County Sheriff's Dept.

BridgetBe: I'm not sure if CBET is a program that's nationwide or not. I know it's throughout CA.

BridgetBe: How were you able to guess that I was in CA based on your friend being in Alameda's County Sheriff's Dept. I hope I don't sound too rough chatting.

LavaughnR: well, it makes sense to have classes located at schools since that is probably where their children attend

PaulDB joined the room.

BJB2 . o O (Paul is getting to be a real cybertraveler!)

LavaughnR: lucky guess since he was living in Fresno

BridgetBe: I'm in Fresno!

LavaughnR: Cool!

PaulDB: Just so everyone knows, the NCREL web site is now posted for easy access.

BJB2: Interesting discussion tonight, Paul...although not exactly what you planned. It was a good opportunity to look at special ed from a different perspective

DavidWe: Hi, Paul

BridgetBe: Are you going to the special ed forum? I don't want to hold you up.

BJB2: We're done, Bridget.

PaulDB: We have been there and returned.

BridgetBe: I'm a bit slow. What did you learn there?

BJB2: and it's time for me to log out...I'm in Pennsylvania and it's getting late

BridgetBe: Good night.

LavaughnR: Please make sure that I get the transcripts Mr. B.

BJB2: Bridget, the special ed group is a resource room for special ed teachers

BJB2: you're welcome to join the group

LavaughnR: I hope there weren't any questions for me-

PaulDB: The discussion was focused on the use of technology with Spec. Ed youth.

BridgetBe: I should find an ESL group. Does anyone know of a good one?

BJB2 nods to Bridget. click on SEARCH...

BJB2: Then click on GROUPS

BJB2: and enter webheads

BJB2 waves goodnight. Thanks, Paul. Nice to see you, LaVaughn.

LavaughnR: when is the next session? [Ed note: March 21, 2005]

BridgetBe: thanks.

PaulDB: Bye BJB, thanks for all your help!

LavaughnR: Goodnight Bjb!