Title of Session: Global Project Based Learning
Moderator: Linda Ullah
Title of File: 20041111gpbl
Date: November 11, 2004

Room: After School Online Room

BJ: Welcome to the GPBL discussion with Linda Ullah
LindaU: Hi BJ.. are we ready to introduce ourselves?
BJ: if you're new to Tapped In, click on the ACTIONS menu in the top right of this chat window and click on DETACH
BJ nods to Linda. We may get a few latecomers, but let's start
BJ: we usually start all TI discussions with introductions saying where we are located and what you teach or hope to teach
LindaU: Hi, I'm Linda Ullah. I'm teacher in residence at Foothill College-a community college in Los Altos Hills, CA. We run a teacher oriented technology staff development program called LINC (Learning in New Media Classrooms.) One of our online classes, and my passion is Global Project Based Learning.
BJ: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania
StephaniBB: I am a 5th Grade teacher in Edina, MN.
AaronJA: hello, I'm in Lake Charles, LA - I'm a grad student getting an alt. certification to teach business - no teaching yet
MichaelMcc: I am also a 5th grade teacher in Edina, MN.
JulieGst9: I am an education student at the University of Akron. I am going to teach business education, tech educ. I start student teaching in Feb
MarkSte: I'm a graduate student at McNeese State University
JulieGst9: That's in Ohio.
MichaelMcc: Steph and I are currently taking graduate level courses in integrating technology with instruction.
BJ: wow, Linda. Looks like you have a great group here!
LindaU: Welcome all--I like to begin with getting a common definition of global project based learning and discovering your experiences with global projects or online collaborative projects
LindaU: Why are you here... what is your concept of GPBL and what experiences do you have with global or online collaborative projects?
StephaniBB: I don't have much experience or knowledge of GPBL...but am eager to learn.
BJ: I'm hoping to get some ideas for using the K-12 Student Campus for GPBL.
JulieGst9: I am taking an instructional technology course. I haven't had a chance to use them yet, but I am learning about them in class.
MarkSte: I don't have a true concept of GPBL, but that's why I'm here
AaronJA: since I'm not in classroom, I have little knowledge of this
MichaelMcc: I have done some distance learning activities with Williamsburg, VA regarding colonial times. electronic field trips.
LindaU: ah electronic field trips Michael.. elaborate please...

MichaelMcc: We took our students to one of our district media centers at the district office. There we watched a real-time portrayal of life in Colonial Williamsburg via closed circuit TV

LindaU: tell us more...

MichaelMcc: At various intervals, the portrayal was stopped while students from around the nation were able to call in and ask questions to the actors who responded in character.

MichaelMcc: The idea of being able to call in was exciting to the kids.

StephaniBB: Were there any problems with this program?

MichaelMcc: The reality of never getting through was disappointing... it ended up seeming like we just watched a simple video.

LindaU: That sounds really exciting.... have any others of you had experiences with interesting projects like this>

StephaniBB: Mike-oh I guess you answered my question.

StephaniBB: How did you deal with that challenge?

LindaU: Okay... Let's get a common shared definition of global PBL before we move on... any thoughts?

LindaU: Mike feel free to continue...

MichaelMcc: Well, we did this activity two years in a row... and we ended up stopping because the experience didn't justify the costs we had to pay for the service.

StephaniBB: Linda - What types of projects have you done with students in the past? What grade levels?

LindaU: Good question..... The last student project I did was a water pollution project with a class in Sao Paulo... http://www.garlic.com/~lullah/brazilus/water.html

LindaU: Good point Michael... some projects are expensive to join.

StephaniBB: Do I have time to check out this link while we chat?

LindaU: ...take some time to look at that project and we can talk about it....

LindaU: As you explore consider: How was this project organized?

LindaU: 2. What obstacles did the participating teachers have to overcome?

LindaU: 3. How were these obstacles overcome?

LindaU: 4. How did teachers and students plan and collaborate ?

LindaU: I was fortunate to get my training face to face with the teachers in Sao Paulo with whom I worked..

LindaU: What do you notice about the organization of this project... you might click on the

LindaU: About the Project

LindaU: Curriculum Objectives

LindaU: Student Activities & Projects links.

LindaU: am wondering if you have any questions or reflection about this project before we move on?

AaronJA: I imagine a big obstacle in this project was language? and cultural views...

JulieGst9: How long or how many times did the students talk back and forth on this project?

MichaelMcc: how was the interaction conducted?

LindaU: language was a huge issue. I had several native Spanish speaking students in my class, but no Portuguese speaker (except one dad)... We used web based translators... and some of the Brazilian high school students were learning English.

StephaniBB: How did you manage the communication with the teachers in Brazil?

LindaU: We used email and Tapped In mainly.... I tried using a web based interface called Zebu, but it didn't work out as well as I'd hoped due to the slowness of old computers.

StephaniBB: How did you come into contact with teachers who were willing to participate?

LindaU: I also used TI and email to plan with Brazilian teachers.

LindaU: Interesting question Stephanie.... I applied to a grant funded organization called ASTL--The grant is now finished, but I was accepted and matched with the Brazilian teachers. We were then flown to Israel for a training program with teachers from c 18 or 20 countries who were also accepted and paired.

LindaU: Let's take a look at what Global PBL is... Go to http://www.garlic.com/~lullah/gpbl/topic1/t1read1.html and scroll down to the definition at the bottom... the other information on this page is part of the rationale for doing global projects... also interesting... I'd love your reactions.

LindaU: To what extent do you agree or disagree with this definition?

MarkSte: can someone state the definition

LindaU: Mark.. read the bottom of http://www.garlic.com/~lullah/gpbl/topic1/t1read1.html for the definition.. you'll need to scroll to the bottom of that web page.

LindaU: The definition there is multifaceted.

MarkSte: the computer that I'm using will not allow me open up the link

StephaniBB: Thanks for the interesting and enlightening chat. I have to get back to class!

MichaelMcc: It's been great everyone, but we have to get going. Thanks for the chat!

MichaelMcc left the room (signed off).

AaronJA: What is meant by "Global Project-Based Learning"? According to Mark Standley and Kiyomi Hutchings in their book GLOBAL PROJECT-BASED LEARNING WITH TECHNOLOGY--A LEADER'S MANUAL, Visions Leadership Series-Visions Technology in Education, 2939 Chade Drive, Suite 200 Eugene, OR 97498, 2000:

AaronJA: global project-based learning allows students to learn in new and unique ways by overcoming language and cultural barriers

AaronJA: the process of overcoming these barriers in global teams allows students to value diversity in members, learn problem-solving techniques, and incorporate new thinking styles

AaronJA: technology integrated into project work and team member communication is an important tool for lowering barriers of time, language, and distance to allow teams to communicate and build relationships

AaronJA: project-based learning is a powerful tool to accommodate authentic, student-centered learning, and helps prepare students for the work world

AaronJA: both an increase in minority language students in North America, and a global economy require new methods for teachers to reach out and effectively connect students with students from diverse groups

AaronJA: global project-based learning projects are a natural way to involve businesses and community members representative of global project members (language, culture, and country) to support the work of the team --Preface page

AaronJA: I totally agree...it is a very interesting concept and I can see where it will be extremely beneficial to students...

LindaU: good... the question then is How can we best prepare our students to live and work in a global economy?

LindaU: and does NCLB do this?

AaronJA: by putting them into contact with the global village..

JulieGst9: I agree somewhat with this definition. I think that students need to be more prepared to be involved in a global environment. I know that in the business world often you have to deal with other cultures/languages/etc. and I know I am not always prepared . This would help students.

LindaU: ah yes... it takes a whole village to raise a child.

LindaU: Julie... you bring me to my next point...perfect.

LindaU: I've had two interesting experiences lately that I want to share with you all. One is an organization called PMI (Project Managers International) and the other is a conference in Tokyo on Japanese educational reform that I just returned from.

LindaU: I recently presented with some great folks (ThinkQuest...Global SchoolNet-Info to come in a few minutes for a PMI conference:

LindaU: Business leaders and Project Managers in Business and industry recognize the importance of project based learning in K-12 education. PMI (Project Managers Institute is an organization that has an Ed Sig to promote PBL instruction in schools: http://www.pmi.org/info/default.asp. Their Education Foundation site is: http://www.pmi.org/pmief/

BJ . o O (a reminder that all urls will be in your transcript)

LindaU: (I suggest you just bookmark this site now... but be aware that global businesses and industry--based on the 1991 SCANS report urgently need workers who can work collaboratively and globally on projects.

LindaU: The next bookmark is very interesting.

LindaU: For the past four years I've had the opportunity to go to Japan to train Japanese teachers in project based learning, thematic integrated instruction and community school collaborations.

LindaU: Japan's National Commission on Educational Reform's 2000 document entitled 17 Proposals for Changing Education: http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/education/report/report.html indicates the need for educational change in Japan.

LindaU: I found this to be very closed to our 1990's reform movement, but in stark contract with NCLB.

AaronJA: why in contrast with NCLB...and what does NCLB say about this gpbl?

LindaU: This is well worth a bookmark and a read. Japan is moving toward project based learning in a big way as it reforms its educational system to meet the challenges of a global economy.

LindaU: Before I move on... I'd love any reactions from you all....

LindaU: NCLB... acknowledges the value of PBL, BUT.. and this is a big BUT.... it is test based...(high stakes Multiple choice test) and assessment of pbl is not bubble in multiple choice.. It is more formative as well and summative, more open ended... more real-world.

LindaU: I have a couple more sites I want to leave you with and time is getting short...

LindaU: One is iEARN... have any of you heard of iEARN?

LindaU: iEARN http://www.iearn.org/ is the International Education and Resource Network. They sponsor global projects, train teachers and help monitor and mentor the iEarn Projects. You can find a complete listing of their projects by scrolling to the bottom of the left-hand column and clicking on Click here for a complete listing of iEARN projects. 20,000 schools in more than 109 countries participate in iEARN. I believe the annual cost to join is $100 for an individual teacher and $280 for a school. Their projects are high quality.

LindaU: Like Michael

LindaU: Like Michael's Williamsburg project.. this does have a cost to join.

LindaU: It is a good place, however to start because of the simple structure of its projects.   I highly recommend this has a good starting place if you can afford it.

LindaU: Another site to explore at your leisure is Global SchoolNet http://www.globalschoolnet.org/index.html partners with schools, communities and businesses to provide collaborative education and cultural learning activities that prepare students for the workforce and help them to become literate and responsible global citizens. GSN features:

LindaU: 1. Global Clearinghouse--r content, partners, tools, and effective implementation strategies to support online shared learning.

LindaU: 2. CyberFair 2005: International learning challenge, now in its 10th year, for students ages 5-19, to showcase their own local community.

LindaU: 3. Doors to Diplomacy 200--Scholarships, Cash & Trip to Wash DC!

LindaU: Educational challenge for middle school and high school students about the importance of international affairs and diplomacy.

LindaU: 4. GSN Shared Learning Award --$10,000 cash & Trip to NECC Philadelphia--Extraordinary educators worldwide, who have distinguished themselves in online collaborative learning (OCL).

LindaU: Double check the Shared Learning Award if you've been involved in any outstanding global projects or know of a teacher who has....

AaronJA left the room.

LindaU: National Semiconductor awards teachers who live in specific areas of the country with outstanding innovative internet related projects. Their site is: https://www.national.com/community/education.html/

LindaU: I'd like you to take a look at two of these awarding winning projects:

LindaU: A Plan to Save the San Francisco Bay and Sizzling Science. Both can be found linked from : http://linc.ca.campusgrid.net/home/Project+Pages

LindaU: The last like will lead you to teacher created projects that you might find interesting and useful.

LindaU: Another great library of projects is: http://www.thinkquest.org

LindaU: I know I've thrown a lot at you... Take time to explore and digest and join me for my next discussion.... [December 9, 2004]

LindaU: Any final thoughts?

JulieGst9: It's all sounds very interesting and exciting for students. You have given me a lot to explore. Thanks!

LindaU: Take time to explore... and reflect.

LindaU: Thank you all...