Title of Session: Global Project Based Learning
Moderator: Linda Ullah
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Room: Hot Tub Conference Room

LindaU: Waiting to begin is the hard part.. Welcome to you all... We'll start just as soon as BJ tells me we're ready.
SusanR joined the room.
SusanR: Hi Linda
LindaU: Hi
BJ: pours bubbles in the hot tub and passes around big fluffy towels
BJ: Welcome to the GPBL discussion
LindaU: I hope the jets are turned up high, and the h20 temp is to everyone's liking
LawrencGst4 joined the room.
BJ: we usually start each discussion with introductions
BJ: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania
BJ . o O (and a big fan of Linda's!)
MeredithK: Hello I'm Meredith from Houston, TX
StevenSh: I'm a high school social studies teacher in Houston, TX
LindaU: Hi, I'm Linda Ullah. I work as "teacher in residence at a community college in the San Francisco Bay Area. One of the classes we teach is on global PBL. I'd love to know who you all are, where you are, what you do (teach) and what interests you in this topic.
LawrencGst4: Hi, I'm an art specialist in Missouri!
LindaU: and a big fan of bj's
SandraGl joined the room.
BJ grins
BJ: Hi, Sandra. Just in time for introductions
SusanR: I am Sue from Ottawa, Ontario
LindaU: Hi Sandra.. we are just introducing ourselves.. Tell us who you are.. what interests you in the topic and what you do....oh and where you are from.
SandraGl: I'll write quickly...
MeredithK: I'm still in school, but will hopefully teach HS science
LindaU: Okay.. so we are in PA, CA, Ontario, Missouri, TX, etc.. A definite global mix of folks.
SandraGl: I'm a teacher in Edmonton, Alberta working with classes and teachers integrating technology into curriculum; also taking tech courses at SDSU.
LindaU: and Alberta...
LindaU: Fantastic.
LindaU: Mark Standley, co-author of Global Project Based Leaning in the Classroom by Visions Technology Press defines GPBL as: Diversity in language and culture among students and staff can be either a challenge or opportunity. Global project-based learning is a model for working with diverse students to utilize the differences into distinct learning advantages. Whether the projects include local populations or working to include

students from other countries, global project-based learning provides concrete techniques for valuing diversity, integrating technology in project-based learning, and growing community support at schools.

SusanR . o O (diverse crowd and another fellow Canadian)

LawrencGst4: Sandra, I'm working towards completion of a masters in education with emphasis on integrating technology in the classroom.

LindaU: Take a minute to read what Mark Standley says about GBPL and give us your "take" on it.. or your reaction to this definition.

StevenSh: All I know is that I definitely am interested in finding out how to grow community support at my school

LindaU: Steven, in what way?

MeredithK: I think GPBL is a terrific idea, but I'm curious how much it gets implemented into the classroom. I think working with classes in other locations is a terrific tool for teachers an students, but how much is it used?

StevenSh: Our school has a reputation as being a 'ghetto' school and some of the community members (parents in particular) are opting to send their children to another local high school. I would like to learn ways in which our school could get more community involvement so that we lose the 'ghetto' image and start attracting local kids

LindaU: Meridith, Good point... I'll show you some project resources in a bit.. Yes, some teachers are doing this quite successfully.

MeredithK: Great

RobinLe joined the room.

SandraGl: I have been involved in a number of collaborative projects and find that the students are always enthusiastic and accountability in learning is bumped up because there is a real audience and purpose for their activities.

LindaU: Steven... I fully understand.. taught in a similar school that was successfull in getting rid of that image

BJ: Welcome, Robin

RobinLe: thanks

MelindaL joined the room.

StevenSh: we have a diverse population at our school and I would like to see how implementing GPBL might help show the students and parents that there are successful schools out there that do make a difference in the education of children

LindaU: Hi Robin and Melinda.. please introduce yourselves

RobinLe: Ok

LindaU: Here is my take on the importance of GPBL: Telecommunication has caused geographic distances to shrink. Our students must be prepared to work within a global economy. Cultural misunderstandings can have disastrous effects on the entire world. Consequently our students must learn to work collaboratively with students in other places to develop the global literacy skills to work within the global economy.

MelindaL: Hi, I am a first-year first grade teacher searching for interesting things to do in my classroom...and for help/ideas. In Houston, Tx. Sorry I'm a little late!

RobinLe: I am Robin, from University of Houston, pre-service teacher

LindaU: Steven.. I'll show you all a project I did with elementary kids in CA and high school kids in Sao Paulo, Brazil.. both low social economic schools.

MeredithK: How to get your students to be open to the idea of working with a classroom that can be half way around the world, and keep them interested in once you've started

LindaU: Here is the link: http://www.garlic.com/~lullah/brazilus/water.html

LindaU: Click on the link to look at this project.   Then I'll answer Meridith's question in a few minutes.

StevenSh: Thanks! I just added it to my favorites so that I can take a closer look at it later.

LindaU: Meridith... There are many ways to get started doing global projects. Let's first explore some you can join.

SandraGl: Meredith, I find that the kids love to work on the projects, especially if the topic is something that is relevant to them.

MeredithK: ok.

MeredithK: I suppose you just have to be excited about it to make sure your students also stay excited

LindaU: The first is iEarn

LawrencGst4: As an art specialist, does anyone know of any such projects I could look at in a global sense?

LindaU: I'll send the link in a second... when you get it, I'd like you to take a look at some of their projects.

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: Look at some of the Featured projects, and let us know if any interest you.. and if so what do you find interesting about the project.

SandraGl: Linda, are you familiar with the 2Learn project out of Alberta?

StevenSh: Linda, since I teach social studies, I just looked at some of the projects. We do a model UN in our district, however it would be great to use the model UN offered through iEARN as another option...plus it would make it more like a real UN since participation may come from other countries

LindaU: You might also want to look at the complete listing on the projects as well.

RobinLe: I like the Animals in my country project

LindaU: Stephen.. perfect.. and a great example of collaboration internationally.

LindaU: Sandra.. I don't know about 2Learn, but would love to know more... please share...

MelindaL: I just browsed the bullying project - first graders are starting to form cliques already and there's a lot of meanness starting to come out, so this would be an interesting site to introduce to my students.

MeredithK: Robin, I was also looking at the animal project, it looked very interesting.

RobinLe: could be a good lesson in migration

LindaU: Melinda.. This has been one of their popular projects.

RobinLe: and evolution

RobinLe: and adaptation

MelindaL: If the bullying "help" group is introduced at an early level, then later it could be an invaluable resource for students. Esp. girls, as girls seem to be the ones starting the bullying first!

LindaU: Any other interesting projects?

SusanR: Writing Around the World in Learning Circles looks appealing

LindaU: Susan.. tell us more about it.

SandraGl: The 2Learn project was started about six years ago with the goal to "facilitate,

SandraGl: through unique and collaborative initiatives, the effective use of information and communication technology for, by and with Alberta teachers within all curricula." There has always been a strong focus on telecollaborative projects, both within and outside of Alberta. A huge number of projects have been collected and stored in their data base and up until last year, a large amount of funding was available to teachers who initiated their own telecollaborative projects. The site continues to be developed and has become an excellent teaching resource. http://www.2learn.ca

SusanR: I am going through the slide show at the moment, Linda

LindaU: I rather like the Bridges Project http://www.thebridgeproject.org/ It is quite relevant to what is happening in the world today.

LindaU: Thank you Sandra. I'm taking a look at it now.

SusanR: Looks like it integrates well with Ontario expectations and benchmarks, Linda

LindaU: Sandra.. what a great resource!

SandraGl: I know... it has been an amazing journey since it started those few years ago. Lots of useful material for anyone wanting to become involved in project work.

LindaU: Meridith.. to continue to answer your question, I think that it is a good idea to start with a project you can join IF you are just beginning to try to do a collaborative online (global) project.

StevenSh: Linda, I just looked at the bridge project and you're right...it's perfect for what is going on now. I'm going to check into it more as I would like to see how I might integrate it into my world history classes

LindaU: The reason for this is that there is already a structure in place.

SusanR: http://www.iearn.org/circles/circle_slideshow/learning_Circlesptt.htm ..also gives you a step by step guide for implementation

LindaU: I began with the old (no longer exists) National Geographic Kids Network projects, and the Jason Project.

LindaU: Thank you Susan for sharing this slide show.. Let's take some time to review it.

LawrencGst4: hi guys. forgive me if I am missing something, I am new to this site and am jumping all over the place. do any of you know of any global projects that relate directly to Art?

StevenSh: Lawrence, check out http://www.iearn.org and click on Creative/Language Arts. Looks like there are some projects there that you might be able to use

LindaU: Bj.. this is your cue... go for it.. Lawrence.. BJ has a great project1

BJ laughs. Thanks, Linda

MeredithK: All of these websites are great I'm looking forward looking at them in more detail.

BJ: Lawrence, there is a Blanket the World with Peace Project

LawrencGst4: go easy on me BJ, I'm learning!

BJ: http://www.cedarnet.org/emig/peace/

BJ: There is a peace blanket group in Tapped In

LawrencGst4: got it...I'm going there now to take a look!

BJ: the theme of the peace blanket is peace through the resolution of conflict

SusanR: Perfect, BJ

BJ: Thanks, Sue

StevenSh: BJ, does this project cost to join? You know how district $$$ can be

BJ: it is free. You submit a digital square to the quilt

StevenSh: what a great idea for a multitude of subject matter

BJ: your submission may be one link deep...which means it can link to your school site

BJ . o O (or to other information about your project)

BJ: you could submit a graphic art digital square...

BJ: and link to a page with poetry, dance, music, etc

BJ . o O (or other sample squares)

BJ: the hat square links to lesson plans and other examples of the hats off to peace project

LawrencGst4: BJ, I just took a look at the site/project you suggest and it sounds and looks appealing. I think kids would find it exciting!

StevenSh: so this doesn't necessarily have to be related to art...it could be integrated into a social studies project?

LindaU: I like the way Steven is making the thematic connections

BJ: definitely, Steven!

StevenSh: thanks

StevenSh: our 'academies' within our school are big on interdisciplinary learning

LindaU: Here is another art related global project:
http://linc.ca.campusgrid.net/home/Project+Pages/Projects+2002/lnock

LindaU: It was developed by a teacher at a high school near where I work.

MeredithK: Are there projects like this that are science related.

LawrencGst4: thanks Linda...I am going to browse the site now!

LindaU: Meridith --You may want to take a look at the GLOBE project.
http://www.globe.gov/globe_flash.html

MeredithK: Thanks I will look at it right now

SandraGl: Linda, what are your thoughts about projects that are more local?

StevenSh: same question here..relating back to my original comment about getting the 'ghetto' image out of the school community

LindaU: I began doing a project with another classroom in my own district.

LindaU: This is a good way to start...

SandraGl: What was the project about, Linda?

MeredithK: The GLOBE Project site is great

LindaU: Here is a local history project I did with local schools:
http://www.lullah.com/GEDC/GEDC.html

BJ . o O (Bill Hilton Jr., who leads Nuts About Nature in Tapped In, is part of the globe project with his hummingbird project)

StevenSh: what would be really interesting is to have the students from my school, plus the other school that parents are sending their kids too as well as the parents themselves start some sort of project like the ones shown here

LindaU: I thought you'd like it Meridith.. It is a fantastic organization... You might also be interested in the Jason Project: http://www.jasonproject.org

MeredithK: Thanks, I'll check that one out too.

SandraGl: The local history project might be an excellent project for you, Steven.

StevenSh: under which website? so many at once to look at

RobinLe: Steven what do you mean "Ghetto" image?

LindaU: Steven... It had several ramifications.. iterations or whatever..see http://www.lullah.com/GEDC/GEDC.html

SandraGl: Linda, I just took a quick scan through the project. Who are the kids collaborating with?

LindaU: We wrote a book on our local history and sold it, then gave the money back to the school for scholarships for kids from the community who graduated from high school and went on to college..

StevenSh: Linda, this project looks great. Thanks Sandra and Linda both for looking out for me

SandraGl: This sounds like it was a very meaningful and worthwhile project, Linda.

MeredithK: Linda, the science sites are great, it's nice that they are set up and established. It seems like it would be pretty easy to join in with a class

LindaU: The dropout rate, which was quite high from that community dropped dramatically due to an adopt a college project: http://www.davis.ogsd.k12.ca.us/edenvale/college/adopt.html

LindaU: Sandra.. we collaborated with a 4th grade class at Baldwin School.. another school in our district.. then later with the GATE class (gifted ed) at Frost School.. also in our district ...and with a 3rd grade class at Hillsdale School in another local district.

SandraGl: Sometimes I find that working together with other classes not so far away also adds lots of opportunity for enhancing learning. Kids are always interested in finding out what other children like themselves think about things and they like to compare their similarities and differences. I worked with a grade one class last year that corresponded with another group of grade ones about their teeth! They compared tooth loss, how they were lost, etc. and had a wonderful time learning about their mouths and each other. The class was about 500 km away from us in a very different climate so we also compared seasonal changes. It was a great correspondence and project!

StevenSh: that is fantastic...and a very possible program since Houston has so many local colleges

LindaU: If you want to know more.. email me... and I'll get you in touch with the principal who started the program... ullahlinda@foothill.edu

SandraGl: I find that projects kind of naturally develop out of what the kids are learning and if someone gets a great idea, we try to see if we can turn it into a project. Everything kind of happens naturally and has a strong curricular fit.

MeredithK: Linda, do you think it is easier to get involved with a school that is local instead of a global connection

StevenSh: Linda, I will try to email you soon so that I can get more info on the adopt a college...I would like to present it to our school administration

LindaU: Sandra... Here is another project done within a district by three different grade levels in three different schools.. It is a National Semiconductor Award winner: http://linc.ca.campusgrid.net/home/Project+Pages

SandraGl: I'll take a look...

StevenSh: The other nice thing about doing these types of collaboration is that it falls in line with the parental/community involvement piece of the Coalition of Essential Schools

SandraGl: While I'm reading, this is one project I am currently working on:

SandraGl: We are currently starting a local collaborative project between a grade 9 class at a jr. high and a group of high school students across the city. The grade 9s are completing a novel study and created drawings to illustrate the different section. Their drawings have been emailed to the high school students who are planning to animate them. Each high school student has taken on a grade 9 or two as 'clients' and they will correspond over the next couple of weeks through a blog that was set up for this purpose. The conversation will be around 'how' the animation should occur. Later, the grade 9s will visit the high school for a first-hand lesson from the kids on how to use the animation software. Both groups are pumped!

LawrencGst4: Linda and BJ, I have been looking at the sites you suggested a few minutes ago and find them interesting, and I have bookmarked them for future reference. Thanks for sharing, and I am signing off for the evening. I have enjoyed this chat experience, my first.

RobinLe: That sounds like it will be fun for the students Sandra

MeredithK: Sandra, that's a great project. It's even better that both groups are so excited about it

BJ waves goodnight to Lawrence

LindaU: And here is one down by two classes at the same school.. also a national semi winner http://www.castro.mvsd.k12.ca.us/blgallery.htm

SandraGl: We're really excited about the kids being excited! It is a simple project that is very effective.

LawrencGst4 left the room (signed off).

SandraGl: I like the site you just posted, Linda. There are lots of good ideas there. I'll take time to read through it thoroughly later. Thank you!

LindaU: I hope these resources will be helpful to all of you.

LindaU: Good night all.. Thank you for coming...

BJ: Thanks, Linda. What a great group!

SandraGl: Thanks, Linda...

StevenSh: Thanks Linda. I know I'm excited about trying these new ideas

RobinLe: Thanks Linda

LindaU: This was a fantastic group!

LindaU: Yay Steven.. That's what I like to hear.

RobinLe: lots of fabulous ideas Thanks

BJ: join us next month and let us know how it's going, Steven

MeredithK: Thanks Linda, this was great, I am looking forward to exploring the websites more and finding ways to implement into my classroom, when I get there

StevenSh: In fact, I just thought of one I would like to try out with my government class

MelindaL: thanks, can't wait to try something after the holidays with my class!

LindaU: fantastic

BJ . o O (January 27)

StevenSh: I will try to attend...I love these Tapped In sessions

BJ smiles. Terrific, Steven.