

Title of Session: GPBL - Helping Those in Need

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LindaU: Let's do introductions...

BJB2 waves hi. I teach remedial communication in Pennsylvania and am on Tapped In helpdesk

DavidW: I'm David Weksler. I'm on HelpDesk in Tapped In and I'm in New Jersey, near New York City

LindaU: I'm Linda Ullah. I work for New Technology Foundation coaching teachers in our PBL schools here in North Carolina. I have a passion for Global Project Based Learning.

TammyRL: I am a student and a teacher's aide in preschool.

LindaU: My topic this evening is projects that help people in need...

LindaU: Those of you who know me know my family is in/from Bangladesh

LindaU: and Bangladesh just had a devastating cyclone recently.

DavidW nods

LindaU: There have been other natural disasters and man-made disasters that have put people in very vulnerable circumstances.

LindaU: One of my core beliefs is that we need to help each other in times of need.

LindaU: I think that school children--of all ages (yes, Tammy even pre-schoolers) can learn to help others.

LindaU: and learn, but really doing it.

LindaU: So I'm going to share some web resources with you all.

LindaU: My only request is that you decide what projects/needs are the one you are passionate about helping with.

LindaU: Bangladesh catches my attention because of my family.. but there are so many

other places in the world, and in the U,.S. where people need our help.

BJB2 agrees with Linda

LindaU: Tammy.. When I type a URL for a web site you can click on it and it will take you there.

TammyRL: OK

LindaU: BJ.. do you have to do anything special on a windows computer... I'm on a Mac.

BJB2: just hold down the ctrl key or right click the url

LindaU: Let's begin with Changing the Present.. <http://changingthepresent.org/>

TammyRL: thanks

LindaU: Please explore and find one that jumps out at you.. and think about how school children can help this organization... and learn about something important (curriculum and human connection) at the same time.

SaraAI joined the room.

DavidW: Hi, Sara. Welcome

BJB2: welcome, Sara. We're looking at <http://changingthepresent.org/>

LindaU: Hi Sara.. Please introduce yourself.

SaraAI: thanks!

BJB2: great start to holiday gift giving, Linda

LindaU: Find an organization on this site that you might consider supporting or having a classroom support..

LindaU: Exactly BJ.

SaraAI: Hi. I am a high school science teacher

LindaU: We'll talk a bit about that.

LindaU: First let's think class project..... any thoughts here?

LindaU waits for ideas

BJB2: probably might want to start locally

LindaU: For example.. in a science class. could you study HIV and help the Canadian HIV/Aids Network at the same time?

DavidW: Seems like any international project leads to a geography lesson

DavidW . o O (understanding different cultures)

LindaU: exactly... David.. and how could you turn this into a class helping others project?

TammyRL: If parents would participate, our class could raise money for the Promote Literacy for \$75.00. My school is in an impoverished area. But we often have art shows, where the children's art is sold to raise money for supplies, we could just simply give the money to CRS for this gift idea.

SaraAI: I was looking at the cataracts cure. My physiology students study the eye and we cover things like cataracts, glaucoma etc. and I think it would be great to learn about the surgery to cure this disorder and have the class sponsor a child in Ghana

LindaU: Could pre-schoolers. 'adopt a virtual grand parent" and help support Per Scolas?

BJB2: great ideas, Sara and Tammy!

LindaU: Great ideas..

LindaU: Now back to BJ's thought about holiday gift giving..

TammyRL: With help from their parents or teachers.

LindaU: Some of these organizations let you give a gift to someone as a donation to their cause.

LindaU: Heifer International is one organization that really promotes this:
<http://www.heifer.org/site/c.edJRKQNiFiG/b.183217/>

TammyRL: Could you donate in memory of a loved one?

LindaU: Yes, Tammy--perfect.

DavidW . o O (Heifer International is VERY good)

LindaU: Heifer lets you buy an animal for someone who can use that animal to earn a living... instead of buying someone a useless gift they don't really want or need.

LindaU: I like the sentence "Where hunger ends, peace can begin"

TammyRL: It could inspire the recipient to give as well.

LindaU: Exactly...

LindaU: I learned about this last Christmas from my son's in-laws.

LindaU: Think what could happen if we re-thought gift giving....

LindaU: any ideas here?--- school project? buy a cow or a goat?

TammyRL: It would be a great way to introduce sharing with others to your children.

SaraAI: my school is currently donating money to two families that lost a parent over the last year to try and help them during the holidays. Our school association volunteered to cover the annual holiday staff luncheon and teachers will instead donate the money that would have covered their meals to those two families. Students are welcomed to donate as well

LindaU: Exactly.

LindaU: This is great Sara...

LindaU: I used to work at a school that went Christmas caroling around the neighbor bring gifts to needy families in the neighborhood...

SaraAI: I think my kids would love the idea of buying a cow or a goat!

LindaU: Not all the families celebrated Christmas... Many were South-east Asian families..

LindaU: Many of the students helping get and distribute gifts and food were also needy...

LindaU: It helped students give back to their own neighborhood...

LindaU: It was a wonderful tradition (and still is)...

SaraAI: yes... my kids really seem to respond to things that impact their own community

LindaU: We loaded up vans with turkeys and canned food, and wrapped Christmas gifts..

LindaU: Students in the school wrote a "What I want for Christmas essay (every child).

TammyRL: Starting a tradition of this kind would truly set your child up to become a more empathetic person, and become more civic minded.

LindaU: The social worker and counselor, etc. would identify the most needy families in this very poor community.

LindaU: Everyone pitched in.

LindaU: Those with vans and station wagons loaded them and followed along with us as we stopped at the "selected" houses..

SaraAI: the seniors at my school are required to do a senior project and many of them involve giving to others. Last year one student made and sold purses to donate to Darfur another collected books to donate to elementary students

LindaU: It was awesome !

LindaU: Great project...

SaraAI: Sounds like a great event

LindaU: You all know about the 2006 Nobel Peace Price winner don't you...
http://www.grameenfoundation.org/?gclid=COGM9J7jpkACFQmgGgodrXS9_w

LindaU: This is an amazingly powerful concept.

TammyRL: When starting an event, are there any license requirements needed?

LindaU: Giving loans to women (initially) to help them start a small business.

LindaU: Good question Tammy... I don't think we had any licensing for our Christmas caroling... At least I don't remember that any were needed.... but that might depend on the local community.. best to check first.

LindaU: The Grameen Bank was started by an amazing gentleman named Muhammad Yunus.

LindaU: His concept was simple.. base on give some the means to fish rather than giving him/her a fish...

LindaU: He started with poor village women in Bangladesh...

LindaU: small loans that changed their lives...

LindaU: Take a look at their gift catalog and think how this might be a good school project.

LindaU: They are also involved in Cyclone Sidr relief..

LindaU: Remember that this is just the latest natural disaster.. Many people are still suffering because of past natural disasters... as well.

SaraAI: Another idea I liked on changingthepresent.org was the adopt a link project... my physiology class is required to dissect a mink or similar version of a cat every year and I always have some students that feel horrible about this and I thought having the class donate to adopt a mink would help some students with their feelings of guilt

LindaU: Interesting thought, Sara....

LindaU: Maybe rather than focus on guilt, why not focus on helping others..

SaraAI: that is true

LindaU: While we are on the topic of disaster relief.. take a look at:
http://www.directrelief.org/EmergencyResponse/2007/CycloneSidrBangladesh/CycloneSidrBangladesh.aspx?gclid=CLaNt8fikpACFQmgGgodrXS9_w

LindaU: Notice that they are still helping people who were hurt by past disasters..

LindaU: It's important for kids in the U.S. to realize how some people in the world actually live..

LindaU: Check out the slide show on this site.

DavidW: Just to compare how much money some people survive on per day

LindaU: Yes... these people lost everything.. but look at their living conditions.. tin hut.. etc..

JeffC: back (just briefly)... wanted to share this site... if you want students to have at least some virtual insight into how others live, have a look at the "Real Lives" program at <http://www.educationalsimulations.com/> ...students create a "baby" and grow it up from day one... lots happens!

LindaU: Another disaster relief site is:
http://plancanada.ca/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=755&srcid=194&gclid=CMS6wO7ikpACFQmgGgodrXS9_w

LindaU: Thank you so much Jeff...

LindaU: This is a great program.

JeffC: have you used it?

JeffC: my eldest son was addicted to it for some time!

LindaU: I've not seen this before. I meant it looks great!

JeffC: yup... like I said, my son loves it... I was able to get some free copies for the schools here, but I don't know if they're really using them.

JeffC: two other sites (before I'm out the door again)... if you want your students to get involved... and I've shared these before: <http://www.nabuur.com> (help impoverished villages around the world) and <http://www.takingitglobal.org> (global collaborative run by students).

JeffC: bye for now! sorry I have to post and run!

LindaU: Yes.. Jeff... I think you shared this before.....

LindaU: Check out <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/worldbalance/material.html>

LindaU: if you are interested in having children learn about how people live in other parts of the world.

TammyRL: This is a site my kids frequent anyway, this would be a way to hit the idea of helping others

SaraAI: wow that site does look great

LindaU: Peter Menzel has a great book called Material

World: <http://www.amazon.com/Material-World-Global-Family-Portrait/dp/0871564300>

LindaU: Here's his web

site: <http://www.menzelphoto.com/gallery/subCategory.php?subCategory=Books/Material%20World>

SaraAI: I could see students logging on to see what it would be like to live in someone else's shoes and then have the students collectively select a group in that country to donate to.. I think they would get much more excited having had a chance to experience the virtual reality in that region

LindaU: How about actually connecting with a school there.

LindaU: <http://www.iearn.org/>

SaraAI: It would be awesome for my Biology kids to connect with kids in a biology (or similar course) class half way around the world and compare and contrast the differences!

LindaU: IEarn brokers projects that help people in developing nations.

LindaU: Exactly, Sara

TammyRL: My students like connecting with similarities. If they could find a common ground, they would be more interested.

SaraAI: is there a site that you know of that I could use with my students?

LindaU: also ePals <http://www.epals.com/>

SaraAI: thanks!

LindaU: also check out Global School net..

LindaU: <http://www.globalschoolnet.org/index.cfm>

LindaU: and think.com: <http://www.think.com>

LindaU: My favorite organization is Free the Children because it was started by a 12 year old boy (now a man) who wanted to help other children.

LindaU: <http://www.freethechildren.com/index.php>

LindaU: Think about how you can use this site with your students.

LindaU: We have about 8 minutes left.. I've shared a lot of resources tonight... Let's start wrapping up with what you think your next steps will be.

BJB2: maybe once you review the resources you could have a class discussion and let the students choose their direction

LindaU: Great idea.. one of the classes I worked with after the Asian Tsunami did this.. It really gave the students ownership over the project.

SaraAI: good idea... students love to have a choice

LindaU: They compared the various organizations much more carefully than I would have.. and they were very articulate about why they chose the organization they did to raise money for.

DavidW: One other project, Linda - the One Laptop Per Child project is currently allowing people to donate a laptop with the purchase of one

DavidW: <http://laptopgiving.org/en/index.php>

LindaU: Yes.. Negreonte's project...

LindaU: There are many ways to help others.

SaraAI: I think I my next steps would be to look more in depth as some of the sites you posted today and narrow those down to a few that I feel are most closely connected to my students interests, age and content area

LindaU: I know Bill Gates takes a "bad rap," but I heard him speak a couple of years ago about philanthropy.

LindaU: He credited his mother for teaching him to help others.

LindaU: Good.. Sara...

BJB2: Thanks, Linda, for all the great ideas!

LindaU: If we start early teaching our students/children to help others who are less fortunate than they are.. think how we can change the world.. one child at a time.

SaraAI: I also know that I would want a project that could be ongoing throughout the semester so that students don't think of the connection as a one time shot

SaraAI: very true

BJB2: The next GPBL discussion will be at the end of January.

LindaU: Exactly.. Sara

LindaU: Yes... after my trip to Rome... ;-)...

SaraAI: ok sounds great. Thanks for all the tips. They were wonderful!

LindaU: I hope they were helpful.

BJB2: have a terrific trip, Linda!

LindaU: Thanks...

DavidW: Yes, have a great time, Linda

LindaU: Thank you all.. this was a good one!

BJB2 waves goodnight. Thanks, everyone, for your contributions to the discussion.

LindaU: Good night all

DavidW: Good discussion, Linda