

Title of Session: Collaboration Central

Moderator: Jeff Cooper

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Room: After School Online Room

BjB: we'll wait for Kranti to come back and maybe get our own discussion going

BjB: tadaaaa....wb, Kranti

KrantiS: I am back

BjB: Kranti, did you join the Collaboration Community group?

KrantiS: no, what is that?

BjB: I assume that Jeff has put resources in the group room

BjB: . o O (not sure I've joined either)

BjB: Sharon, can you tell us how to join the group?

SharonMM: Yes, I visited a moment ago.

SharonMM: Go to Groups and type in Collaboration Central and then click join?

BjB: let's start at SEARCH at the top right of your screen

BjB: Then click on GROUPS

BjB: and enter collaboration

BjB: that got me 20 matches....click on Collaboration Community, Kranti

BjB: . o O (that sound familiar, Sharon?)

SharonMM: Yes.

BjB: at the top of the page is a place to join the group, Kranti

BjB: let Sharon and me know when you've joined.

BjB: then we can all go there and see what's up

KrantiS: I joined the group

BjB: great. Now, at the bottom of the page is a door icon to go right to the group room

KrantiS left the room.

BjB left the room.

Room: Collaboration Community

BjB joined the room.

SharonMM joined the room.

SharonMM: Hello.

BjB: yay!

BjB: let's introduce ourselves to each other, ok?

BjB: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and a helpdesk volunteer for tapped in

SharonMM: Sharon Melton....Goodlettsville Middle School of Metro Nashville Public Schools, Sixth grade teacher of science, language arts, math and reading.

BjB: a busy lady, Sharon!

KrantiS: I am completing my education degree from University of Houston. I will graduate next year.

BjB: congratulations, Kranti!

BjB: what do you hope to teach?

SharonMM: Looks like you're getting a head start on the competition!

KrantiS: Thanks

KrantiS: I will be teaching Middle School

KrantiS: Science

SharonMM: My heart goes to your dedication!

BjB: Sharon, you were already a member of this group. Can you explain what the purpose of the group is?

BjB: cool, Kranti

BjB: Jeff also leads the K-20 Science Forum, Kranti

BjB: Sharon, you were already a member of this group. Can you explain what the purpose of the group is?

SharonMM: I missed our last meeting, but the meeting before we put up questions we wanted the group to answer. My questions were about Blogs and Newspapers web based.

SharonMM: I was looking at the information on the "office" pages and it looks like they haven't met since that meeting, but I am uncertain.

SharonMM: So, I guess we can just shoot out ideas and see what comes of it:)

BjB: I do see that you've posted a few times to the discussion board

BjB: Kranti, what did you expect to get out of this discussion?

SharonMM: Yes, I was very interested in what Blogs could do for me in my classroom.

KrantiS: I was interested in learning more how to establish better collaboration with the parents

SharonMM: I knew that it required a server and was asking how to go around that issue, since we didn't have one available.

BjB: I know the webheads do a lot with blogs. And the newer blogs let you add photos and graphics

SharonMM: Yes, Jeff sent me to several free online sites.

SharonMM: **KrantiS,** I have recently put a free web page up at scholastic.com.

SharonMM: It has a lot of sharing information with parents you can do.

BjB: Sharon, can you get into Tapped In at your school?

SharonMM: No, I am afraid you are blocked.

BjB: Kranti, there are several teachers in Tapped In who hold office hours to meet with parents

BjB: Sharon, have you read the FAQ and talked to your tech person on how you could get access to TI?

SharonMM: Yes, I also do a weekly chat with parents and students.

BjB: . o O (you don't have to open the port to incoming traffic, just outgoing)

KrantiS: Is that helpful for you

SharonMM: Yes, I guess I can say....I have applied for a job in another county....as Curriculum Specialist Instructional Technology in hopes of spreading the word.

SharonMM: I have found the web page helpful. The chat is mostly with my students.

KrantiS: How do you keep contact with the parents and how do you keep them involved?

JeffC joined the room.

SharonMM: I have a "family" night once every six weeks. This six weeks we are having game night.

BjB waves to Jeff and willingly hands over moderator duties

SharonMM: I send home letters, too.

JeffC waves

BjB: game night sounds great!

JeffC: Sorry I'm late

SharonMM: HI, Jeff.

KrantiS: That must be a fun night

SharonMM: I really enjoy our "family" nights. We've even had a sleep over. That was hard on my old bones!

JeffC: I don't really have an agenda for today, except to try and get some ideas, perhaps some guest speakers for the upcoming year.

SharonMM: Sorry I missed our last meeting, Jeff. I was very sick and had to get some rest.

JeffC: No problem Sharon

BjB: Kranti is looking for ideas on how to get parents actively involved, Jeff

SharonMM: Thanks for keeping us company **BjB**.

JeffC: OK

BjB: I'm enjoying the discussion, Sharon

SharonMM: Making sure parents KNOW you have an open door policy is good, too. My parents know they are welcome any time and that makes them think I have nothing to "hide."

JeffC: Kranti, this Tuesday from 5-6 Pacific I'll be facilitating "Science Resources K-20" which might interest you, and give some ideas for making science interesting for kids. Since you're in Meteorology, you should attend. We'll be having a guest speaker, Jennifer Sun, from <http://www.whyville.net>.

SharonMM: Oh, I loved that web site!

KrantiS: That sounds interesting

JeffC: To get parents involved, there are a number of things.

JeffC: What grade will you be teaching Kranti?

KrantiS: 4-8 grade level but I will probably start at 5th grade

DavidWe joined the room.

SharonMM: Start at 4th and "loop" with your children it will make all the difference in the world!

JeffC: As an expert in meteorology, have you come up with any ideas regarding the recent weather?

DavidWe waves

JeffC waves to David.

BjB waves hi to David

SharonMM: Hi, David

DavidWe: Hi, sorry I'm late

DavidWe hands his excuse note to Bj

BjB passes the note to Jeff

DavidWe . o O (figures, she always passes notes in class)

JeffC: The impact of weather on the world? Hurricanes in Florida and the Caribbean, etc. There are a number of online weather projects for starters. This is more of an idea to get your *students* involved than parents.

KrantiS: what kinds of activities can you do in a classroom related to weather

SharonMM: Spreadsheets! Yes, even with fifth graders.

JeffC: There are a number of online collaborative projects with weather.

KrantiS: Can you also include any research projects where the students have to use websites to find information

JeffC: There are all sorts of online projects regarding the weather, here is one:

<http://www.uen.org/weather/>

JeffC: There are also "Weather Webquests"... are you familiar with Webquests Kranti?

JeffC: If you go to google, and type: weather webquest you will find quite a few. All of them involve online research about the weather.

KrantiS: Yes I am not but not an expert in using it right now

BjB: did you look on Bernie Dodge's page?

KrantiS: no

BjB: . o O (there are webquests and there are WebQuests)

JeffC: You can also go to Trackstar at <http://trackstar.4teachers.org/trackstar/index.jsp> and search for weather projects.

SharonMM: GlobalSchool House has a few, too.

BjB: <http://www.webquest.org/>

DavidWe: I'm sure NOAA has stuff, too -

DavidWe: . o O (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)

KrantiS: Oh I have looked at there website

KrantiS: it's great

DavidWe: NOAA?

KrantiS: Yes

JeffC: I just glanced at a half dozen that I found by typing "weather webquest" into google.

KrantiS: Ok I saw that too

BjB: Bernie has quite a few webquests on weather if you do a search on his page

DavidWe: Bernie, the webquest God!

BjB nods to David

SharonMM: David, could you introduce you, please.

DavidWe: Hi, Sharon. I'm David Weksler.

BjB: Kranti, Bernie Dodge is one of the original creators of WebQuests

KrantiS: Are you familiar of any good website to make Science interesting for the students?

DavidWe: I'm in New Jersey, I was just in Little Italy in Manhattan - why I'm late - that's my excuse - and I help teachers learn about technology

KrantiS: oh I didn't know that

BjB: he usually leads a monthly discussion in Tapped In on the topic

DavidWe agrees with Bj

SharonMM: Great. I am applying right now for a job as curriculum specialist instructional technology. Any info you could share?

DavidWe: Lots of stuff, Sharon. Spend more time in Tapped In?

DavidWe: . o O (one)

DavidWe wonders whether Sharon knows about the Math Forum - <http://mathforum.org>

JeffC: As curriculum specialist you'll be supporting educators and students in all topics, and span a few grade levels as well.

SharonMM: Yes, Jeff has been a great resource! I used a LOT of information he shared with me in my second meeting.

DavidWe: That's great, Sharon

SharonMM: Yes, I have bookmarked the mathforum.

BjB thinks Sharon should join the K-12 Students in TI2 group

JeffC: The trickiest thing will be to get them to shift their routine, so that they will consistently be in a position to be supported, like joining Tapped In for instance.

DavidWe agrees forcefully with Jeff

JeffC: They should each and every teacher join at least one CoP that relates to their field.

BjB . o O (especially if she is interested in eventually bringing students online)

JeffC: Whether a group or groups at Tapped In, or some other CoP, indeed, they should form CoPs within their own district.

SharonMM: Yes, I agree this has been an invaluable resource as a classroom teacher and even more so if I get the new job.

SharonMM: Is there a site for mentoring teachers that is at Tapped In?

SharonMM: That is a weak area for me.

BjB smiles wickedly

JeffC: What is a weak area for you Sharon?

DavidWe . o O (Bj is so "wicked")

BjB: I think all participation in Tapped In serves as a mentoring experience, Sharon

DavidWe agrees completely with Bj

BjB: but my wicked smile is directed toward the new ProActive Educators Group

SharonMM: Mentoring. I have mentored teachers by using a guide they gave me at training, but I think it leaves a lot to be desired.

SharonMM: It is more like following a recipe than using sources like Tapped In.

BjB: Sharon, you might consider starting a group for mentoring teachers. We have Helpdesk Central which mentors helpdesk volunteers

DavidWe: Good idea, Bj

SharonMM: Is there a possible way to co-start a group. I have a group already and am dragging teachers from my school to meet.

JeffC: I think starting a group for your school's and district's teachers would be a start. Hold weekly (if not nightly) office hours and let people know you'll be available

BjB: ProActive Educators is to help teachers take responsibility for their own professional development...

SharonMM: That is a group, yes...ProActive Educators.

DavidWe tries to remember if we have scheduled a meeting

BjB: and get continuing education units for their participation in Tapped In

BjB: the first meeting is September 10

JeffC: If not at Tapped In, there are a variety of other tools to facilitate collaboration and online mentoring. Talking Communities, ASAP both give audio video (and ASAP has screen sharing), that can be critical for getting support to teachers.

BjB . o O (it's on the calendar)

SharonMM: Yes, I didn't think to add that to entice teachers from my school to join.

DavidWe: It's a challenge, Sharon, to entice teachers to use Tapped In

SharonMM: Jeff, say more about Talking Communities and ASAP.....web sites?

JeffC: Delivery systems

JeffC: <http://snurl.com/convoq> is my shortcut to ASAP.

JeffC: Some teachers will respond better if you have audio/video connectivity. ASAP and Talking Communities give audio (ASAP gives both),

JeffC: ASAP costs \$199 a year per license with a four license minimum.

JeffC: Talking communities is cheaper, but doesn't have as many features.

SharonMM: Oh, okay. I looked quickly at ASAP.

SharonMM: I'll ask my principal about ASAP or Talking Communities after I do my homework on it. Thanks!

JeffC nods

JeffC: Anything else for now Sharon or Kranti?

SharonMM: Thank you all again for a wonderful visit. I hope to be here for the next meeting!

KrantiS: I wanted to know if there is any good website which can be used to make science interesting for the students

JeffC: <http://www.yucky.com>

JeffC: You also might want to look at the number of resources that we have for Math and Science at <http://www.mybookmarks.com/public/mathscience>

SharonMM: Thanks and bye, Jeff, Bj and Kranti. See you next time.

BjB waves bye

JeffC: Off to start the next session on Tips and Tricks Kranti.

KrantiS: ok bye

JeffC: Please come to Tuesday's meeting for Science Resources.