

Title of Session: Middle Grades Science - Recharging Teacher Enthusiasm

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Title of File: 20030527midsci

Date: May 27, 2003

Tappedin transcript 2003.05.27 19:05:16

Room: ASO

Jan_NS: Traci, are you currently taking classes?

TraciB: I am taking classes through Azusa Pacific University

Jan_NS: still spring semester?

TraciB: I am getting my masters in Educational Technology, (End of Spring) 3 weeks to go

Jan_NS: Ah, you must be very busy with the end of the school year for your 6 th grade and for you in your grad classes.

TraciB: yes but it is fun. I love my 6th graders

Jan_NS: A great age to teach.

Jan_NS: Do you have an integrated science program?

TraciB: Integrated with Technology?

Jan_NS: no, in that you teach concepts in science that relate to various "traditional" science subjects.

Jan_NS: So, you might teach about "change" in various areas, like biological systems and geology.

TraciB: Yes. I teach those in geology

Jan_NS: Here in Ohio the science curriculum for the middle grades focuses on large "concepts"

Jan_NS: Now that we have four of us, let's do a brief introduction before we get formally started.

Jan_NS: I am Jan - facilitator for the Middle Grades Science discussion and also part-time faculty at the Univ. of Akron in Ohio - working with preservice teachers.

BJ: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and a helpdesk volunteer for TAPPED IN

TraciB: I'm a 6th Grade Teacher currently working on my Masters in Education Technology.

JoyceM: I am Joyce Tech Coordinator in a prek-5 school in New Jersey I help train staff, parents and students

Jan_NS: thanks, everyone.

Jan_NS: Joyce - do you have anything to do with technology and science?

JoyceM: I help teachers plan and implement lessons that integrate science and technology and projects based learning.

Jan_NS: that is great - everyone please feel free to contribute ideas or websites that others might find useful this evening.

Jan_NS: My plan for this discussion was to share websites and resources to recharge our enthusiasm for science and teaching - summer is a great time for personal professional development.

TraciB: That sounds great.

Jan_NS: speaking of recharging, BJ share about the upcoming Festival in July.

Jan_NS: Please!

BJ: the TappedIn2 Launch Festival is scheduled for July 16

BJ: The theme is Collaboration for Teaching and Learning

BJ: it will be a 12 hour event with lots of presentations

Jan_NS: So, there is one date to add to your calendar.

Jan_NS: Lots of different topics and facilitators

TraciB: Completely on-line? Or will there be an actual event?

Jan_NS: all virtual, right here in Tapped In.

Jan_NS: Please join us - everyone had a great time last year!

Jan_NS: And now, back to our regularly scheduled program! (after our commercial break!)

BJ chuckles. Thanks, Jan.

Jan_NS: No summer would be complete without a trip to the Zoo -

Jan_NS: items smaller than the eye can see can be a difficult topic to teach, no matter the age of the student.

Jan_NS: Here is a fun site to explore the World of the Microbe.

Jan_NS: Everyone familiar with external URL's

BJ: when Jan types a url, it will be hyperlinked...just click on it to open a new window

Jan_NS: spend a little time exploring and then come back to this window.

Jan_NS: here goes - <http://commtechlab.msu.edu/sites/dlc-me/zoo/>

BJ: what fun!

TraciB: what a great site.

JoyceM: Excellent

TraciB: Like the fact that it is semi interactive.

Jan_NS: did you check the Snack Bar?

TraciB: Let's the student "feel" like they are "exploring" the environment.

TraciB: Added to my favorites :)

Jan_NS: sometimes textbooks are very dull when covering this topic. this site jazzes up the info.

JoyceM: Emailed it to my fellow science teachers to help make it thru till summer

Jan_NS: definitely a fun site.

TraciB: The Snack Bar made me think twice about having dinner tonight.

Jan_NS: oops!

Jan_NS: lets switch gears.

BJ: another reminder...you can click on the Actions drop down window to make the text larger and easier to read

BJ . o O (and if you scroll down you can also detach the text window)

Jan_NS: thanks, BJ - I always forget that one.

Jan_NS: Virtual Field Trips are also another way to create the feeling of a real field trip. (also a discussion topic here at Tapped In!)

Jan_NS: Extinct and endangered animals and plants are a hot topic with kids.

Jan_NS: Here is a virtual field trip exploring the concepts about what is means to be endangered. <http://www.field-guides.com/sci/endanger/index.htm>

Jan_NS: click on "Start field trip"

BJ: did you do this field trip, Jan or is it one of Kim's?

Jan_NS: this is one of Kim's

TraciB: That's a great way to present information rather than one big webpage with URL links.

TraciB: Small bits of information, with graphics. Nice.

Jan_NS: this format is very student friendly.

Jan_NS: and easy to navigate

TraciB: Also like the Teacher Resources section.

Jan_NS: An essential component for a professionally done teaching resource.

BJ: cool. Thanks. For the transcript so you can look later, Kim Foley presents a monthly field trip discussion and tourmaker tutorial. She'll be returning to regular sessions in July.

The field trip site is www.field-trips.org

Jan_NS: a very useful tool for educators at all levels.

Jan_NS: And Kim does a great job with her discussions.

BJ: o O (and all subjects)

Jan_NS agrees.

Jan_NS: Kim has developed other science related field trips, ie. one on rainforests.

Jan_NS: click on "Field Trip Lists" to see what others are available.

Jan_NS: Any comments or questions so far?

TraciB: A few will fit in nicely with my standards ie: endangered species

Jan_NS: My thought, too, Traci

TraciB: my students like these types of activities

Jan_NS: My students do too.

Jan_NS smiles.

TraciB: it is a great way to expand their life experiences

JoyceM: These sites work as part of a teacher presentation as well to introduce topics or present information in non traditional way using technology

Jan_NS: good point, Joyce

TraciB: it is part but I do believe they need the teacher as a coach to guide them through it

Jan_NS: And would also work well with small cooperative groups with a synthesis task carefully scaffolded by the teacher.

TraciB: exactly

Jan_NS: speaking to different learning styles.

TraciB: it does include all types of learning styles which allow each student gain the information in a way that is best for him/her

Jan_NS: Radio Expeditions from National Geographic are a great resource with a different flavor. All of us can work on our listening skills - and auditory learners appreciate these resources.

Jan_NS: Here is the link to the older Radio Expeditions. The newer ones are located at NPR. <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/radiox/>

Jan_NS: there is a link to the NPR site in the upper left portion of this page.

TraciB: I just looked at one of the radio addresses

TraciB: It was about South Africa

TraciB: I like that it had the auditory part yet also pictures to go along with it

TraciB: This is great to work on many different skills and to have the students learn about different parts of the world today

Jan_NS: If you check the NPR site, the most recent is about Everest. It even includes a 1954 radio broadcast of an interview with Sir Edmund Hilary. talk about a primary source!!

TraciB: That is fantastic.

TraciB: It would go perfect in one of my units

Jan_NS: Only with the resources of the internet can we easily access rich and deeply personal resources like this!

TraciB: Our students are lucky with the wealth of knowledge they can now receive via the internet

Jan_NS: It just seemed like a perfect site for contemplating during our summer vacations. Almost a "Wish I was there"!

TraciB: Thanks Jan for the great resources. I have to run a little early.

TraciB: I really appreciate some of the sites

Jan_NS: Glad you could join us, Traci.

TraciB: Thanks again, Bye

Jan_NS: I always wish that I could visit far away places for just awhile.

Jan_NS: Especially during summer vacation. Earth Cams are one way to catch glimpses of animals, etc. in faraway places.

BJ agrees. Is Africam still up?

Jan_NS: It wasn't when I checked earlier today.

Jan_NS: Some of the best EarthCams are those of the BBC in the UK>

Jan_NS: but everything is dark there now.

BJ nods

Jan_NS: However, the hissing cockroaches are always available.

BJ smiles. Hissing cockroaches are very cool!

BJ: Here's Africam: <http://www.africam.com/public/index.jsp>

Jan_NS: Here is the link to the Animals EarthCams.

http://search.earthcam.com/search_cam.php?cat=EDU&sub=P

Jan_NS: Some of the replays at AfriCam are great.

Jan_NS: given that it is dark, that is

BJ: it looks like you have to register, but I don't see any fee

Jan_NS: Well, we seem to have run out the clock tonight.

Jan_NS: yes, just for data collection I think.

Jan_NS: no fee.

BJ nods

Jan_NS: thanks for joining us Brian.

Jan_NS: some food for thought for the summer.

BJ: thanks, Jan, for some interesting sites.

Jan_NS: I have fun with this session.

BJ: it's such an interesting topic with so much you can do

BrianR: I appreciate the help

Jan_NS: which one were you checking out?

BrianR: instinct animals

Jan_NS: oh, that has lots of info embedded in it.

BrianR: interesting looking at New Jersey

BrianR: 21 of them

Jan_NS: we were just closing up shop for the evening. Glad that you could join us - seems everyone always checks on their own state and its status.

Jan_NS: hope you can join us again for another session.

BrianR: thank you, have a great night

Jan_NS: you, too!

Jan_NS: Night BJ.

Ed. Note: The next Middle Grades Science Forum will be on June 24.