

Title of Session: ArtsSites - Open House
Moderator: BJ Berquist
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Room: After School Online Room

DebbieHC: Ok so is there a topic for this discussion?

BJB2: Debbie, the discussion is going to be an open house for ArtsSites

DebbieHC: What does that mean?

BJB2: ArtsSites is a monthly discussion on sites that facilitate integrating the arts across the curriculum

DebbieHC: I love this idea. I am totally supportive of integrating the arts. In fact, I took a one year training course in something called Waldorf Education. This system of education integrates the arts throughout the curriculum.

BiancaT joined the room.

BJB2: cool, Debbie!

BJB2: Hi, Bianca. Welcome

DebbieHC: Have you ever heard of Waldorf education?

BiancaT: hello

BJB2: doesn't ring a bell. Perhaps you can bring up the topic once we get started and tell everyone about it?

TammyEH joined the room.

BJB2: Hi, Tammy. Welcome

TammyEH: hello

BJB2: we'll start in another minute...a lot of people are just logging in

TammyEH: sounds good

DebbieHC: This is cool. I've never participated in a live chat before.

BiancaT: it can get crazy when there are a lot of people on.

BJB2 smiles and nods to Bianca

DebbieHC: I'd love to know where people are from. I'm in Ohio

HongliJ: That's why some time it is good just listen or watch

BJB2: Debbie, we're going to start with introductions

BiancaT: I'm in Texas

BiancaT: Houston

BJB2: We have a nice sized group so we can have lots of interaction

DebbieHC: I'm in Youngstown Ohio but I'm originally from Stamford Connecticut

HongliJ: I am in Houston, TX

TammyEH: I'm in Houston too

BJB2: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and a helpdesk volunteer for Tapped In. I'll be leading this ArtsSites discussion

BJB2: as I mentioned to Debbie, ArtsSites is a monthly event in Tapped In...

HeatherRic joined the room.

BiancaT waves to heather

BJB2: where we discuss different sites and ideas for integrating the arts across the curriculum

BJB2: Hi, Heather. Just in time to introduce yourself, please.

BJB2: Debbie mentioned a program that I'm not familiar with...Waldorf Education

HeatherRic: Hi, I was online and would like to eavesdrop a little. I'm getting my masters in ESOL and like art!

BJB2: can you tell us a little about that, Debbie?

BJB2: cool, Heather...ESOL is a great place to integrate the arts

DebbieHC: Sure. Waldorf education was started in Germany in the 1920s by Rudolf Steiner. It is a system that is based upon an esoteric Christian philosophy although you don't need to believe in or subscribe to the philosophy to appreciate and utilize Waldorf education.

BJB2: how does it involve the arts, Debbie?

DebbieHC: The philosophy of Waldorf education is that a school is like a garden and each child's creativity is to be cultivated.

DebbieHC: In every class in a Waldorf school, the art, movement and music are used within each subject.

SusanR joined the room.

BJB2: I like the idea of art, movement and music

DebbieHC: For example, when a Waldorf teacher teaches science, the children draw plants and animals

DebbieHC: When math is taught, it is taught through music

DebbieHC: There are no textbooks in Waldorf school, the children create main lesson books for each subject. These books are works of art.

HongliJ: That will be really interesting to know how to teach math in music

BJB2: I have some sites I can share for that, in a bit, Hongli

BiancaT: counting for one

HongliJ: thanks, that will be great

DebbieHC: One simple way math is taught through music is this - in first grade for example, they toss bean bags to each other and recite multiplication tables. This is done to a certain rhythm

HeatherRic: When I was in Montessori pre-school, some of my friends went to a Waldorf pre-school and it was a more creative approach

BJB2: . o O (music has lots of math ...rhythm, pattern, fractions)

DebbieHC: Yes, Waldorf is much more creative than Montessori

BJB2: have any studies been done on the success of this learning as the students get older?

DebbieHC: The children draw the lessons for each subject in their main lesson books. The drawings are colorful. Each page must have a colorful border as well. Each afternoon all children in grades 1-12 knit or do other types of handwork. They also have a music class and a class in a movement called Eurythmy

HeatherRic: is this a specialized type of movement or just Waldorf's name for their movement class?

DebbieHC: I think that studies have been sparse. I think there have been a few but the problem is that most of the benefits of Waldorf education are not easily measured (ie. happiness, creativity, peacefulness). Waldorf students in general do as well as or better than public school students in high school and college.

BJB2: <http://www.waldorfhomeschoolers.com/eurythmy.htm>

HongliJ: I will visit that URL after this discussion

DebbieHC: Eurythmy was invented by Rudolf Steiner. It is a beautiful cooperative type of activity where children move in unison either to music or to a speech artist who reads a poem. Many of the movements look as though the children are breathing together (coming in and out of a circle while holding hands for example). It is sort of like synchronized swimming without water.

BJB2: very interesting, Debbie!

DebbieHC: I highly recommend Waldorf education not just for any teacher but especially for teachers who are burnt out from public education and want something that is peaceful, close to nature and that works

BJB2: thanks so much for sharing that information. I did a google search and got several hits on the topic.

HongliJ: This might help me to choose a Waldorf school instead of a public school for my kids

DebbieHC: Waldorf classrooms only contain natural materials. There is no plastic or anything else artificial. All students also do watercolor painting every week and they go out into nature as much as possible

BJB2: . o O (I feel more relaxed just hearing about Waldorf Education!)

BJB2: wonders if this is something that can be taught in an innercity school

DebbieHC: I like to tell people about this because I am a school librarian in a public high school and I understand how frustrating it is to witness so many children who either can't read or don't want to read, escalating apathy, violence and emotional problems.

HongliJ: thanks Debbie

DebbieHC: Yes Waldorf can work in an inner city school. There is an inner city middle school in Milwaukee Wisconsin that uses this system

DebbieHC: Most Waldorf schools are private. However, there are a handful of public ones in this country. There is actually a split within the Waldorf community about whether to keep Waldorf education private or go more public with it

DebbieHC: So what do you folks do to integrate the arts into the curriculum?

BJB2: the site I showed earlier was for homeschooled students

GiselaGst1: joined the room.

GiselaGst1: Hi

SusanR: joined the room.

BJB2: looks around the room to see if anyone has anything they want to contribute?

DebbieHC: If you go to: www.anthroposophy.org you will find tons of information not only on Waldorf education but on other aspects of the underlying philosophy

BJB2: waves hi to Gisela and Sue

GiselaGst1: Hi Bjb

SusanR: we are here, BJB

BJB2: Gisela, we're discussing ArtsSites, a monthly event in Tapped In where we try to integrate the arts across the curriculum

GiselaGst1: OK, what age group

BiancaT: thank you, I'm going to mention it to my sister who is in art edu.

BJB2: Let's share some of the sites that have been shown during ArtsSites

BJB2: have any of you participated in the ArtsConnectEd discussions?

HongliJ: no for me

DebbieHC: No

GiselaGst1: no

BJB2: . o O (the next one is Monday, December 6)

BJB2: www.artsconnected.org

BJB2: click on that url to open a new browser

HongliJ: I'll mark my calendar

BJB2: artsconnected allows you to create your own museum collection

BJB2: and to teach the principles and elements of art

BJB2: students can annotate their art collections

SusanR: pencils in December 6th on her calendar

BJB2: . o O (to show a series of paintings or artwork that follows a theme, for example)

BJB2: this is great for those ESOL students

BJB2: another site we've discussed is Jason Ohler's 4th R

BJB2: you can link to the site from www.jasonohler.com

GiselaGst1: The Jason Ohler 4R site is awesome

BJB2: everyone get Jason's site?

GiselaGst1: yes

HongliJ: I am there

BiancaT: yes

BJB2: another site we reviewed was a site that was planned and created all online here in Tapped In

BJB2: The project is Blanket the World with Peace

GiselaGst1: how do I get, I was not here when you created it.

BJB2: I'm going to give you a url, Gisela...just a sec

BJB2: <http://www.cedarnet.org/emig/peace/>

BJB2: the Peace Blanket theme is peace through the resolution of conflict

BJB2: the digital quilt is still open to submissions of digital squares

GiselaGst1: oh, it is awesome, give me two minutes, so I can look

BJB2: waits a minute so everyone can look

BJB2: . o O (Gisela, one of the advantages of a membership in Tapped In is that you get all the urls in a transcript when you log out)

GiselaGst1: very neat, the hats project is awesome

BJB2: ready to continue?

SusanR: worthwhile joining, Gisela

GiselaGst1: OK

TammyEH: yes

BJB2: blushes. Thanks, the hats were my guys!

GiselaGst1: very nice, BJ

TammyEH: awesome

BiancaT: they are all real good

BJB2: The Very Special Arts were guest speakers for one of the ArtsSites discussions

BJB2: <http://www.vsarts.org/>

BiancaT: wow, the contest winners entries are really good

BJB2: Adrienne Fritze was a guest speaker for Arts for Healing

BJB2: Adrienne's site is Empty and Meaningless: the Box Project

BJB2: <http://www.urbanesque.com/empty/>

BJB2: I've done several sessions on Arts and Math. You can see some of the links at <http://www.backflip.com/members/bjberquist/5490487>

BJB2: I also have a warm spot in my heart for science and the arts

BJB2: <http://www.backflip.com/members/bjberquist/5490490>

BJB2: I'm going to give you two links that will take you to all the sites I've mentioned

BJB2: to access the archived transcripts from ArtsSites go to

www.tappedin.org/transcripts

BJB2: there are also transcripts from the arts and literacy discussions. The next arts and literacy discussion is also on Monday, Dec. 6

BJB2: The topic will be the Comic Book Project

HeatherRic: This is great! I'm learning so much!

BJB2: you can access all my backflip bookmarks at

www.backflip.com/members/bjberquist

HongliJ: I will spend the rest of tonight to visit those sites, thanks a lot BJ

BiancaT: I'm going to try to get on for that one, BJ

BiancaT: all these projects you've implemented in your classroom?

BJB2: the trick is to use the sites to actively engage your students

BJB2: I've adapted the box project to have my students make a Cultural Identity Box

BJB2: I try to take bits and pieces from everything and create a new way of looking at things

BJB2: integrating the arts helps meet the needs of the multiple intelligences...

BJB2: and provides opportunities to present differentiated lessons

BJB2: Let me give you two more sites that are good in planning arts across the curriculum

BJB2: <http://www.getty.edu/education/>

BJB2: <http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/>

TammyEH: thanks...I'm going to have fun looking at all of these sites tonight

BJB2 smiles. You're welcome!

BJB2: any questions? Suggestions? Additions?

TammyEH: nope...just many thanks

BiancaT: yes thank you

BiancaT: lots of things to explore

BJB2: My pleasure, everyone.

BJB2: our time is almost up. If you think of something you want to ask me, send me an email at bjb@tappedin.org

BiancaT: great, thank you again BJ

SusanR: Super Bj

TammyEH: will do..thanks...bye everyone

BJB2 waves goodnight.

HongliJ: Great, thanks BJ and good night everyone