

Title of Session: Blogstreams Salon

Moderator: Bee Dieu

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BeeD: Maybe we should start with introductions

BeeD: tell me where you are from and where you are teaching...for the records

CarlaA: I'm Carla Arena, from Brasilia. I teach at casa Thomas Jefferson, a bi-national center

ChrisGst5: I'm Chris Lima from Brazil and I teach at Cultura Inglesa Porto Alegre, a private language institute

BeeD: Barbara (Bee) Dieu from Sao Paulo, Brasil...teaching at the Franco-Brazilian secondary school

SasaSi: I'm Sasa from Slovenia, I teach EFL to college students in Nova Gorica

AnitaBe: I m Anita Bezic, partly still a student and partly a teacher in Slovenian primary school - teaching English to young learners

AlyneP: Alyne Piazza, from France, I teach English to secondary school pupils

BeeD: Mercedes?

NahirA: I'm Nahir Aparicio and work at a teacher trainer college in Caracas, Venezuela

BeeD: Well, quite an international mix here today...

ChrisGst5: that's really nice

CarlaA: just as international as you, Bee!

BeeD: I'd like first to show you some of the resources you can find at Blogstreams Salon

BeeD: you can come here any time and browse through the files and links at your own time

BeeD: We have links to the chats with experts from the last Evonline session

BeeD: and also the transcripts to all the text chats that happened here

ErikaCr joined the room.

BeeD: Hello Erika, welcome

CarlaA: hi, Erikats! It seems that we are always bumping on each other!

BeeD: would you mind introducing yourself to the group?

ErikaCr: Hi Carla and Bee

ErikaCr: I am Erika Cruvinel. I teach English for Brazilians. I am a computer lab monitor at my school and together with Carla we take care of our school's web site.

ChrisGst5: do we have an agenda or is it a 'free meeting'

BeeD: We will be talking about blog projects Chris

BeeD: And I would like to start with Alyne showing us what she has been up to with her students

BeeD: Alyne, could you situate your environment, age of stds , etc

AlyneP: Ok: we're in the North of France, in a very poor area... but we have many computers!

CarlaA: that's a great start, Alyne!

BeeD: this is a bonus

BeeD: (and an enthusiastic teacher)

AlyneP: My pupils are between 11 and 15, but I'm mostly working with the youngest ones as they are in a special class: we spend 4 hours a week together in the ITC room (and they also stay there for French and Maths periods)

NahirA: that's a lot

AlyneP: (blogging is a nice way to forget I have to go to the police station, about once a year)

NahirA: and excellent

CarlaA: how do you work with them?

ChrisGst5: police station!

AlyneP: Yes, it's something we only have in this part of France: pupils are supposed to spend 30% of their time in that room

AlainKr joined the room.

BeeD embrasse Alain très fort

AlyneP: So I use computers all the time with them... sometimes for just a couple of minutes

AnitaBe: 30% of their time at the police station?

AlainKr: Hello everyone

AnitaBe smiles

NahirA: Hello Alain

AlainKr: I'm afraid I won't stay long

BeeD: Alain is also in France...maybe you would like to introduce yourself?

AlainKr: Haven't finished my preps for tomorrow

BeeD: you can do this in no time

BeeD: join the Latino Americans

BeeD: Slovenians

AlainKr: OK, I' Alain Krizic, I teach English to 15-18 yr olds in Orleans, about 80 miles south of Paris

BeeD: and give Alyne some loving support

CarlaA: Alyne, so what do you do with the kids? What kinds of projects with blogs?

AlyneP: ok, I go on

AlyneP: Last year; I used blogs mainly for exchange purposes

BeeD: Alyne does wonders

CarlaA: with?

AlyneP: I had partners in Holland... and I found blogs a very convenient tool when we couldn't send emails

BeeD: Could you share a link of this project with us Alyne?

CarlaA: that's nice. Now I guess you could have partners in Brazil!!!

AlyneP: I also exchanged with other classes in France and I should be starting working with an English school soon

AlyneP: I'd love to have partners in Brazil

ErikaCr: So you already have.

BeeD: what did you find rewarding in these blogging projects, Alyne?

AlyneP: <http://6i63.blogspot.com/> (first years, exchange with a French class)

AlyneP: <http://3l-blog.blogspot.com/> (fourth years, exchange with a Dutch class... we met in June)

AlyneP: The first thing I noticed was that pupils enjoyed sending comments

AlyneP: and when I started reading the comments, I saw they were correcting mistakes others had made, congratulating them...etc...

BeeD: yes...the comment area is one of the most important features in the blog...see the post made on Dekita - <http://dekita.org/weblog/using-dekita-exchange> we will be talking about this later

AlyneP: They really wanted to write because they knew someone was going to read

ErikaCr: Very nice blogs Alyne. I am checking them right now.

AlyneP: ... and when Bee sent a comment, they went mad!!!

BeeD: hehehe

AlainKr: Yeah, I love your blogs, Alyne ;°)

ErikaCr: Alyne, did each student have a username and password in blogger?

AlyneP: this year, I'm using blogs to show my pupils' works, and I'm introducing sound... they like the idea that it's like a radio program

BeeD: Nahir also sent one of my students a comment and the first thing she did was to share it with her colleagues

SasaSi: I'm looking at them too - they're cool

AlyneP: yes, and it took ages before they all managed to register!

AlyneP: <http://sallauminespodcast.blogspot.com/>

ErikaCr: But it was worth it, wasn't it? I asked because I saw the very organized list of contributors.

AlainKr: I agree that whatever the system you use, the first period is often devoted to technical aspects...

BeeD: It takes some time for them to get used to the technical part and then to the concept

BeeD: and there is also all the side teaching...like safety, copyright issues and netiquette

AlyneP: especially as they are very young and most of them had never used a computer before... but at the end of the year, they were able to use Dreamweaver and create e-stories with pictures, sounds and links!

ErikaCr: I have only started using blogs this year and classes in Brazil start tomorrow. I will use some of your ideas if you don't mind...

BeeD: rip, mix and burn Erika

ErikaCr: Great Bee!

BeeD: I think blogs allow you to incorporate text, sound, images and video...it's a multimedia platform really

BeeD: open for conversations across the web

ErikaCr: Plus it is free and user-friendly.

SasaSi: Does wiki allow incorporating all that too?

BeeD: and this is why it is so important to keep it an open space for conversation

BeeD: allow students ownership

ErikaCr: Can a blogger always delete unwanted comments?

CarlaA: Erika, as the manager of the blog, yes, we can delete it. I had some problems with that blog I have

BeeD: yes...wordpress.com allows you to moderate comments before they go public

AlyneP: You can moderate comments now on blogger

MariaCB joined the room.

BeeD: Welcome Maria

CarlaA: hi, Claudia

MariaCB: Hello everyone

BeeD: Oh..Claudia...from Argentina, right?

MariaCB: That's right!

AnitaBe: Hello dear web mate

ErikaCr: I mean, besides teaching computer skills, and content, we have to teach students how to write respectfully specially if we are having international exchange.

MariaCB: Hi Anita

BeeD: What is essential in blogs IMHO...is that teachers should run real blogs where they write for their peers rather than address students because this does not encourage conversation from outside

AlyneP: I think they're aware of that: the sort of feel they represent their country when they're exchanging... with or without blogs

CarlaA: once I had a student in iEARN writing about how much he loved going out and having fun and drinking to Pakistanis students. Not proper at all, but it was a chance to teach some cultural aspects

BeeD: So teachers should avoid posting instructions to their stds on their blogs...not that instructions are not welcome...but do not use a blog to do it

ErikaCr: Yes, I am willing to take all risks.

BeeD: Let me introduce you to a blogging project my students are taking part this year

CarlaA: yes, Bee. Due to what I've been learning with you, I totally changed my blogging approach this semester and, believe me, ALL my class replied!!!

CarlaA: ...at home

BeeD: My stds are in 10th grade (primeiro colegial), 2nde, first year at high school

BeeD: they've had English now for 4 years

CarlaA: were they your students before?

BeeD: 3 x a week (50 ' each class)

MariaCB: I'd like to see what they do! My students are the same level

BeeD: I take them to the computer lab once a week

BeeD: and the rest they complete at home

BeeD: This is a European Project

CarlaA: Claudia, we have some thousands in that age range!

BeeD: done both in French and English, which is nice for our students who are bilingual

BeeD: <http://blogs.ecml.at/>

MariaCB: I don't know what to do to motivate them!

BeeD: each teacher has a blog and the students also have their own blogs

BeeD: and they are plunged in one blogging environment

CarlaA: maybe, the first step would be to do something that they are into... topics that interest them

BeeD: so you can see on the left hand side les blogs français and the english blogs

BeeD: and then the guests (this is us)

BeeD: <http://blogs.ecml.at/blog.asp?id=104>

BeeD: I started blogging there before my students...just acting as a guest and commenting on the other stds blogs

ErikaCr: Very professional Bee.

BeeD: and this year I decided to join the project with two classes

BeeD: so I have 40 stds blogging in this project

ErikaCr: Do you also teach in the classroom Bee?

BeeD: they have just started...

NahirA: how do you motivate them to do this?

BeeD: some of them have already posted their intros

CarlaA: were they your students before?

BeeD: Some of them were, some of them not

CarlaA: I loved it! Very professional

MariaCB: Do your students just blog or is there any kind of previous draft?

CarlaA: how are the comments at home going?

CarlaA: did they take the pictures?

BeeD: We use the vocabulary we have done in class to use in our posts...so we integrate the blogs closely to what is being done in class

BeeD: so for the introductions...they have the freedom to say what they want

MariaCB: You set the topic?

BeeD: as long as they use I am fond of, I can't bear, etc

BeeD: lol

BeeD: I am planning to do semi-guided topics

ErikaCr: How about all those countries in the list of English blogs? I don't know if I got it right, but were you working with two other countries? Or were you exchanging comments with all of them?

BeeD: we are using bloglines and the students choose the other students they want to correspond with

BeeD: comment on

BeeD: etc

ErikaCr: I see.

BeeD: we will have one semi-guided topic every fortnight

ErikaCr: Oh Bee, I still have so much to learn...

BeeD: where they have to use the voc they have learnt...or discuss topics done in class but for the rest of the time they are free to post what they like, bring discussions to their blogs

BeeD: I have spent about 4 x 50 minute classes setting up the accounts here, at bloglines and on Flickr

MariaCB: How can I see the blog without leaving Tapped In??? When I clicked on the URL I logged off

ErikaCr: I mean, setting a blog is not so difficult. The challenging part is how to work with it effectively. That's why we need to share ideas with other teachers around the world.

BeeD: you have the link opening in a different window Claudia

MariaCB: Yes, but I left the chat

AlainKr: Try to right-click and open in a new window maybe...

ErikaCr: Hold ctrl and click on the link.

BeeD: I think that setting the blog is not difficult...what is difficult is to get the idea of blogging right

MariaCB: I'll try again. Wait for me if I suddenly vanish

AnitaBe: I agree

BeeD: Take Klara for instance

BeeD: <http://blogs.ecml.at/blog.asp?id=591>

CarlaA: that's true, bee...

MariaCB: That worked. Thanks Erika!

AlainKr: Wow, that's a cute blog...

ErikaCr: Good Claudia

BeeD: She has responded comme il faut...she asked me whether she should answer in the comment area or in the main area of the blog...I asked her if she was planning a short comment or a longer post...she wanted a longer post...so she quoted the comment and responded to it+

ErikaCr: Very interesting topic - if you really feel Brazilian...

MariaCB: Your students have a fairly good level of English, Bee. Mine don't.

CarlaA: I loved the way she finished her post!

BeeD: and this is what you would do with a post on someone's else blog that you feel like commenting upon...you would bring the conversation to your blog...quote and link to it, and answer it on your blog

BeeD: so blogging becomes a dance

CarlaA: that's why my idea of samba efl!!!

BeeD: where you thread...visit people...bring people in...talk to them on your own space..

BeeD: absolutely Carla

BeeD: and tango dancers are also welcome

BeeD: and will incorporate some samba steps

NahirA: I can see a comment I made to her

CarlaA: of course. Claudia, with the sexy voice you have, it is a must!

MariaCB: I wish I could dance!!!

NahirA: on Feb. 14

BeeD: and you will learn to use some tango

BeeD: The second project is a bit more ambitious

BeeD: and a bit more engaged

CarlaA: is it with the same group?

BeeD: and involves blogging with exchange stds from the Caucasus

BeeD: who are spending a year in the USA

SasaSi: same age?

ErikaCr: it is nice that each student's page is personalized.

BeeD: <http://youngcaucasus.neweurasia.net/>

BeeD: this will be done by me (tutor) and the kids in the USA

MariaCB: Sexy voice!!!! lol This is what teaching has done to me!

BeeD: my senior stds will participate in the comment area

BeeD: The young women will be given a topic to blog on each week, but they are welcome to blog on any topic throughout the week. The adult mentor bloggers will blog on a specific topic on Sunday, hence inspiring the young women's blog entries. Then throughout the week, the mentors will comment on the young women's blog postings.

CarlaA: interesting, Bee, and more focused

BeeD: Much more advanced as well

CarlaA: sure

BeeD: and needs quite a lot of preparation in terms of language

BeeD: and content

CarlaA: how is the management done? do the girls submit to the tutor before posting?

BeeD: here are the mentors and their subjects <http://ycwmentor.neweurasia.net/>

AlyneP: I'm going to leave you soon

BeeD: Thanks for sharing your work with us Alyne

AlyneP: it's a bit late here

BeeD: and we must make this Blog Day at Cyberlangues rock

AlyneP: I may join you again one of these days, if you want

ErikaCr: Thanks Alyne. It was nice to meet you and I hope we can work on blogs together

BeeD: Please do

BeeD: we have a burgeoning blogging community here

ChrisGst5: I'm leaving now. Tx a lot for the invitation Bee. I listened and learnt a lot from all of you. See you soon

BeeD: waiting to find partners to talk to

BeeD: Do not forget to post your projects to Dekita.org

BeeD: <http://dekita.org/exchange>

BeeD: so you can tell the others your class is open for the exchange

BeeD: Teachers would have to provide an e-mail to Dekita.org that contains a link to a course info page that meets the "must-have" requirements as specified on the Exchange page.

ErikaCr: Bee, I have just set a new blog to interact with my young students' parents. It is in Portuguese. I am going to send the link to their parents this week and let's see their reaction. It is not all done yet, but I already have lots of ideas to work with this blog.
<http://classa2.blogspot.com>

SasaSi: It's getting a bit late for me too - thank you so much for sharing so many wonderful ideas

ErikaCr: Bye Sasa. Great to see you.

BeeD: Thanks for coming

BeeD: and hope to see you again in one month

BeeD: for the monthly session on blogging

SasaSi: it was a pleasure - see you definitely

CarlaA: I'm sure Erika will do a great job

BJB2: April 2

BeeD: if you have any questions or queries

CarlaA: she will certainly have something to say a month from now

AlainKr: I must leave too. Thank you ever so much for this really interesting meeting,
Bee

ErikaCr: I certainly will!

BeeD: just send a word through the Blogstreams salon messaging system or drop me a line privately

AlainKr: See you all

BeeD: Dors Bien Alain and thanks for coming

ChristinLo: Bye !

BeeD: Bonsoir Christine

MariaCB: That's an excellent idea, Erika. I wonder how the parents will respond

NahirA: is anybody working with older students?

CarlaA: I am, Nahir!

NahirA: mine are teachers to-be

NahirA: around 20

ErikaCr: Claudia, these students are new at the school and parents have lots of questions about the course, so I think it will help them. Besides, I want to share their kids' production throughout the semester.

CarlaA: they are adults and I'm blogging with them <http://top21.blogspot.com>

MariaCB: They will love it

BeeD: Is it in English Erika?

ChristinLo: Great! I hope to meet French blogging teachers!

ErikaCr: The communication with parents will be done in Portuguese, and kids' activities in English.

CarlaA: I have all ages, Nahir. from young adults to older fellows

BeeD: I am trying to gather a crowd

NahirA: I'll take a detailed look later

CarlaA: please, let me know if you have any plans

NahirA: we may arrange something for them, maybe you can guide me

CarlaA: tell me what you plan

BeeD: Carla and Erika...there are some great blogging projects happening in Portuguese

NahirA: we're starting a new term in April

BeeD: in the south of Brazil

CarlaA: we have a group of teachers-to-be in my school.

ErikaCr: Really Bee?

BeeD: yes

NahirA: I have an elt methodology course

CarlaA: which ones, Bee?

ChristinLo: Alain, are there French blogging projects at your school?

NahirA: and a second level of language development

CarlaA: well, Nahir, we have a teachers' development course...

ErikaCr: All the activities we do with our students have to be in English, but it is always good to know what other people are doing in Portuguese or any other language...

BeeD: I can send you the addresses later Erika, if you are interested

NahirA: we can set sth up, mine have never blogged

ErikaCr: Please, send us the links later.

NahirA: and to me, Bee

NahirA: I'll try to make tchrs and sts fall in love with this

BeeD: there is always a first time

BeeD: first show them what blogging is

MariaCB: They will Nahir

NahirA: I'll do it

BeeD: ask them to comment on other people's blogs

ErikaCr: I have fallen in love with blogs and with Bee's work.

NahirA: yes, tomorrow we have a workshop, only staff

BeeD: on diverse subjects

MariaCB: That's a first step, Bee. So they can see what this is all about

BeeD: and once they feel confident enough to write about their own interests...let them blog

CarlaA: Nahir, we just presented blogging for teachers. Take a look <http://ctjonline.edublogs.org>

CarlaA: erika and me

CarlaA: you can listen to Graham Stanley, Bee, and a friend from Portugal, Paddy, talking about blogging in the EFL classroom

NahirA: I'll show it to them

MariaCB: You've done an impressive job girls!

ErikaCr: Really nice voice messages!

MariaCB: Where do you get the time???

ErikaCr: I really don't know Claudia...

ChristinLo: Maria, that's my problem too!

CarlaA: well, Claudia, not that we are experienced bloggers, but we didn't want to miss the chance to show to teachers

CarlaA: but it was just to spark their curiosity

CarlaA: they are afraid...

MariaCB: You're always thinking on new projects

ErikaCr: We plan to have other sessions on blogs during this semester. We are going to visit other branches.

NahirA: I'm too

MariaCB: You mean the teachers are afraid?

ChristinLo: I have to leave now, bye and thanks for all

CarlaA: Just because I have Erika with me! It's easier when you have someone that is there with the same beliefs

NahirA: perhaps they're not familiar with internet

MariaCB: Bye Christin

MariaCB: I guess so, Carla

CarlaA: they think that it is hard, not techies, no time, etc... the same old story

MariaCB: You must get on well together

ErikaCr: Claudia. One of my colleagues came to me last week and asked me the difference between a blog and a web cam. First I didn't understand the question, but then I found out that they just don't know... We will have to work hard to make them into blogging.

CarlaA: we do!!!

MariaCB: lol

CarlaA: funny, but sad...

ErikaCr: it is true. I wanted to cry...

CarlaA: really true!!!

NicoleN: I'm new here and I don't understand what is blogging?

CarlaA: Bee, we give you the floor!

BeeD: Well girls... I think I will be leaving you now

NahirA: some people don't like using computers or internet

BeeD: still have lots to do

ErikaCr: Thanks for inviting us Bee.

MariaCB: There's a wide world out there that needs to be "blogevangalized"

BeeD: It was very nice to see you here today

NahirA: change people's mind

BeeD: Have a great week

MariaCB: It was a nice meeting.

BeeD buzzes out of the window

NahirA: thanks Bee. Great session today