

Title of Session: Blogstreams Salon
Moderator: Bee Dieu
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Room: Blogstreams Salon Group

BJB2: Welcome to today's Blogstreams Salon, everyone!

BJB2: Bee has some really exciting information to share.

BeeD: So today...I have no special guest speaker

BeeD: you have to bear with me

BJB2: we usually start the Tapped In discussions with introductions

BJB2: please tell Bee where you are located and what brings you to the discussion

VirginiGst7: I am located in the city of La Puente

VirginiGst7: Class Assignment

HeatherBu: I'm a middle school teacher in Texas, hoping to get my kids (and myself!) blogging

DavidWe: I'm in Pennsylvania (US) north of Philadelphia at the moment. I'm one of the HelpDesk volunteers for Tapped In

BeeD smiles

EmilyW: I am a blogger in Texas, hope to write more about educational topics in my blog

GwenC: I'm a private EFL tutor in Jundiaí SP Brazil - originally from Canastota NY

VirginiGst7: I am currently doing my student teaching

BeeD: I'm an EFL teacher in Sao Paulo, Brazil and am very much interested in blogging and social tools for networking

BeeD: Has anyone had any experience in blogging for some time ...on your own or with classrooms?

HeatherBu shakes her head to Bee's question

DarylP: I a grade 6 teacher in Saskatchewan, Canada and I am interested in blogging as a classroom tool.

GwenC: I have a blog that's been semi abandoned for a while now

BeeD: I have been blogging since 2003...

DavidWe just registered for a free (education-oriented) blog, yesterday

BeeD: with students

BeeD: and on my own

VirginiGst7: can someone give me more info on blog

EmilyW: I have my own blog, been blogging for about a year and a half, but it seems like I am going blank on topics to write about

BeeD: and have this year started using social tools in the classroom

GwenC: By social tools you mean...?

BeeD: A blog Virginia is like a diary online

BeeD: that is very easy to publish

BeeD: and that can be constantly updated

HeatherBu pokes David...see?

BeeD: People can comment on your posts

VirginiGst7: what people

BeeD: Anyone

VirginiGst7: oh I see

DavidWe: What? See what?

BeeD: You can also decide to moderate the comments

BeeD: and only let people you know write on it

BeeD: but this is not usually the spirit of the web

DavidWe mentions that the title of his blog is, "Do I Want to Blog?"

BeeD: the web is about people and open communication

VirginiGst7: and?

BeeD: So let me show you an example of a project which I am co-running with 2 friends

BeeD: and which shows you exactly what blogs are all about

VirginiGst7: okay

BeeD: <http://dekita.org>

BeeD: So I would like you to have a look at the page and ask me any questions you may have

HeatherBu: Bee, how do you cope with schools blocking access to blogs?

BeeD: Dekita is a blog aimed at educators

HeatherBu: . o O (I'm thinking of trying a workaround by using a wiki)

BeeD: EFL/ESL mostly

VirginiGst7: okay

VirginiGst7: got it

VirginiGst7: Let me read

BeeD: On the main page we highlight teachers who are blogging

BeeD: or give some indications on how to best use blogs (see archives and articles as well)

GwenC: My problem, when I worked with the blog is how to correct the students without "disdoing" their owrk... I think wikis might help with that

BeeD: I do not correct my stds at first

GwenC: How do you all, have you all, handled correction to blog posts

BeeD: After about two months posting

GwenC: ... and the intimidation of the students to publish their "English"

GwenC: ?

BeeD: I check the main mistakes that have occurred

BeeD: explain them in class

GwenC: Then repost?

BeeD: and ask the stds to review their blogs

BeeD: and correct their mistakes

VirginiGst7: is there a specific grade

BeeD: I do not say who has made what mistake

GwenC: Oh, so each student has a blog? or you have a blog and they post?

BeeD: yes

DarylP: It depends on what the intention of a particular post. Some I expect work to properly written, others I look at the ideas.

BeeD: I have about 80 stds blogging this year

VirginiGst7: any specific grade

BeeD: Are you on the Dekita page?

BeeD: If you click on the exchange tab

HeatherBu . o O (I don't think so, Virginia)

GwenC: And you rss all those blogs or have a suprglu type account?

BeeD: I have them all on Bloglines

GwenC: OK

BeeD: And they are also participating in the Exchange here at Dekita

VirginiGst7: I am printing some info

BeeD: If you have a class who is blogging and has separate blogs

BeeD: for the stds

BeeD: you can announce it on the DEkita Exchange

BeeD: and find partners to write

BeeD: If you look at the column on the left

HeatherBu . o O (isn't that mainly for EFL/ESL?)

BeeD: you will notice that there are a number of classes announced

GwenC: I commented with another teacher that some LMS have blog functions... like moodle... but it isn't quite the same thing - dekita is very interesting

BeeD: and we state their age, level and location

VirginiGst7: This is so cool

BeeD: If you click on the Orchard tab

BeeD: you will see the latest posts of all the classes who are taking part

BeeD: (it's like a mega Bloglines)

BeeD: on the left you have folders with the names of the classes

BeeD: and when you click on them, they open and you see the individual student blogs

BeeD: so when your students go online

BeeD: they can read the posts

BeeD: and decide who to comment on

BeeD: So...you can practice and comment on some of the blogs if you wish

BeeD: At Dekita, we usually screen the blogs

VirginiGst7: I am surfing the Dekita page

BeeD: as we believe that posts in the blogs should be open...and let other people comment on them...we do not list blogs which just show homework exercises

BeeD: we believe blogs are vehicles for conversation

BeeD: and reflection

Maggi joined the room.

BeeD hugs Maggi

HeatherBu hugs Maggi

BJB2 hugs Maggi. Glad you could join us!

Maggi hugs Bee. BJ and Heather

DavidWe hugs Maggi

BeeD: If you click on the folder Bee-blogging from the Tropics

Maggi hugs d, 2

BeeD: you will find my own class blog on which I reported my trip to New Zealand

BeeD: and also the kids' blogs

HeatherBu: Lovely pic, Bee

BeeD: if you click on the title of the post inside the Orchard, it will take you to the post on the blog

BeeD: where you can comment

BeeD: I was away for about 2 weeks

BeeD: and when I had the connection, I kept in contact with the kids

BeeD: posted through <http://flickr.com>, a social tool which allows you to post pics

BeeD: tag , give titles and post comments

BeeD: it is a social tool because you can join pools or groups of people who share the same interest for photo themes

BeeD: What is nice

BeeD: is that slowly kids start building connections

BeeD: learners in general

BeeD: and yourself if you also decide to blog

BeeD: and start building a web presence

BeeD: which is important professionally

BeeD: it was partly due to this that I was invited to take part in the unconference in NZ

BeeD: you can find some of my comments on it in my own blog <http://beewebhead.net>

VirginiGst7: Bee I am going to become a member

VirginiGst7: I am learning a lot of wonderful things

VirginiGst7: for ELL

VirginiGst7: for teacher

VirginiGst7: for students

VirginiGst7: for everyone

BeeD: what is ELL?

VirginiGst7: English Language Learners

BeeD: Yes..blogging is fantastic

BeeD: and when you combine it with social tools

BeeD: and podcasting

GwenC: Bee, you mentioned the importance to have a web presence but I think we can extend that to the students. The blogging helps their learning in the topic area and their online capacities which is more and more important

BeeD: the kids start producing lots of interesting things

BeeD: They build their own language portfolio

VirginiGst7: yes of course

BeeD: which they can keep once they leave the course

BeeD: this does not happen when you are closed in an LMS

VirginiGst7: LMS?

BeeD: so I usually use the LMS only for very directed work

BeeD: Learning Management Systems

VirginiGst7: oh

BeeD: like Moodle, Blackboard, etc

BeeD: I hope my students go on blogging in English once they are not with me anymore

BeeD: some do

BeeD: some others open a blog in their own language

BeeD: but what is important is that they chronicle their learning process

GwenC: Bee, do any of the other participant work with adults? How would you adapt blogging to adult professionals

VirginiGst7: its so fantastic

BeeD: and they can also interact with others

VirginiGst7: yes, blogging to adult professionals

BeeD: We opened the Dekita site because we found it was difficult sometimes to find other students

BeeD: If you are interested in blogging Virginia

Maggi: yes

BeeD: there is a great 6 week workshop that is going to start mid January

BeeD: for free

TerryS joined the room.

VirginiGst7: through this website

BeeD: Hi Terry, welcome

TerryS: hi

BeeD: We are having a conversation on blogging

TerryS: may I listen in?

VirginiGst7: welcome

BeeD: Take a seat and make yourself comfortable

TerryS: done!

BeeD: So, the workshop is held from mid January to end of February

VirginiGst7: Online

BeeD: it's entirely online

BeeD: and free

BeeD: it is offered by Tesol

VirginiGst7: great

BeeD: but you do not have to be a member to participate

GwenC: EVO ? Bee

BeeD: anyone can participate

BeeD: yes..EVO

BeeD: Electronic Village Online

BeeD: I will be offering one for more advanced bloggers

BeeD: but there will be one for beginners as well

VirginiGst7: Mid January

BeeD: and also the Becoming a Webhead workshop

VirginiGst7: even though I am student teaching

VirginiGst7: may i

BeeD: which gives you an overview of tools you can use

BeeD: sure

BeeD: you can enroll

GwenC: Are the archives from previous years open... so we can discover if we are advanced or not?

BeeD: most welcome

VirginiGst7: thanks Bee

BeeD: I think that we will be publishing the page with the addresses for people to enroll in December

VirginiGst7: any reminders or just log in

BeeD: I will post a link here in the Blogstreams room

BeeD: so you can find what interests you

BeeD: As for the advanced bloggers Gwen

BeeD: what we require is that you have had some blogging experience

BeeD: on your own or with classes

BeeD: and podcasting

GwenC: ok

BeeD: as this will be the second half of the workshop

HeatherBu . o O (Gwen, perhaps we can practice together?)

VirginiGst7: This for around the world

BeeD: The first three weeks will be on blogs/social tools and Dekita

VirginiGst7: right

VirginiGst7: international

BeeD: for the beginner's blog session

BeeD: how to configure the blogs and insert all kinds of applications

GwenC: Heather, I am at a dead end with the blogs... reason I'm here

VirginiGst7: any other info Bee

VirginiGst7: that would be helpful

BeeD: Open to your questions

HeatherBu: me, too, Gwen.

GwenC: I don't know if I should immigrate to wikis... or insist with the blog... my students like the exchange

GwenC: but I think it could be better

VirginiGst7: wikis?

BeeD: wikis are good for collaborative writing

VirginiGst7: wikis?

BeeD: they serve a different purpose

BeeD: <http://flnw.wikispaces.com>

GwenC: wikis ARE very technical looking though - a bit scary for adults

BeeD: a wiki is a collaborative page

BeeD: where you collaborate on the same document

BeeD: there is no personality in the wiki

HeatherBu: I'm using one (each student has her/his own page) because all blogging sites are blocked from school.

BeeD: right

BeeD: you can use wordpress.com (blog) - as it does not have the word blog in it, it may pass

BeeD: some schools in the US block blogs

BeeD: I had the same pb at school

GwenC: Bee, you had a problem here?

BeeD: but then explained my project to the tech dept and the school director and they liberated it

BeeD: yes

BeeD: orkut is blocked for instance

GwenC: Ok, I can see orkut being blocked

BeeD: and so is skyblog

VirginiGst7: Learning lots

BeeD: but it is a matter of talking to the IT dept

VirginiGst7: Thanks everyone

BeeD: and explaining your work

BeeD: You are welcome Virginia

HeatherBu: Nope, I tried

HeatherBu: At least wikispaces lets us use the discussion/comments

BeeD: and make yourself a member

BeeD: of Tapped In

BeeD: and Blogstreams

VirginiGst7: okay

BeeD: I will keep you posted on the EVO workshop

VirginiGst7: I am going to spread the word

VirginiGst7: thanks

BeeD: good girl

VirginiGst7: okay

HeatherBu smiles

TerryS: is there an EVO web site?

VirginiGst7: smiles too

BeeD: you can see the one from last year

VirginiGst7: where

BeeD: the one for next year is not yet ready

BeeD: let me check

VirginiGst7: Gwen still there?

GwenC: Yes I am...looking up links

VirginiGst7: oh okay

BeeD: <http://webpages.csus.edu/~hansonsm/announce.html>

GwenC: Do you want the link to EVO Bee or have you got it?

BeeD: this is the announcement for last year

VirginiGst7: EVO?

Maggi: Hi Em

BeeD: yes

GwenC: Right.. I clicked too fast

HeatherBu . o O (Bee, the sad thing is...IT flat refuses. "We don't want to expose the children to any harm.")

BeeD: there should be one ready for 2007 at the end of November

BeeD: Try Personal Learning Spaces

TerryS: Has anyone used classblogmeister?

VirginiGst7: no

GwenC: EVO is the link Bee posted

BeeD: it's a more closed environment

BeeD: www.personallearningspaces.com

VirginiGst7: page does not display

BeeD: It's being run by a group of American educators

BJB2: we're almost out of time. The next Blogstreams Salon is November 5. Is that correct, Bee?

GwenC: Bee, can't even blogspot be restricted to password access?

VirginiGst7: How young can kids begin

TerryS: I am using classblogmeister with 9-10 year olds.

VirginiGst7: How about 6-7 years old

VirginiGst7: First graders

TerryS: I guess 6-7 would be ok too.

TerryS: It's run by the teacher.

VirginiGst7: really

VirginiGst7: oh

VirginiGst7: Thanks Terry

BeeD: My connection is fickle

TerryS: I've just started exploring it - I want my kids to use it for communication with friends in Taiwan.

BeeD: <http://personallearningspace.com/>

VirginiGst7: Terry tell me more

BeeD: this one is totally closed

VirginiGst7: Uh

TerryS: www.classblogmeister.com

BeeD: just send word to Lee Baber

BeeD: and David Cormier

BeeD: they are running this project

HeatherBu: I like classblogmeister too, Terry.

TerryS: You can get a free account and play around with it.

GwenC: Looks very interesting, Terry

HeatherBu: we used to be able to use blogmeister from school, but now that's been blocked as well.

BeeD: I understand that in the US, there have been lots of restrictions

GwenC: Go ahead, Virginia

BeeD: DOPA, right?

VirginiGst7: U mean chat rooms

TerryS: We have a lot of blocking also - I have an open channel because of video stuff I do.

BeeD: you should read Anne Davis blog

GwenC: chatrooms and any social networking needs to be overseen which is difficult and thus easier blocked

BeeD: <http://anne.teachesme.com/>

HeatherBu: I'm just grateful they haven't blocked TI!

BeeD: Anne Davis is a fantastic educator...you should follow her blog

GwenC: I need to go. It was a good talk. See you the 4th?

BeeD: thanks for coming

BeeD: and see you all next month

GwenC: Bye, it was my pleasure

TerryS: I must be going now - this was a great opportunity today.

BJB2 waves bye to Terry. Thanks for joining the discussion

SusanR: Blogstreams ..one of the many informative sessions here, Virginia

SusanR: Do check the calendar for more upcoming events

TerryS: Goodbye - I will check the calendar. I only learned of its existence before visiting this group.

TerryS: Bye all.