

Title of Session: Blogstreams Salon

Moderator: Bee Dieu

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Room: Blogstreams Salon Group

BeeD: I would like to welcome you to Blogstreams Salon

BeeD: which happens every first Sunday of the month

BeeD: We usually start with introductions

BeeD: I teach EFL in a bilingual school in Sao Paulo, Brazil and have been working with collaborative projects online and more recently with blogs and social tools

GaryML: My name Gary and I teach 7th grade Texas History in San Antonio TX

ClaudiaT: I teach first grade in Annandale VA, this is my first year teaching

BeeD: Gary and Claudia, is this your first time at Tappedin?

ClaudiaT: Yes it is. I have to explore Tapped in for a leadership in technology class

BeeD: Right...and what kind of technology are you using at school, Claudia?

GaryML: No I've attended many tapped in sessions before

BeeD: Are you using any kind of technology with your 7th grade, Gary?

ClaudiaT: unitedstreaming using the projection system, powerpoint presentation, word for writing and the smartboard once

GaryML: Yes, we have computer labs and portable laptops

BeeD: anyone using social tools like blogs , for instance?

GaryML: no we haven't used blogs this year, and I don't believe 8th grade is either

DavidBa: I am for a class in graduate school...however I have yet to include a blog or wiki in the classroom as a teacher

ClaudiaT: Not in my first grade class, but I have a blog for the graduate course I am taking

BeeD: what are your impressions and how have you been using them?

DavidBa: Are we in the same class Claudia?

ClaudiaT: That's what I was going to ask

BeeD smiles

DavidBa: Coffman, ITEC

ClaudiaT: Dr. Coffman

DavidBa smiles

ClaudiaT: fun

DavidWe: David, Claudia, Claudia, David

DavidBa: nice to meet you

BeeD: well...meeting at Blogstreams

ClaudiaT: nice to meet you too

DavidWe: Tapped In is such a great social environment

BeeD: what a coincidence

PatriciaGl: that's pretty incredible

BeeD: I always said blogs bring people together ...hehehe

PatriciaGl: or Tapped In!

BeeD: exactly

BeeD: this is where I first landed

BeeD: when I started surfing

DavidBa: For my intro: I teach HS English (11th inclusion), Humanities, and Creative Writing in Virginia

BeeD: nice to meet you David

DavidBa: likewise

PatriciaGl: I should introduce myself as well. I teach adult students (19-24) in an English Prep program at a university in Toronto

ClaudiaT: I have a question, I have been trying to post assignments to my blog but after I do and look, you cannot see the post, Any ideas why?

BeeD: This year I am teaching English as a Foreign Language to high school stds

DavidBa: Hi Patricia

PatriciaGl: Hi David

DavidBa: Try hitting "refresh"

BeeD: and I have been blogging with them since 2003

DavidBa: My blog does the same thing

BeeD: which blog platform are you using?

DavidBa: blogger

ClaudiaT: blogger

BeeD: I use Wordpress.com

PatriciaGl: did you press 'draft' or 'publish'?

BeeD: Here is the link to my class blog if you would care to see

ClaudiaT: yes, I did. I also tried to edit twice

BeeD: <http://lycee.wordpress.com>

BeeD: I have been having trouble with the new version of Blogger

PatriciaGl: if you pressed 'draft' it's stored on your dashboard but will not appear on the blog

BeeD: somehow it does not work as well as it did before

ClaudiaT: It was working fine until the other day

BeeD: but I am sure they are improving on it

ClaudiaT: I always press publish

BeeD: yes..drafts do not appear...maybe you should refresh the page

ClaudiaT: I will keep trying

BeeD: I have just come across a networking platform which seems to be working well

BeeD: it's called Ning

BeeD: <http://ning.com>

EmilyW: what do you not like about the new blogger?

BeeD: I think that I grew tired of Blogger...lol and what I love about Wordpress is the possibility of having both posts and pages

BeeD: uploading files

BeeD: it's a little power house

BeeD: it also gives different privacy and editing options

ClaudiaT: I am new to blogs so I don't know much about it

BeeD: so this is very useful when you are webpublishing with a class

DavidBa: Can you talk a bit about your experiences webpublishing

BeeD: My students learn English as a Foreign Language

BeeD: so exposure to the language and practice beyond the classroom is vital

BeeD: I use blogs and other social tools for them to learn how to network

BeeD: how to find content according to their own interests

ClaudiaT: all done in class

BeeD: so I do not use blogs as a notebook to post homework

BeeD: each student has his/her own blog

DavidBa: What about schools that have less-than-adequate technology resources

BeeD: which they customize according to their preference

BeeD: We have 1 computer room with 17 PCs

BeeD: and I have a class of 22

DavidBa: I guess you could make it a weekly rather than daily activity if computers access was limited

BeeD: which is split in two

BeeD: one day per week

DavidBa: makes sense

BeeD: so I take 11 each time

BeeD: we have 3 hours a week

ClaudiaT: interesting

BeeD: one of which is in the computer room

BeeD: so this is when we do technology and English

DavidBa: two 1.5 hour blocks?

BeeD: 50 minutes

BeeD: with one group

ClaudiaT: I have to introduce the use of computers during centers or content areas

BeeD: and 50 with the other

DavidBa: ah

BeeD: so throughout the year

BeeD: they learn how to use the blog (referring to posts, commenting on other blogs, posting about topical themes, linking to others)

BeeD: they also learn how to use the 4trio (things, places, people) + Flickr + Bloglines

ClaudiaT: what?

BeeD: If you have a look at the <http://lycee.wordpress.com> class blog

BeeD: you will see the links to all these tools

PatriciaGl: flickr is used for pictures

BeeD: and also the links to the student blogs

PatriciaGl: bloglines for reading other people's blogs

ClaudiaT: thanks

BeeD: it's an RSS aggregator

PatriciaGl: 4trio for connecting with others who have similar interests

PatriciaGl: a lot of options for engaging students

BeeD: a social tool which uses tagging to highlight the most popular choices

ClaudiaT: I guess this works better for older students

BeeD: yes...but I have also used blogs with total beginners - 11 year olds

PatriciaGl: I think you can use it with younger students too

ClaudiaT: Yeah but 6 and 7 year olds

BeeD: Anne Davis has used blogs very successfully with primary school students

ClaudiaT: they are trying to learn how to read and write

BeeD: let me see if I can find the address of her blog

ClaudiaT: that would cool

BeeD: This is her blog <http://anne.teachesme.com/>

ClaudiaT: I have been trying to introduce the use of computers in my classroom but it's hard when you only have one computer that works. Friday I got a laptop for my room, so that makes 2

BeeD: and there you should find links to her projects

SusanR joined the room.

BeeD: Welcome Susan

BeeD: I think you can do a lot of things with 2 computers

ClaudiaT: I will take a look at it after this session

SusanR: Hi Bee

SusanR listens

DavidWe waves to Susan

BeeD: kids can draw, you can teach them how to scan and then you can upload their work

ClaudiaT: true

BeeD: they can read ..and you can record their voices

ClaudiaT: I have been letting them write their stories in the computer

BeeD: together with their drawings

ClaudiaT: never thought about that

BeeD: re-telling stories

BeeD: they love being the stars

PatriciaGl: you can then publish their stories on your class blog and give the link to the parents

ClaudiaT: oh yes they do

PatriciaGl: they'll be proud

ClaudiaT: that would be great but a lot of our parents do not have computers at home

BeeD: Here are Anne's projects

BeeD: <http://anne.teachesme.com/my-weblog-projects/>

BeeD: they can come and see them at school

PatriciaGl: yeah, that's a problem in many places

BeeD: maybe prepare it all and then make a show...kids will be proud

ClaudiaT: a lot of them hold 2 to 3 jobs to put food on the table

PatriciaGI: but, the projects will be saved in one place for the future

ClaudiaT: we are doing that for poetry night at the end of April

ClaudiaT: that makes sense

PatriciaGI: you can show the blog with their projects on a big screen (?)

BeeD: This is the ABC project Anne saved in an E-book

ClaudiaT: I have blackboard that they can also access and where I have put stuff

BeeD: <http://www2.gsu.edu/~coeapd/abc/>

BeeD: Blackboard is a closed system which only the institution and teachers have access

BeeD: parents and kids don't

BeeD: once they leave the institution

BeeD: and this is why my stds have their own blogs

ClaudiaT: our parents have access to it, we gave each one a password during back to school night

BeeD: because their work goes together with them

BeeD: it's their own portfolio

BeeD: their work

ClaudiaT: and students too

BeeD: What about you Gary and David?

BeeD: Have you used blogs or are planning to use them?

BeeD: Susan?

DavidBa: I had my Creative Writing classes create hardcopy portfolios ...I think I may try webpublishing next year as the showcase method

DavidBa: Maybe create a class web page and/or blogging

DavidBa: Any suggestions I'm all ears

DavidBa: I have not used blogs with my kids yet...

SusanR: Since I am a sub ..not really

DavidBa: ...but I am a first year teacher...a newbie...I'm just trying to make it through the first year alive!

ClaudiaT: me too

ClaudiaT: paper work paper work

DavidBa: But I can already see the technological improvements I can make to existing lessons

PatriciaGl: blogging helps

ClaudiaT: yes I have so many ideas for next years

BeeD: Yes...they are exciting when the kids start producing their own content under your guidance

GaryML: I haven't used blogs, but once I find out more info I would like to incorporate them into my lessons

ClaudiaT: they love technology, when I bring the projection system out they get so excited

DavidBa: Do you ever encounter teachers that are negative about technology?

BeeD: There is a 7th/8th grade teacher doing wonders in Canada - Clarence Fisher

BeeD: let me give you the address of his blog

DavidBa: Maybe consider it too much entertainment?

BeeD: I have linked my stds to his

SusanR: I like playing with various blog formats

BeeD: and they have been chatting on their cultural differences

SusanR: <http://www.tastyword.com/sroseman/>

SusanR: and one for our travels

DavidBa: Just curious...I have met resistance with some older teachers at my school..they are no help

BeeD: Clarence lives in a village that is the size of our school...lol

PatriciaGl: I have met resistance with older teachers too

BeeD: <http://mr-fisher.edublogs.org/>

BeeD: So have I

ClaudiaT: me too

BeeD: but I am the older teacher...hehehe

BeeD: so it was the other way round

DavidBa: "Fear of the unknown" and the thought/fear that students might know more than they do

PatriciaGl: yes, that's it

SusanR: good idea to play around with blogs on your own .. you become more at ease
<http://www.xanga.com/sroseman>

BeeD: When I started

PatriciaGl: also, people don't like to change the ways they've been teaching for years

DavidBa: Agree

BeeD: many stds were much better than I was

BeeD: and they taught me

BeeD: which was much fun

PatriciaGl: however, I have seen some 'warming up' towards blogs

DavidBa: ME too...I'm no spring chicken (late to teaching)

ClaudiaT: a 9 year old taught me how to use powerpoint years ago

DavidWe smiles

BeeD: I think that there are many old timers using technology

DavidBa: ...but a lot of teachers like control and I think the learning curve is scary

DavidWe: Keep that 9 year old's cell phone number, Claudia

ClaudiaT: it takes time to learn

PatriciaGl: it takes time to get used to new ideas and then to learn how to use new things

ClaudiaT: it's in speed dial

DavidWe: . o O (good idea!)

BeeD: and that this is a stereotype considering that younger ones are more innovative - at my school it's the young ones who do not want to innovate

BeeD: lol

ClaudiaT: you're right, as a first year teacher I have learned so much this year. I want to introduce technology in my classroom the first day of school

DavidWe: Might have a few other things to do on your first day, too, Claudia

BeeD: sometimes there is an issue with classroom management

PatriciaGl: or administration, or resources

ClaudiaT: yeah I know, I will do it little by little, classroom management comes first

DavidBa: biggest issue we have had in the Lab is kids staying on task...we installed a "Big Brother" system for the teachers that never seems to work...and a ridiculous filter that denies 80% of all sites

BeeD: this is terrible

DavidBa: positive - they stay on task

PatriciaGl: how old are the students, David?

DavidBa: negative - you can't do any research

DavidBa: High school

BeeD: like me

BeeD: I have not had much trouble with mine

BeeD: they enjoy doing research and working on their blogs

DavidBa: Blogging would be okay in our envir...just research is severely limited due to the filtering

PatriciaGl: mine need deadlines and assessment build in

BeeD: maybe because it is not forced upon them

PatriciaGl: to gently motivate them

BeeD: they have a choice of subjects

BeeD: to choose

BeeD: and develop

DavidBa: any site with "music" "film" "video" in title is denied

DavidBa: ...teaching the humanities, that makes life difficult

BeeD: this does not teach them, does it? I would be furious if this happened to me

BeeD: how big is your class David?

DavidBa: Humanities: two classes, 25 per

BeeD: so you have the 25 at the same time in the room doing research

DavidBa: yes

ClaudiaT: enough computers

PatriciaGl: do they do research in groups or each separately?

DavidBa: actually yes

BeeD: I feel projects or something they have to produce works nicely

DavidBa: we have two labs AND a stocked library

DavidBa: we are pretty fortunate

ClaudiaT: yes you are

BeeD: For two years we engaged in a foodquest

DavidBa: but with that kind of freedom, I guess the "powers that be" want to limit the chance at poor decision making by the students on the web

BJB2 . o O (you have two minutes left, Bee.)

BeeD: poor decision comes from ignorance of what there is I would say...and not being guided how to avoid it

BeeD: lol

ClaudiaT: but aren't we supposed to teach them

BeeD: Thanks BJ

BJB2: The next BlogStreams Salon is scheduled for May 6

BeeD: I will be back from my trip

DavidBa: Thanks for all the ideas and conversation

BeeD: bye then

PatriciaGl: this hour goes by sooo quickly!

ClaudiaT: thanks a lot for the new ideas and websites

BeeD: must go back to my corrections

PatriciaGl: have a great trip!

BeeD: You are welcome Claudia

PatriciaGl: good luck everyone with blogging and other new ideas!

BeeD: go over them at leisure

ClaudiaT: have nice time on your trip

BeeD: lots of good ideas there

BeeD: Thank you

BeeD: And see you in a month

PatriciaGI: new beginnings are always exciting

PatriciaGI: bye

BeeD: Yes, aren't they?

ClaudiaT: bye

DavidBa: bye

BeeD: Ciao everyone and have a great Easter time

DavidWe: Boa Noite!

PatriciaGI: bye, bye, bye! talk to you next month