Title of Session: Mr. Collaboration
Moderator: Jeff Cooper
Title of File: 2005festMrC
Date: July 20, 2005

Room: Jeff Cooper's Office

JeffC: OK everybody... let's get started. WELCOME!

JeffC: Let me handle a few things first to make your time at this session more worthwhile.

JeffC: For starters... scroll down the top frame and take a look at my office.

JeffC: Take a quick look at the "10 Steps for Successful Chat at Tapped In."

ChristinaT looks around in Jeff's office.

ChristinaT: Lots of links from a quick glance.

JeffC: During this "Mr. Collaboration" session... I will welcome questions/comments... but since there will be many people here... and text may scroll very quickly, I *strongly advise* people Detach their chat window first.

MarleighG: I love the concept of a "collaboratory"

JeffC: To do that: 1) Click the "Actions" drop down menu 2) Select: Detach 3) Maximize your detached chat window.

JeffC: That way... you'll have the full screen in chat (and the web window will be separate).

JeffC: OK... the title of my session is "Mr. Collaboration." In addition to this session, I will be hosting a number of guest speakers throughout the day.

JeffC: To see who they are, you may want to take a look at
http://snurl.com/mrcollaboration

JeffC: If you click on the hyperlink, you may want to hold the Ctrl button down... if you have pop-ups blocked... sometimes that may log you off.

MarshaR: What a lineup

MarleighG: I'm learning!

JeffC: OK... the next thing I'd like to show you is an article I wrote entitled "Building 21st Century Collaborative Learning Communities" http://snurl.com/netc1

MarleighG: thanks

JeffC: I'd like people to scan the article... and we will discuss it here.

MarshaR: very cool trackstar

SusanR . o O (my session is in Trackstar)

SusanR: K to 3+ Great Resources Web Tools

JeffC: As people are reading my article... I'll put up a few thoughts.

JeffC: The Net is one of the most underutilized tools in education. Very few educators truly harness its potential, oftentimes because they don't know what the possibilities are, are lacking support, have too many other duties and commitments (thank you NCLB), are blocked by administration from sites (like Tapped In).

AaronPC: yes...many misconceptions about the internet....

JeffC: But the number one reason why the Net is underutilized is that teachers don't collaborate enough! Human beings collectively are better search engines than Google! But how often do we work with our peers online... share ideas (lessons, approaches, etc.). Too often we are left to our own devices... and end up reinventing the virtual wheel.

BeeD agrees with Jeff

AaronPC: I think many teachers don't realize the collaborative potential that tools on the internet offer us. They see the internet as a place to get information - and not-the-best information at that.

JeffC: Exactly Aaron

JudithAK: Jeff, good point on the collaboration, how to get around the argument that as a teacher I barely have enough time in the day to collaborate with people in the same building?

BrendaE: My school is trying to revise schedules so that teachers will have more time to develop their technical skills and connect technology to the classroom.

AaronPC: Tough one Judith....maybe some of the tools help to manage and facilitate exchange?

JeffC: Tapped In is a global educational collaborative with over 17,000 members and 700+ professional development groups. This is just one place where educators can make their lives easier.

BeeD: many also act like consumers ... want things happening for them

JeffC: Judith... how many hours a week do you lesson plan?

AaronPC: right....all take and no give.

JudithAK: hard to say, I have one prep a day, but I spend much time surfing for good "stuff" outside of school

JudithAK: I think I will spend more time getting to know tapped in that is for sure!

BrendaE: Tapped In seems like a good place to try to start teacher collaboration.

AaronPC wonders if Judith is aggregating RSS feeds

DwayneS: I liked the "Freedom Of Virtual Speech" part of the article

BeeD: Tapped In was a milestone in my professional development

JeffC: Judith... if you're surfing by yourself "looking for good stuff" ... why not collaborate with your middle school peers and pool your resources?

JeffC: Thanks Bee

JudithAK: we do that to an extent

JeffC: That's good

LydiaM: maybe someone should make a site that everyone could post the sites they liked to use for teaching

AaronPC: I like the part about helping students become more engaged with their education.

JeffC: There are a number of sites like that Lydia.

HalaH: blogspot

JosephFu: Really like what.

JeffC: Thanks Aaron... I'll get to Collaborative Internet Sites in a minute.

HalaH: if you have a blog you can do that

BrendaE: do you have the URLs for any of those sites? (where teachers post sites they find valuable)

HalaH: Dave's Cafe does that, but there are more better sites, like

JudithAK: yes

SusanR: Brenda, there are social bookmarking sites like delicious and delirious for that purpose

MarshaR: I am hoping to find a place to talk to others about how to use the good stuff that I've already found. I'm drowning in fabulous URLs.

WanthyD: I enjoyed the freedom of virtual speech

BrendaE: I'll have to check them out.

SusanR: come to my session ..Web Tools K to 3+ Great Resources, Marsha

JeffC: http://del.icio.us/

BrendaE: I'd love to have a listing of fabulous URLs to drown in.

HalaH: Marsha, you can put them in your office if you have one in tapped in

JeffC: Brenda... I have about 1700 K-12 links at
http://www.mybookmarks.com/public/coops

SusanR: Here's a sample from my session
http://de.lirio.us/rubric/entries/user/sroseman/tags/SitesThatSizzle

AaronPC wonders if Marsha is blogging.

DanielCH: Yea, I'm sure all teachers have good websites, but need a place to share them with everyone

JeffC: I have the same links at: http://www.mybookmarks.com/public/Collaboration

BrendaE: Fabulous! Thank you. This is why I joined the session, to get ideas and share resources.

ChristinJH: How do we get teachers involved in collaboration if they do not know anything about it??

AaronPC: blog them...furl them...file them in del.icio.us.......tag them like crazy.

JeffC: If you go to http://www.mybookmarks.com login: Collaboration password: tappedin ... you can *add your own links or download what is there*.

AmandaD: Anyone know of good sites to find out about teaching abroad? I'm in NY now.

SusanR: too many tags.. I am in overload right now

BeeD: You learn about collaboration by collaborating

JudithAK: absolutely

JeffC: One of the problems with collaborating is that we tend to think of collaborating with our peers at school... and if that doesn't work... we don't go much farther than that.

JeffC: If your peers aren't collaborating... you get frustrated.

BrendaE: Maybe putting a few teachers together for short-term projects.

MarleighG: I'm at the stage where I have to learn to manage my bookmarks and go through them regularly...it doesn't help me to have hundreds...one has to be selective

BeeD: I never managed to collaborate at school...this is why I moved outwards...and am going back to school and finding ways of doing it

LydiaM: maybe you could collaborate with students

JeffC: Why not join with others who "already get it" by using the Net to collaborate?

MarshaR: I'm just not sure that I'm really harnessing the power of furl, del.iciou.us....it's cool...but I want to maximize it

BeeD: By joining a project, a mailing list, a learning group/community you start getting involved

SusanR: Marleigh, I have 7 or 8 of those bookmarks that I frequent...that helps

BrendaE: In my school situation, I think we need to learn to collaborate with one another before we can effectively become more global. I don't know how others feel about that strategy.

RitaZ: collaboration is the key to any successful project, definitely

JudithAK: I think we can take our students into the global arena faster than our colleagues

SusanSi: teachers at my school say I have too much time on my hands if I talk about this

AmandaD: There seems to be little collaboration at large schools. I'm at a small private school now though and it's difficult there, too. Everyone wants to do things their own way.

MarshaR: Is the tags that set apart bookmarking from social networking?

DanielCH: Makes great sense, collaborate locally before globally

JeffC: Let me now show you another site... a Powerpoint presentation I put together entitled "Safe & Engaged Online Learning": Collaborative Sites for Educators: http://freewebs.com/**Jeff**Cooper/collaboration1_files/frame.htm

SusanR: I am seeing more and more collaboration in the schools that I frequent

SusanR: yes, Marsha

NealM: the school that I go to we really need our teachers to collaborate with each other but I don't know how to tell them that

BrendaE: I agree with that. Students are eager to collaborate with the global community.

AaronPC: Or collaborate globally before locally.....either way can make a difference

HalaH: Brenda, this works when your peers knows the value of it, but how can you collaborate without them knowing the concept?

ConnorB: But Daniel if collaborating locally is not effective, I think it would be a good idea to go globally

JeffC: There are several project based learning sites within that presentation (which is best viewed in Internet Explorer). You can also get there through: http://snurl.com/collaboration1

BeeD: I have started globally...it's easier on the net..because you find teachers out there with the same problems and who want to do it

JeffC: How many of you have participated in any online project based learning activity?

BrendaE: Is in-house Professional Dev. a good way to begin to share the concept?

DwayneS: I have participated in 2 of them

JeffC: Could be Brenda... depends on how receptive people are to the idea.

DanielCH: I have participated in a couple

BeeD raises her 10 fingers and 10 toes

WanthyD: What can we do to convince other students to collaborate?

JeffC: Which ones Dwayne? What was your experience?

DavinaP: the problem with some open source (which I am all for) is that it becomes difficult since to set up you need a server--most teachers do not have access to a separate server

MarleighG: Just starting with online project based activities...the students love it

JosephFu: I've participated in 2 as well

AmandaD: I recently visited a project based school for high risk students, and I am skeptical about its effectiveness.

NealM: I have participated in some for in class

GregTs: I participated in a few online project based learning activity

DwayneS: A Spanish project for blackboard and a sort of Washington Post Spanish articles

JeffC: Why Amanda?

NealM: my classes

BrendaE: Amanda, what obstacles did you observe?

LydiaM: I have done stuff in science class where we did a lab on the computer and took notes on it

AmandaD: There is a lack of motivation, and the students didn't seem to care about their project.

AmandaD: Reading and communication skills seemed low interfering with the students' progress.

DwayneS: Also this class I am participating for an e-portfolio

BrendaE: Amanda, what role was the teacher playing in facilitating the activity?

JeffC: What was the project? Did the students have any voice in selecting the project they took place in?

AmandaD: Walking around, observing.

AmandaD: It was a theme based project, and they worked in groups (well some did.)

JudithAK: I've participated in 2 projects, the monster project (language arts drawing and writing) and the Human genome

JudithAK: Both had positives and negatives

BrendaE: Amanda, maybe if the teacher was more enthusiastic and facilitating more, the kids would respond in a more positive manner?

DwayneS: You had to choose a Spanish article summarize it and give your view on the article also if you could change it what would you change?

AmandaD: It's probably a great idea for students with intrinsic motivation, but high risk students may need more guidance and structure.

GregTs: I worked on a project once where we selected a worldwide reoccurring issue

HalaH: In one I have participated. Still learning how

HalaH: none

DwayneS: They could select any articles as long as it was in Spanish

BrendaE: Amanda, was there much structure built into the project you observed?

ConnorB: At my school we use "blackboard" which allows students to check all of their assignments, talk with their teacher, and talk to their peers all on the internet from their home

DwayneS: I think Blackboard is used in most classrooms

AmandaD: There was a list of questions for students to research. Many got hung up on one problem and didn't finish their initial research.

DanielCH: Our school uses something similar to Blackboard called School Notes

JeffC: Let me give you a couple of sites that would lend themselves to project based learning for students: 1) Takingitglobal http://www.takingitglobal.com (a student run

organization hooking up students around the world. 2) Nabuur http://www.nabuur.com (an international project where students can "adopt" a village and work with students and professionals to help educate underserved students) 3) Newsday http://www.globalschoolnet.org/gsh/project/newsday/ This is the project that I used with my at risk students when I taught at Richmond High. They were published internationally... (as mentioned in my article).

DwayneS: I have been on that one to

SusanSi: many teachers don't know it's available (blackboard) not trained to use it

NealM: we use schoolnotes as well

BrendaE: Teacher training is always the key to using the technology available.

BrendaE: Is schoolnotes part of your school's web site?

JeffC: That brings me to my last site to share with you Brenda: http://snurl.com/consultancy

JudithAK: I'm on the global school listserve, and I really like it

BeeD: http://www.timeproject.org is also a very successful project which takes place once a year...it is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year

DanielCH: There is a link from our main website to School Notes

JeffC: I am willing to give up to 5 hours of professional development support online *for free*.

DwayneS: Teacher training as in teachers getting trained for technology?

BrendaE: How do I go about taking you up on the *free* PD offer, Jeff?

AmandaD: We're getting new technology at our school this year, Mimeo.

JeffC: Just email me Brenda jbcoops@gmail.com or talk to me about it here.

AmandaD: Has anyone every used Mimeo?

BrendaE: Will do, thank you

JeffC: Yes Amanda... I've used it.

MarleighG: our school has invested in FirstClass and many teachers really don't like and therefore don't use it...we can't convince the school to change

AmandaD: What did you think?

BrendaE: What is FirstClass?

JeffC: It's a bit one way though... at least when I used it... I could post to the whiteboard, but students couldn't... it may have changed since then.

AmandaD: I think children can interact with it now through a laptop at their desk. At least that was my impression from training. There is a video feature that's pretty cool for science, but I haven't tried it yet.

SusanR: Our district uses First Class Client for email and online collaboration

MarleighG: FirstClass allows for posting notes, discussion forums, chat, space for a website, but it is not all that user-friendly and students say it's just plain ugly!

JeffC: http://www.firstclass.com/ is something a district would have to purchase... put on their server to use.

DanielCH: Thanks for your time

SusanR: Our teachers adore it

JosephFu: thanks Jeff

BrendaE: Thanks. We use SchoolCenter, which allows for discussion boards, blogs, ect.

WanthyD: thank you Jeff

GregTs: thank you Jeff

JeffC: OK... we still have 10 minutes left....

AmandaD: Is first class costly. Mimeo and its parts seemed pricey?

JeffC: There have been a lot of ideas, URLs, etc. posted... you'll be able to reflect upon them later.

MarleighG: FirstClass does not allow for blogging...at least I don't think it does...that would be nice

BeeD: We are going to have a session on blogging and webpublishing later today

MarleighG: Fc is pricey-hence why the school does not want to change

SusanneN think that you cannot get everything in one swiss knife tool

BeeD: at the Blogstreams Salon

BrendaE: Bee, when is that session?

RitaZ likes Sus's proverb;-)

BeeD: at 22.00 GMT/UTC

BeeD: it's on the calendar

BrendaE: Thanks, Bee.

JeffC: I'd like to invite people to attend a voice site... http://www.realteachers.org ... you will need to download a plugin... but can continue chatting there (with audio).

RitaZ: thanks, Jeff!

JeffC: Scroll down the frame there to Voice Room, enter your name and hit Enter.

PatrickJQG: bye all

AmandaD: Thanks to all who helped me get into this chat room.

JudithAK: Thanks for all the good information. Your article is very interesting