

Title of Session: GPBL: Projects That Make a Difference in the World

Moderator: Linda Ullah

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Room: Hot Tub Conference

BJB2: we usually start all discussions in Tapped In with introductions

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

BarbaraGst3 joined the room.

LindaU: Here's my intro: Hi, I'm Linda Ullah... My job title is teacher in residence. I work at a community college in the San Francisco Bay area running and teaching in a technology staff development program for educators. My passion is Global PBL... making connections between teachers and students from all over the world.

LindaU: Hi Barbara

BJB2: Welcome, Barbara. We've just started introductions

JerryRW: I teach High School Earth Science in Northern Virginia

KathyFi: My name is Kathy Figueroa. I am a Spanish teacher in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I'm looking for ways to have my students connect with others in Spanish speaking countries.

LindaU: Hi Jerry

LindaU: Hi Kathy

JeffC: Jeff Cooper... Ed Tech Support Consultant... Forest Grove Oregon... Helpdesk here.

BarbaraGst3: My name is Barbara Bray - president of My eCoach Online. Linda told me about this wonderful discussion and wanted to join in. Thanks!

LindaU: Great plan Kathy..

DavidWe: I'm David Weksler. I help teachers learn more about educational technology (especially for Math). I help BJ with the TappedIn HelpDesk. I'm in New Jersey, 10 miles from New York City

LindaU: Thanks Barbara.

LindaU: Hi David...

KathyFi: Thanks, Linda.

KathyFi: Any ideas on how I can get in touch with teachers from other countries?

DavidWe has a couple of ideas on that topic...later on

LindaU: I've been doing a lot of thinking about global pbl lately. One of the things teachers have started telling me is that they need to make teacher to teacher connections before they feel comfortable doing the student:student projects. So tonight I'd like to focus on the best ways to develop teacher to teacher relationships that are meaningful. --- Kathy... I'll get some resources for you in a short while...

BJB2: Cool, Linda

LindaU: I've asked Barbara Bray to join us because she has a tool that I think might be good for this (as is tapped in... and perhaps we can explore how these two tools can help make these connections.. Barbara's tool is called My eCoach... I'll give your the URL and the I'd like Barbara to tell you all about it.

LindaU: This will be the link: <http://my-ecoach.com>

BarbaraGst3: Linda - do you want me to share some ideas now or later?

LindaU: Barbara, can you tell everyone what My eCoach is... yes....

BarbaraGst3: My eCoach is a professional learning community where people can learn, connect and share. We grow as the community grows. We have a variety of tools to offer and keep creating new ones from ideas from members of the community. I'm going to keep sharing but want to send this first.

BarbaraGst3: We are in 24 states and 15 countries with school programs, district projects, regional agencies, states departments, and universities. We don't even know where we're going next. I just returned from working with Discovery assisting them in developing their online community for Discovery Educators.

LindaU: I know Barbara has a lot to share, but feel free to ask questions a she goes along, too.

BarbaraGst3: We are working with indigenous groups in Australia, new Zealand, and Washington state and trying to develop a program to involve teachers and students. Most of our work is for professional development and helping teachers improve teaching practice. But we formed a new partnership with GenY to bring in student eCoaches. We are built around a coaching and mentoring program with a sports theme. Linda is an

eCoach for her EWYL program and has coaching tools to support her teachers. I'm her eCoach to support her in the background. Don't think her teachers know that I'm even helping her. right Linda?

LindaU: I don't know that they totally are aware.. but they do know I turn to you when I need help to help them.

BarbaraGst3: We created Professional Learning Communities standards and working with National University for accreditation. Can go on and on but are there any questions?

DavidWe: Do you know much about TappedIn, Barbara?

JeffC: Are you getting accreditation for PDUs?

DavidWe . o O (we like to think of it as a professional learning community, too)

LindaU: One of the things I've found in My eCoach beyond the online coaching I do with my institute teachers, is that there are other discussion groups based on topics of interest... These use threaded discussions.

BarbaraGst3: Yes - I know about Tappedin. It's a wonderful place to go. I needed more tools than they offered. Linda can probably tell you.

LindaU: David is right... Tapped in is a great Professional Development tool... and so is My eCoach... That's while I use both.

BarbaraGst3: I am working with National U to get CEUs and grad units.

LindaU: Another great feature in My eCoach is the Builders (templates for project planning..

DavidWe: What tools are available on My e-Coach that you felt were missing from TappedIn?

BarbaraGst3: We have national, state, and local content, technology and professional standards that people can align their projects to. You can also search by standard. We just got a job with the Cayman Islands and need to put in their standards. And working with Oakland Unified and will be putting in their district standards.

DavidWe knows that Oakland Unified needs a good deal of help

LindaU: David.. I see TI and My eCoach as fulfilling two different, but in some ways similar needs.

DavidWe happily listens to Linda

BarbaraGst3: David - I've been working with Oakland since 1992. It's very challenging but rewarding.

JeffC: I used to work for Barbara years ago.

BarbaraGst3: Hi Jeff! Thought that was you. How are you?

LindaU: Interesting connections....

JeffC: ok

KathyFi: I am curious. Exactly what is eCoach for?

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe: Good questions, Kathy

JeffC: Explore the site a bit Kathy... there are an incredible amount of tutorials, etc.... all reasonably priced.

LindaU is thinking global pbl now.. A team of teachers could use the project templates collaboratively to create a plan for their collaborative global project, and make sure that they are all meeting the standards they must meet.

LindaU: Not only that but these project plans can be published on the Web so that other teachers can benefit from them.

BarbaraGst3: If you are interested in checking it out, I can give you an account. Most people who use our program are part of a team with an eCoach who can support them. We support the eCoaches. Just signed up a teacher induction program today for northern CA and also working with several large groups in WA and WI who are doing similar work with new teachers. It's kind of up to you how you want to use the program.

KathyFi: I'm a little confused. Are you working on these projects with other teachers at the same time? Do the students connect? Or are you developing the projects for teacher's use?

BarbaraGst3: Teachers can collaborate (co-author projects) - publish the projects for students to access from anywhere. students do not have to login. There are teachers using it for university classes for their students or to plan with other teachers. We are creating a collaborative planning tool using wiki right now. Have blogs at different access levels 0-internal email system so you can connect with anyone. Trying to make a learning community that supports the members - it's changing and growing.

LindaU: Kathy.. here is a sample project plan: <http://my-ecoach.com/online/teacherguide.php?projectid=2957>

LindaU: This is a teacher created project plan for his students to do the project.

LindaU: Does that help with your question, Kathy

KathyFi: And other teachers have access to it, right? Is there any collaboration between students from different schools? Are there any projects for foreign language?

KathyFi: Sounds interesting.

BarbaraGst3: We had a program last year between schools in WA and the Virgin Islands. Working on developing the indigenous project with AU, NZ and WA for students right now. We have very few projects for foreign language. Need more.

JeffC: Barbara... you should try and find some time to attend the Webheads Convergence Conference starting tomorrow... many EFL teachers will be in attendance.

JeffC: <http://schedule.wiaoc.org/>

KathyFi: What is Webheads?

LindaU: Within my ecoach there are also blogs and discussions on a variety of topics.. that could be used for teacher/teacher collaboration

JeffC: Webheads is an international community of practice of ESL, EFL, TEFL educators (and students).

BarbaraGst3: I never heard of that conference before. Wish I had known about it. I'm busy tomorrow and Saturday.

LindaU: Another "builder" is the Web resource list builder. Here is the Global PBL Web resource list I've been working on: <http://my-ecoach.com/online/webresourcelist.php?rlid=6499>

JeffC: Well... it will be archived Barbara.

LindaU: I'm looking for more resources to add to this list... (Kathy--you may find some good resources here.)

JeffC: Great resources as usual Linda... here is one more for your "Projects to Help People in Need" section: <http://www.nabuur.com>

LindaU: Thanks Jeff.

BarbaraGst3: I'm always learning from Linda. She just started a community blog in My eCoach about helping victims of disasters. I just added it to my favorites and need to add that link from Jeff to our eLibrary. Thanks!

KathyFi: Wow! Those are some awesome resources, Linda. Thank you.

LindaU: Thank you...

LindaU: There is also a fantastic resource library in My eCoach

LindaU: The victims of disaster project thought is one I'd like to schedule of my next TI GPBL discussion.

JeffC: Ecoach has a number of things that Tapped In doesn't, and vice versa... I think that with a common foundation in professional development and sustained support that they compliment each other quite well.

BarbaraGst3: Yes - and I was just thinking about all those great pictures you have from Egypt, Pakistan etc. that need to go in the eLibrary for others to use. There are over 10,000 pictures, files, etc. in the eLibrary that you can use.

BarbaraGst3: Tapped In has lots of features we don't have so it is always good to look for what works for you.

KathyFi: It sounds like both are wonderful resources. What do you have to do to join ecoach?

BarbaraGst3: Just email me and I'll walk you through how. I'm always looking for innovative people who want to be part of a growing learning community. We charge for coaching programs. So email me at barbara@my-ecoach.com and I'll send directions.

LindaU: Jeff.. I've added Nabuur.. great resource... thanks.

BarbaraGst3: Bye Jeff - keep in touch!

LindaU: ...Kathy.. Barbara will help you

LindaU: It is a wonderful resource.

KathyFi: Thanks for all the great info. I have to run back to my school. I will be in touch Barbara.

BarbaraGst3: Bye for now - thanks Linda - hope I didn't monopolize the conversations. I enjoy all the work you do and how you try to connect people.

LindaU: Barbara.. you were great.. thanks for sharing.

LindaU: Please, the rest of you feel [free] to contact Barbara and explore My eCoac.h

LindaU: Any other questions before we end?

BJB2: Thanks, Linda.

BJB2: Is there a discussion in December?

BJB2 doesn't think so

BarbaraGst3: You're welcome Linda - thanks for letting me share - Bye!

LindaU: BJ.. let's go for late January...but we could do before the holiday--in Dec.

BJB2: up to you, Linda

LindaU: I'll be in Bangladesh from Dec 27 to Jan 11

BJB2: have a safe and happy holiday.

BarbaraGst3: Linda - take pictures for the eLibrary!

LindaU: Can do Dec 15

LindaU: okay Barbara.. two weddings to attend..

BJB2: OK, Linda...sounds good. 4pm PST?

LindaU: deal, BJ...

BJB2 writes it down

BJB2 hugs. Thanks again...see you in a month.

LindaU: Thank you all ... Do think about how we can connect classrooms to help victims of disasters for next month...

LindaU: There is such a huge need.

BJB2 nods. We'll be starting to gear up Hurricane Central...

BJB2: for the mini expo in March

BJB2 hopes Linda will add a global aspect to the group and participate in the expo

LindaU has missed something.. I must not be reading all my emails carefully....Tell more about the expo.

LindaU: hurricanes, earthquakes, wars, etc...

BJB2: well, it started out as one hurricane help place

BJB2: then we had more hurricanes and the earthquake

BJB2: and the tsunami

BJB2: I don't see why the group can't be global

LindaU: Sounds perfect.

BJB2: it's designed to provide help to stressed teachers

BJB2: and displaced students

BJB2: and mentoring for teachers who would like to teach online as a way of staying connected to their classes

BJB2: we'd also like to get the student campus involved

LindaU: Wow.. lots to look at.. thank you.