

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

Moderator: Linda Ullah

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Room: Global Project Based Learning Group

BjB: Welcome to GPBL, everyone! Nice to see you all here

BjB: we usually start the discussions with introductions

LindaU: Hi all, I'm Linda Ullah.. I work at a community college in the San Francisco Bay Area running and teaching in a technology integration staff development program for teachers. My passion in Global Project Based Learning and connecting schools, teachers and classrooms so they can work together in powerful new ways.

DavidWe: I'm David Weksler. I'm a HelpDesk volunteer for Tapped In and I lead a math and technology discussion in Tapped In. I'm in New York City this evening

BjB: and a reminder that if you're new to Tapped In, go to the ACTIONS menu in the top right of the chat window and click on DETACH to make the chat easier to read

BjB: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania

LindaU: Hi David..

DavidWe smiles at Linda

LindaU: and Hi Bj

YolandaCr: Hello! I am a pre-service teacher in Houston, TX.

LindaU: Hi Yolanda

SonyaR: Hello, I am a student teacher at Stephens Elementary in Houston.

YolandaCr: Hi Linda

LindaU: Hi Sonya, welcome

KerenS: I'm a Technology Teacher on Special Assignment in the Los Angeles area.

LindaU: Hi Keren

KerenS: Hi Linda...

DavidWe: Are you on special assignment for the CIA, Keren?

DavidWe grins

KerenS: Only if you listen to district politics

DavidWe laughs

LindaU: tonight I want to introduce to you a web resource list I have on global projects..and guide you to the part of the list that involves projects that are designed to help those in need..

DonSC: I am a h.s. media specialist in Minnesota. I teach one online course in Internet research.

LindaU: Hi Don... welcome...

LindaU: When I take you there, I'd like each of you to select a project that interests you.. Let us know which project you are going to explore (so we don't duplicate)...This will be a jig-saw activity.

LindaU: Then I'd like you to explore that site for about 5 minutes and come back and tell us about the project you explored.

JeffC joined the room.

BjB waves hi to Jeff

LindaU: I'd like you to tell us, how to either join this project, or do a similar project., give an over view of the project, and tell why you think it is a compelling project for students to be involved with (or why not)..

DavidWe . o O (Jeff will be taking my place, Linda. Gotta run)

LindaU: Hi Jeff. I'll get you the directions for our jigsaw in a minute.

DavidWe gives Jeff a big bar of chocolate

DavidWe . o O (readin', writin' and 'rithmetic)

LindaU: Okay.. here is the site.. <http://my-ecoach.com/online/webresourcelist.php?rlid=6499> --click on the link to Projects who help people in need.. then decide which project you are going to explore and report back on.. post that project name.. then take 5 minutes to explore the project.

DavidWe left the room.

LindaU: Jeff... I've asked people to explore a project, and report back with what it is all about (summary) ... how to join or do a similar project, and the value (or not) of the project for classrooms..

LindaU: Any questions on what we are doing tonight?

KerenS: not just now

YolandaCr: I would like to explore....English Resource Center-Collaborative Online Projects

BjB: I'm going to look at the Peace projects

LindaU: Sounds good..

BjB . o O (not mine)

JeffC: I've been a member of <http://www.nabuur.com> for about a year now... involved with a couple of villages there.

SonyaR: I will be looking at, The Guiding Partner Approach

KerenS: BJ - it that the Peace Resources by BJ Berquist If you're talking another one, I'll look at this one

LindaU: BJ.. there is a link for Blanket the World With Peace

BjB: cool. Thanks!

LindaU: Fantastic Jeff.. We'd love to learn more about this project.

BjB: I just posted a message from Lars about peace tiles to the artssites list...

KerenS: I'm going to look at your Project Based Learning Webquest, Linda, which I found on BJs site

LindaU: Sounds good... Let's start reporting back in about 5 minutes.

KeithEE joined the room.

BjB: Hi, Keith. Welcome

KeithEE: hello

LindaU: Hi Keith.. we are currently each exploring a Global project site.

KeithEE: cool

MaryHi joined the room.

LindaU: Hi Mary... welcome.

JeffC: Be sure to tell them to hold the Ctrl key down when clicking, or accept popups from this site (best).

MaryHi: Thanks, I hope you don't mind if I visit for a few minutes

LindaU: We are each exploring one of the global pbl sites at: <http://my-ecoach.com/online/webresourcelist.php?rlid=6499#3> and everyone will report back soon on what project, what it is about, and it's use/importance in the classroom

LindaU: How about say 2 more minutes. then let's start reporting back .

LindaU: Thanks Jeff.. I just learned something new.

DonSC: I chose the Peace Resource by BJ Berquist area too. There were over 50 sites to visit listed there. I next chose the Benjamin Franklin site which works on international activities to promote world peace. I thought this was great site for students' exploration. They have a number of activities were student could become involved.

LindaU: Thanks don

PhilZ joined the room.

BjB: hi, Phil. Welcome

PhilZ: Hello Bj

LindaU: Tell us about some of the activities on the Ben Franklin site and perhaps give us the URL for the transcript.

SonyaR: The Guiding Partner Approach website was very interesting. I had many links to different lab people can look through and join if they are interested. One of the labs that I was able to explore is called Resource lab. This link gave plenty of websites one can visit if they are thinking about helping students get more involved and interested in technology. The website is there in order for teachers to have some information on how to go about teaching and working closely with students. I think that students would like to be involved because they are having the opportunity to be exposed to technology in ways that are interesting.

LindaU: Hi Phil

PhilZ: Hello everyone. Sorry I'm late.

DonSC: URL: <http://www.bfranklin.edu/>

YolandaCr: English Resource Center-Collaborative Online Projects.....this resource website is exactly as it is named, "Collaborative Online Projects". It advises educators to plan an online project 2-3 months in advance from any holidays. This will allow the students to have time to search and complete the online project. The projects allow the students to communicate via the internet, such as emails. This is a wonderful resource to be involved in because the primary goals for the students to reach are interpersonal exchange, information collection, and problem solving. I believe that having set goals and dates will allow the students some sort of guidelines to research and collaborate with others. Everyone who uses this resource will have the opportunity to share their ideas as well as receive from other users. I found it very interesting that users are allowed to communicate through chat, just like we are doing now.

LindaU: Interesting Sonya... give us the link and tell us how you might use this in the classroom.

DonSC: The activity that really got my attention was called Global Learning Day which is conducted each year in and promotes cultural diversity.

SonyaR: This is the link, <http://t3.preservice.org/guiding.html>

LindaU: Chat is a great tool for global projects. I've used it with elementary and high school students on a collaborative project.

DonSC: I never have, but I cannot wait to share with our social department!

LindaU: Yes, Global Learning Day.. perfect.. tell us more.

YolandaCr: I believe that it is important to begin using these resources from an early age in order to expose them to great technology tools.

DonSC: Each October we host an annual 24-hour, non-stop round the world "voyage" which showcases highly innovative activities in education and internet technology from 24 time zones. In order to build an audience in the millions we involve community radio stations and local television. Rule One is to make it easily accessible, underpinning the whole show with heavy use of POTS, Plain Old Telephone Systems. It's a worldwide celebration of learning that opens in the South Pacific and closes in Hawaii; in between are education's all-stars on a stage as big as the planet.

BjB . o O (I've participated in GLD)

BjB: it's amazing

YolandaCr: where does GLD take place?

SonyaR: I can use this website to inspire the students to get involved in the fascinating world of technology and its opportunities.

JeffC: online... usually using Horizon and radio... it takes place in November I think.

LindaU: Yes, Yolanda, and to put the tools in to the perspective of curriculum and learning, and how connecting with others around the world is a great learning experience.

BjB: online...in several different kinds of communication

LindaU: This is the beauty of "online"..It can be anywhere and everywhere!

YolandaCr: I was never exposed to it during my early years, but technology is so advanced now.

LindaU: Bear in mind that the technology is not as advanced in some countries...AND it is more advanced in schools in other countries...

BjB: and the language can be a barrier to communication

YolandaCr: Yes, that is very true.

PhilZ: Don't forget about our country. There are still many homes and communities that still don't have the benefit of computers and technology

LindaU: Yes, BJ.. there are ways to deal with that. Like LOTS now of translation sites (They aren't perfect, but they help.

SonyaR: It is also so advanced in a particular district.

LindaU: exactly Phil, and unfortunately.. schools as well..

PhilZ: very true

LindaU: The technology is still VERY uneven.

BjB: we see it even with the varying skills of the teachers who log in to Tapped In

DonSC: I can't help thinking the future of public libraries will be to furnish Internet access and resources to those who cannot otherwise afford them.

LindaU: How might those of you in the classroom go about implementing one of the projects you've explored?

PhilZ: Has any heard of any programs either in the US or in other parts of the world that are trying to advance technology in struggling areas?

BjB thinks Linda is doing a great job of getting us back on topic!

LindaU: Yes, Phil there are several.

DonSC: I need to go back to my social teacher to collaborate. We have a course in global studies. The Franklin site will be fantastic.

KeithEE: I clicked on the national aeronautic and space administration and got lost in all the cool games for the kids to teach them about space.

KeithEE: I'll be going back to that when where done

LindaU: One is <http://www.patriensa.com/>

BjB: I looked at the Peace Projects Directory. I didn't see anything that I would be interested in using in my classroom, but are a couple of conferences and ideas that could be adapted to classroom use.

LindaU: It is about bring technology to Ghana

BjB . o O (btw, NASA is going to be having a group room in the student activity campus of Tapped In for teachers and students to access their sites)

LindaU: ah.. bj.. great.. ideas can be adapted... I like that.. tell us more.

BjB: there were a couple suggestions on religion and culture...differences and similarities

BjB: <http://www.peaceconference.8m.net/>

YolandaCr: I would create a project that would require my students to communicate with students around the world. This will expose them to many new things.

LindaU: A course in Global studies might be the perfect course in which to initiate a global partnership project, Don.

LindaU: BJ... It seems religion and culture are critical topics in today's conflicted world.

SonyaR: I think mine is targeted more for teachers so that they can be more involved and motivate students with their knowledge to participate in activities dealing with tech..

BjB agrees with Linda

PhilZ: Linda, That's great. I love to show my students how technology fits into other parts of the world and how others are helping.

KeithEE: but how do you talk religion in class?

LindaU: I agree, Sonya.. but remember that the technology is the tool that makes global collaboration possible.

KeithEE: I can see it being tied in with culture but not just religion!

BjB: create a platform for Interfaith dialogue and Youth service in Nigeria, to enhance awareness and understanding of each other's activities in the context of our diverse, pluralistic faith traditions, and to initiate the process of promoting our cherished "unity in diversity."

BjB: that's how, Keith

LindaU: Keith... that is a sensitive subject, but we must help students learn about various religions.. (different than indoctrination in any one religion) and their history, philosophy, value and worth and affect on various cultures.

LindaU: It is respect for each religion that is important..

SonyaR: Yes, I agree, I never once imagined I would be communicating with people from different parts of the U.S.

LindaU: Yes, in some ways this forum is a global project.

KeithEE: yeah I can see that! chat rooms would be great for that. but it would be hard to get parents to bite off on that.

PhilZ: Yes, and better understanding other religions. Knowledge is very important in this matter

KerenS: Even in discussing current events today religion and culture are center stage -- and that respect for differing opinions is so important.

YolandaCr: Exactly just like we are now. This is my first time doing this.

BjB: another conference on the site I looked at states: The theme of the Conference shall be: "Lessons for Peace: The Role of Interfaith Youth Movements in Addressing Conflict Situations in Africa".

LindaU: Secure chat rooms.. with parental permission .. with goals and project plan sent home so parents know what is happening and why.

BjB . o O (don't forget that Tapped In has a safe and secure place to bring students)

LindaU: I've done this using Tapped in (Student Union) with elementary students in my class who were doing a project with high school kids in Brazil.

YolandaCr: I agree Linda, there are many things out there that students should not be involved with.

SonyaR: This would be great if everyone could afford one. At home and at schools.

PhilZ: how are you communicating with the students in Brazil

KerenS: ... Linda - that's really interesting that it's cross age as well as cross cultural ...

LindaU: It is all about the teacher carefully planning the curriculum, and setting up the communication tools, guidelines and expectations carefully and clearly...

LindaU: It is an old project. No longer active... But we used email and Tapped In.

YolandaCr: I bet it was a wonderful project.

KerenS: Linda - how about if I describe the Webquest -- it's a great way for teachers to learn how to use Global projects

LindaU: Here is the web site.. I keep it as a archive of what we did.
<http://www.garlic.com/~lullah/brazilus/water.html>

YolandaCr: Where students learn from each other.

LindaU: Please Keren

KeithEE: that would be a cool way for students to learn about current events in other countries. if they can actually say this is what's going on here how about there.

LindaU: Not everyone can afford to travel.. the Internet allows for a virtual experience.

KerenS: I looked at Linda's PBL webquest at <http://lullah.com/pblwebquest/index.html>

SonyaR: It would be great for the younger students to be exposed to such experiences.

YolandaCr: Imagine if all schools had a curriculum with such technology integrations.....it would be great!

LindaU: This is a great site for learning more about PBL.

LindaU: I use it for workshops on PBL.

KerenS: this website is a GREAT way for teachers to learn about using PBL

LindaU: Please feel free to use it.

KerenS: A quick over view of what I found

LindaU: Yolanda.. that is my goal... It is what my job here at Foothill College is all about.. at least for the San Francisco Bay Area.

KerenS: The webquest Describes the dilemma of using PBL and constructivist approach in this day of /standards/testing/accountability. Asks teachers focus questions to address in a preso to school board on how PBL supports NCLB requirements.

SonyaR: I agree with Yolanda, but some schools do not have the time or do not take the time to plan such an important topic.

KerenS: the webquest is a great place to find a way to address exactly these issues Sonya

LindaU: I don't know if it is time or interest...

KerenS: .. or requirements placed on everyone because of accountability....

LindaU: or the pressures of NCLB and high stakes testing..but that is another topic and our time is almost up.

YolandaCr: I am glad that at my school, University of Houston, our technology educators stress the importance of having technology in our classrooms.

LindaU: So.. final comments.. What can each of you do.

KeithEE: <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids> this website teaches kids the different concepts of space. the planets, stars, it has different projects to do for the different subject, games

LindaU: Great Keith.. thanks.

SonyaR: Allow opportunities for exposure in the field of technology.

LindaU: and I hope you mix in some global pbl with that.

DonSC: If PBL and constructivist learning is done well, doesn't it enhance the basics? Certainly retention should be better. What could be more interesting or relevant to students than a better understanding of the world around them.

PhilZ: Talk to students about technology initiatives across the country as well as around the world

LindaU: Absolutely Don..

KerenS: I'd like to use the webquest with teachers from around the world participating in the groups

KerenS: I agree Don..

BjB: allow opportunities for exposure to various cultures, ethnicities

LindaU: please use any and all of these resources.

YolandaCr: As a future educator, I will practice and share my technology skills with my students.

KeithEE: to teach the importance of their surroundings how they can learn it from other countries by using a computer!

LindaU: fantastic.

BjB: thanks for posting the site as a featured item in this group room, Linda

PhilZ: yeah, it's a great site.

LindaU: I hope/plan to keep adding to it..

BjB: . o O (hint, hint...if you lose the url, come to this room to find it again)

PhilZ: Thanks Linda

LindaU: Thank you all.

DonSC: Thank you Linda, and thanks to all of you for sharing!

KeithEE: yeah thanks

YolandaCr: Thanks for everything!

SonyaR: Thank you.

KerenS: Thank you so much - great resources.

DonSC: Bye

BjB: Linda will meet again next month

YolandaCr: Adios!

PhilZ: bye everyone. thanks

LindaU: bye all.. until next month..

SonyaR: bye, bye

BjB: February 23

KerenS: ... I plan on being there

KeithEE: bye

BjB: watch your calendar

KerenS waves good bye to all

BjB waves goodnight