

**Title of Session:** Global Project Based Learning

**Moderator:** BJ Berquist

**Title of File:** 20090528gpbl

**Date:** May 28, 2009

Room: Global Project Based Learning Group

**LarissaC:** This site is full of info and I have to write a review of it

**BjB :** ahhh...have you seen the about us page? And the papers page?

**LarissaC:** somewhat overwhelming

**LarissaC:** yup

**BjB** nods...that's why I recommend those two sites

**BjB :** I think most people do not comprehend what the VISION of Tapped In is

**LarissaC:** This is quite a diverse and experienced group of people

**BjB** agrees...and from all over the world

**LarissaC:** yes!

**BjB :** I think in a nutshell, you could describe Tapped In as an opportunity for educators to participate in professional development, collaborate with colleagues, and SUSTAIN learning.

**LarissaC:** I just finished a project with a classroom in Israel and was looking for something else

**BjB :** ahhhh...Linda should have some great ideas for you

**LarissaC:** hope so

**BjB .** o O ( Linda leads the GPBL discussion )

**BjB :** she does have quite a few sites listed on the welcome screen under featured items

**LarissaC:** PBL has just formally arrived in our high school...

**LarissaC:** yes she does

**BjB :** what did you do with the school in Israel?

**LarissaC:** a booksharing

**BjB:** as in sharing book titles? reading a book together and discussing it?

**JeffC** joined the room.

**BjB** waves hi to Jeff

**LarissaC:** read a book together, researched the historical background

**JeffC** waves

**BjB:** cool. What book did you read?

**LarissaC:** I looked at it as a cultural exchange more than anything

**LarissaC:** Island on Bird Street

**BjB:** I assume you communicated asynch?

**LarissaC:** a YA book, but a good one for the ELL students in Israel and e

**BjB** . o O ( time difference would make it hard )

**LarissaC:** yup

**LarissaC:** threaded discussions on the website

**BjB:** so the whole communication through text had to be interesting...things can be read so many ways!

**LarissaC:** two teachers from Israel were able to fly over and hold sessions with my kids

**LarissaC:** oh my yes!

**BjB:** oh, how wonderful! Do you get to go there next? ;-)

**LarissaC:** maybe

**BjB:** that would be exciting!

**LarissaC:** I added to the mix a Muslim student and when Gaza blew up again, the discussions became very interesting

**BjB:** I'll bet!

**BjB** : are you familiar with TED?

**LarissaC**: Talk about different perspectives!

**LarissaC**: no

**BjB** : [www.ted.com](http://www.ted.com)

**LarissaC**: looks interesting

**LarissaC**: what do you do with it

**BjB** : last year they had a wonderful world wide conference...I'm looking for the link

**LarissaC**: I think I could spend too much time online

**BjB** : yep..can drive you crazy!

**BjB** : Jeff, do you remember what the TED conf was called?

**JeffC**: let me check

**JeffC**: TEDGlobal Conference <http://conferences.ted.com/TEDGlobal2009/>

**JeffC**: well... that's the link I have for it anyway!

**JeffC**: but that's probably a direct link to subscribe from my email...

**LarissaC**: I'll give it a look

**LarissaC**: I'm there

**LarissaC**: just took a different route

**LarissaC**: this looks ummmm intimidating

**JeffC**: uh... Bj... did you know there's a \$4500 membership fee?

**JeffC**: yeah... the fee itself intimidates the heck outta me!

**BjB** : yes, I know...I'm not a member!

**JeffC**: so... what are we supposed to do with the site?

**LarissaC**: chuckle

**BjB** : that wasn't the one I was looking for.

**JeffC**: oh... sorry!

**BjB** : there are a ton of videos on all kinds of subjects that are fabulous

**JeffC**: well dang it... I guess TED has some other conference happening.

**BjB** : I found it...Pangea Day

**BjB** : I'm going to get the link, but might have to leave this room for a sec

**BjB** left the room.

Room: Gpbl\_Grp

**BjB** joined the room.

**BjB** : [www.pangeaday.org/events.php](http://www.pangeaday.org/events.php)

**BjB** : <http://www.pangeaday.org/pangeadayFilms.php>

**BjB** : was an incredible experience!

**BjB** : from the films page you can access other archived information

**LarissaC**: very cool

**BjB** : brb

**BjB** left the room.

Room: TI\_Reception

**BjB** joined the room.

**BjB** waves hi to Elizabeth and the guest

**BjB** : I'm on Tapped In helpdesk. Any questions?

**ElizabetBC**: Yes, I am new to this and was wanting to be part of the group that starts at 9pm. What do I need to do

**BjB** : above this chat on the right is featured passageways...do you see that?

**ElizabetBC**: no

**BjB** : ok, then let's try this...do you see Room View at the top of your screen?

**ElizabetBC**: yes

**BjB** has more tricks up her sleeve if that doesn't work ;-)

**BjB** : click on room view

**BjB** : that will bring you back to the welcome screen

**ElizabetBC**: ok, did that

**BjB** : scroll down on featured passageways to Global Project Based Learning

**BjB** : and click on the door icon

**ElizabetBC** left the room.

**BjB** left the room.

Room: Gpbl\_Grp

**BjB** joined the room.

**BjB** : good job, Elizabeth!

**ElizabetBC**: yeah me! Thanks for your help

**ElizabetBC**: now what?

**LarissaC** left the room.

**BjB** : Linda hasn't logged in yet and may be traveling and not have connectivity, but we'll get started and see if Jeff and I can help

**LarissaC** joined the room.

**BjB** : wb, Larissa

**ElizabetBC**: so, just sit and wait, don't click on anything?

**LarissaC:** OK sorry

**BjB:** let's start with introductions. Please tell Jeff and me what you teach, where you are located, and your interest in GPBL.

**BjB:** I'm a teacher in Pennsylvania and have a deep interest in global connections and multicultural studies

**ElizabetBC:** I teach Kindergarten in Raleigh, NC at my church. I am in graduate school at Meredith College and am taking a technology class. Working on Tapped In is one of our projects.

**BjB:** thanks, Elizabeth.

**LarissaC:** I teach honors ninth grade English and at risk readers in Uniontown OH ~ small town USA.

**BjB:** thanks, Larissa.

**BjB:** at risk students is another one of my passions!

**LarissaC:** we have a large population of Mennonite

**LarissaC:** other than that... not much more diversity

**BjB:** since Linda isn't here, let's collaborate and share what we do know.

**LarissaC:** I want to move my kids out of the small town mentality

**BjB** nods to Larissa...yep. Rural schools tend to be very insulated

**BjB:** do you see much diversity where you are teaching, Elizabeth?

**ElizabetBC:** Raleigh is big and has much diversity.

**LarissaC:** I used an Israeli project to get them to think more globally

**BjB:** great...are you familiar with the Paper Clip video, Elizabeth?

**LarissaC:** Duke nearby?

**ElizabetBC:** although my church is pretty much full of WASPS I had a very diverse class this past year

**ElizabetBC:** never heard of paperclip

**LarissaC:** me either

**ElizabetBC:** Duke is about 30 minutes away from where I live

**BjB:** you can get an idea of what the video is about from this site: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0380615/>

**ElizabetBC:** I wrote it down. should I view it now?

**BjB:** I thought of it because of your mention of WASPs, Elizabeth...

**ElizabetBC:** oh, ok

**BjB:** the url will be in your transcript...

**BjB:** you can actually view the video at the link to snagit films

**BjB:** "As a part of their study of the Holocaust, the children of the Whitwell, TN Middle School try to collect 6 million paper clips representing the 6 million Jews killed by the Nazis."

**BjB:** it's quite moving and inspirational

**ElizabetBC:** 4 of my 14 students this past year spoke at least 2 languages. one child was living in a refuge camp in Thailand up until about 18 months ago

**BjB:** . o O ( for any ethnic group )

**LarissaC:** we have a holocaust lit class... I'm sending this her way

**LarissaC:** oh my

**BjB:** this would also be a good topic for your at risk students too, Larissa

**BjB:** does your school offer ESL classes, Elizabeth?

**ElizabetBC:** no, we are very small and only can accommodate 34 kindergarteners at a time

**ElizabetBC:** we are also 1/2 day

**BjB:** I meant in your public school where these immigrants go

**ElizabetBC:** I did get some good help from a friend who is and ESL grad student

**ElizabetBC:** Oh, the public schools have great ESL programs

**ElizabetBC:** At Meredith, you can major in ESL and also get a graduate degree in it

**BjB :** one of the biggest obstacles for ESL students is their parents....who often don't speak English and who have a difficult time understanding what their children are learning

**ElizabetBC:** oh yes! I have loved getting to know the families and the parents

**ElizabetBC:** they have taught me SOOO much, it was great

**BjB :** for your kindergarteners do you have special events like international day where the students can showcase their heritage?

**LarissaC:** we have a large Ukrainian pop

**BjB :** interesting, Larissa

**LarissaC:** many of them are in my at risk classes

**ElizabetBC:** we did. The parents organized it and shared about their cultures and languages. The other children really ate it up

**BjB** smiles...wonderful, Elizabeth!

**LarissaC:** the Mennonite church sponsors them... they are very hard to keep in school..

**ElizabetBC:** have they been in the US long?

**BjB :** so it sounds like both of you have some experience with global projects

**ElizabetBC:** where do the Mennonites originate?

**BjB :** I think they are an offshoot of the Amish, but not positive

**ElizabetBC:** I enjoy other countries and cultures. My dad traveled to strange places when I was a child and always brought back the traditional things from that country

**LarissaC:** yes, not as strict

**BjB :** Amish are of German descent...many in Pennsylvania

**ElizabetBC:** so would that be German

**BjB .** o O ( I'm in Lancaster, PA as we speak! )



**LarissaC:** in the midst?

**ElizabetBC:** there are some Mennonite pockets around here too. Not many in schools though. They tend to keep to themselves

**BjB:** sort of...at the Host Resort at a conference

**LarissaC:** a few Amish are nearby.... many, many south of here

**BjB:** Larissa, can you please tell Elizabeth what you did with the class in Israel?

**ElizabetBC:** my geography is bad, forgive me

**LarissaC:** We shared a book study through the International Book Sharing project

**ElizabetBC:** wow, that sounds fun

**ElizabetBC:** how do you do that?

**MeganPo** joined the room.

**ElizabetBC:** hello Megan

**LarissaC:** used their site for threaded discussions about the book and the students used a chat room in order to learn about each other before reading the book

**ElizabetBC:** that sounds fun

**MeganPo:** hello

**LarissaC:** It's sponsored by the ghetto Fighter's museum in Israel

**ElizabetBC:** can you do that sort of thing orally, K students cannot read yet

**LarissaC:** picture books?

**ElizabetBC:** whatever

**LarissaC:** I sent a lot of scanned material

**ElizabetBC:** oh, ok

**LarissaC:** maybe picture s of what's important to them?

**LarissaC:** my kids learned a heck of a lot

**ElizabetBC:** I see, I could dig around and see what I could come up with

**ElizabetBC:** first, I will have to figure out how to get internet access in my classroom

**BjB :** so many picture books on different cultures and ethnic groups!

**LarissaC:** they went from... Do they watch our movies to honest discussions over the occupation of Gaza

**ElizabetBC:** so, is this what GPBL is all about? working with another school or group within your classroom?

**ElizabetBC:** I am a little slow at this sorry

**BjB :** check this out, Elizabeth: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y96He0tISoM>

**BjB . o O (** you too, Larissa, if you haven't already seen it )

**ElizabetBC:** my pop up blocker won't let me see it from here

**BjB :** at the kindergarten level, I think your job is more to prepare students to respect other cultures

**BjB :** hold down the ctrl key on your keyboard when you click on the url

**BjB . o O (** overrides the pop up blocker )

**LarissaC:** My kids just tore apart the song "Waiting for the world to change" John Mayer

**BjB :** oh, cool, Larissa!

**BjB :** did you participate in the Learning From Lyrics discussion?

**ElizabetBC:** from the mouths of babes

**BjB . o O (** archived transcripts are at [www.tappedin.org/transcripts](http://www.tappedin.org/transcripts) )

**BjB** nods solemnly to Elizabeth

**ElizabetBC:** Larissa, you can download the lyrics from the school house rock songs

**BjB :** Elizabeth, Linda has quite a few links listed under Featured Items in this room

**LarissaC:** yup

**LarissaC:** they know them well

**LarissaC:** her list is amazing

**LarissaC:** No I didn't

**LarissaC:** I'm a newbie here ;-)

**ElizabetBC:** me too

**BjB :** here's one for you, Larissa <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y96He0tISoM>

**LarissaC:** I love you tube

**BjB :** not just cultural sensitivity.

**ElizabetBC:** as I listen to this girl, I cannot help but think of my little Burmese fella

**ElizabetBC:** the girl in the you tube video that is

**BjB :** he must be a cutie!

**LarissaC:** have you seen slumdog millionaire/

**ElizabetBC:** he is WONDERFUL!

**LarissaC:** aw..

**BjB** nods to Larissa

**ElizabetBC:** I am so glad he is a church member and I get to see him often

**ElizabetBC:** I think we have Slumdog Millionaire in our netflix que

**BjB :** Linda recommended that I see Slumdog

**ElizabetBC:** what about Megan and Jeff?

**BjB :** she was just back from a trip to Bangladesh and was quite fired up!

**BjB :** oh, Megan, I'm sorry! I didn't see you come in

**BjB :** Megan, where are you?

**MeganPo:** I'm sorry, just trying to catch up, this is the first time using this website

**BjB .** o O ( thanks, Elizabeth )

**BjB** : what is happening here is pure collaboration!

**ElizabetBC**: you're welcome

**ElizabetBC**: isn't it great!

**BjB** : the discussion leader was apparently not able to log in

**ElizabetBC**: I was just checking out Linda's list and found some flat Stanley stuff

**BjB** : so we're sharing the information that is in this room...

**BjB** : and adding our own experiences

**ElizabetBC**: we had the best time doing that this year!

**BjB** : what do you teach, Megan?

**ElizabetBC**: I wasn't sure my K's would "get it" but they actually did and really took it and ran

**MeganPo** : When you are concentrating on global teaching, should you concentrate on your heritage or what is in the news currently? I teach first grade.

**BjB** : Flat Stanley is fun...I've seen similar projects with stuffed toys being sent around the world

**BjB** : Megan, I think at the early elementary level it's most important to model respect for all cultures and ethnic groups

**ElizabetBC**: next year I think I may incorporate the shoe boxes from Samaritans purse, since we are a church and all

**BjB** : cool, Elizabeth. I did a My Many Cultures Box with a first grade class...

**BjB** : we had shoe boxes donated and the kids decorated them...

**ElizabetBC**: that is a great idea!

**MeganPo** : yea I can see that because they are just beginning to learn about the big world around them

**BjB** : then as holidays or special events came on the calendar we would make some artifact to represent that culture...

**ElizabetBC:** I taught first grade before I had kids

**ElizabetBC:** that is one of the most fun ages to have

**BjB :** and the artifact would be kept in the shoebox

**MeganPo:** I'm sorry again but....what is a many cultures box?

**BjB :** ooops...are you familiar with Dr. Seuss' My Many Colored Days?

**MeganPo:** yea

**BjB :** well, I used that idea for My Many Cultures Box

**MeganPo:** oh cool

**BjB :** then during the Chinese new year we made red envelopes

**ElizabetBC:** it is hard to write down ideas and type!

**BjB :** when you log out you will get the transcript from this discussion, Elizabeth!

**BjB :** so put down that pen!

**ElizabetBC:** yes ma'am!

**BjB** grins

**MeganPo:** oh I didn't know that either

**BjB :** transcripts are wonderful!

**LarissaC:** yes that was a very nice surprise

**BjB :** they also contain all the urls that were shared

**ElizabetBC:** even better

**BjB :** how are we doing in keeping you awake, Larissa?

**MeganPo:** how often do you explore other cultures in your classrooms?

**BjB :** what I suggest to you, Megan and Elizabeth, is to join this group and return to this room and look at the featured items

**MeganPo:** oh ok

**BjB** : I think it should be like breathing, Megan!

**ElizabetBC**: we did a lot

**ElizabetBC**: we sang the days of the week in Spanish every day

**BjB** : when you read choose books that incorporate different cultures

**ElizabetBC**: my class loved the food too

**BjB** . o O ( it's like having black history month for one month out of the year....not too realistic! )

**ElizabetBC**: we had food from Iraq, Mexico, Brazil, and Burma

**BjB** : good comment, Elizabeth...food is a great way to introduce different cultures

**MeganPo**: ha yea you can always get their attention with food

**BjB** chuckles....same with teachers!

**ElizabetBC**: if I disappear, sorry. There is a storm and my power may go out. That means my modem will be out too

**ElizabetBC**: so what does joining the group mean?

**BjB** understands. We're about at the end of the hour anyway...might be a good time to wrap

**BjB** : joining a group allows you to post to the group discussion board...

**ElizabetBC**: wow, an hour already?

**BjB** : and be in communication with all of the members of the group

**LarissaC**: time flies....

**BjB** : does that mean you were having fun, Larissa? :-)

**LarissaC**: and I need to submit my paper about this site

**LarissaC**: yup

**BjB** : I do apologize for Linda not being here, but I hope you all enjoyed the discussion as much as I did!

**MeganPo**: for what class?

**LarissaC**: emerging tech for teachers

**BjB** . o O ( Tapped In has been around since 1997 and it's still considered emerging tech?! )

**ElizabetBC**: is yours graduate work too?

**MeganPo**: I'm in a grad class learning about technology as well

**ElizabetBC**: so, where do we all go to school?

**BjB** . o O ( Linda will be so disappointed that she missed you! I'll send her a copy of the transcript )

**MeganPo**: Meredith College NC

**BjB**: I'm retired...I don't have to learn anything any more ;-)

**ElizabetBC**: are you in Dr. P's class too! Girl hey!

**LarissaC**: u of Akron

**MeganPo**: hahahaha....nice

**MeganPo**: hahahahah yea I'm in her class!!!!

**LarissaC**: I'm wondering why I'm not retired

**BjB**: I was only joking, Larissa...a lifelong learner is always learning new things...I learned a lot from all of you

**LarissaC**: yea... me too!

**ElizabetBC**: are you kidding, we are teachers we never quit learning!

**BjB**: and I do thank you for taking time from your busy schedules to participate in the discussion...even if it was an assignment

**BjB** agrees with Elizabeth

**LarissaC**: but... I'll be using this site

**ElizabetBC**: I plan on attending several more sessions

**ElizabetBC:** especially the one about religious teachers on Saturday

**BjB** cheers...and hands out gold stars to Larissa and Elizabeth

**MeganPo:** It started out as an assignment and appears to have turned into a great learning experience....bj

**LarissaC:** yup

**MeganPo:** I want a star

**BjB** smiles happily and hands Megan a gold star too

**LarissaC:** chuckle

**BjB** winks

**MeganPo:** ty

**ElizabetBC:** you're funny

**LarissaC:** bye

**ElizabetBC:** it was fun

**BjB :** ok, ladies and Jeff....have one more conference day tomorrow...so better get to bed.

**BjB** waves goodnight.

**ElizabetBC:** 10-4

**MeganPo:** Alright, thank you so much, enjoyed the conversation