

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

**Moderator:** Linda Ullah

**Title of File:** 20100225gpblolympics

**Date:** February 25, 2010

Room: Global Project Based Group

**AntoinettR** joined the room.

**LindaU:** Hi Antoinette

**BJB2:** Hi, Antoinette!

**AntoinettR:** hello

**BJB2:** here for GPBL?

**AntoinettR:** yes

**BJB2:** wonderful. Have you met Linda? She leads this discussion

**LindaU:** Fantastic.. Right now, it's you, me and BJ.

**AntoinettR:** oh nice to meet you

**LindaU:** Shall we get started, and see if anyone else joins us.. or if we'll have an "exclusive" session?

**AntoinettR:** yes

**BJB2** nods

**BJB2:** a reminder, Antoinette, to go to Actions in the top right of the chat and select DETACH

**BJB2** . o O ( and maybe larger text )

**AntoinettR:** oh ok

**BJB2:** Antoinette, why don't you introduce yourself to Linda, please

**LindaU:** Antoinette, I live in North Carolina. I spent many years teaching and working in CA, though. My interest in GPBL goes way back--probably to when I was a child and curious about the world--but as a teacher I started doing projects with classes in other countries and found it a powerful learning experience... I now work with high school doing Project Based Learning.

**JeffC** joined the room.

**AntoinettR:** hi Jeff

**JeffC** waves

**LindaU:** Hi Jeff.. we've just started introductions...

**JeffC:** great

**LindaU:** Antionette, tells us about you.

**AntoinettR:** Well..... I am in NJ and I teach in an elementary school

**LindaU:** Where in NJ.. I grew up in NJ.

**AntoinettR:** I am completing a masters degree in educational technology from NJCU

**LindaU:** NJCU?

**AntoinettR:** New Jersey City University

**AntoinettR:** but I live in Monmouth County though

**LindaU:** Ah.. Then you are in Jersey City..

**LindaU:** Oh.. okay..

**LindaU:** How's the snow tonight?

**JeffC .** o O ( white )

**LindaU:** Funny, Jeff.

**JeffC:** or so I've heard

**AntoinettR:** no school today don't know about tomorrow

**AntoinettR:** yet

**JeffC** wonders when schools will get online classrooms for this sort of eventuality

**LindaU:** It's technologically possible Jeff..

**JeffC:** yup... but not politically

**AntoinettR:** Does Global Project based learning only pertain to high school I teach in an elementary school

**JeffC:** nope

**LindaU:** I taught in elementary school for many years and did PBL.

**LindaU:** and global projects.

**JeffC** is out the door for a bit and afk. I'm in Forest Grove, Oregon (near Portland) and on Helpdesk here.

**LindaU:** My bias is it's for all levels.

**LindaU:** During the Nagano Olympics I did a multi-class project with my students (elementary) with a middle school science class at another school.

**AntoinettR:** Our former technology facilitator did a project in collaboration with students in Japan

**LindaU:** Fantastic.. The Japanese schools are really interested in GPBL...

**AntoinettR:** wow my sister is at the winter Olympics right now LOL

**LindaU:** Anyway I was reflecting on the Nagano project and thinking about how projects that focus on the Olympics can help promote world peace.

**LindaU:** Wow! I bet your sister is having the time of her life!

**AntoinettR:** great concept

**AntoinettR:** yes she works for Omega-- the official time keeper of the Olympic games. There is a technology lesson in that. She sent me the materials

**LindaU:** As an elementary school teacher, and a student in an Ed. Tech program, how might you go about doing a project with your students around the Olympics that focuses on promoting multi-cultural understanding?

**LindaU:** Tell me about the teaching materials she sent you.

**AntoinettR:** well she sent a video of her work crew appearing on the today show .....showing and demonstrating all the latest technological gadgets that are used to time the athletes

**LindaU:** Very cool.

**AntoinettR:** thanx

**AntoinettR:** global projects are new to me        would love to get set up with one

**AntoinettR:** I'm sure communication is the key

**LindaU:** I'll give you an example --actually something unexpected that came out of my Nagano Olympics project. We created the virtual Mars Olympics (tied into NASA's Live from Mars Projects. One of the groups create separate bathrooms for "Aliens" from the various plants and Humans from Earth.

**LindaU:** This led to a whole discussion of segregation in the U.S.

**LindaU:** It was not a planned part of the project, but was a teachable moment.

**AntoinettR:** I see sounds like a very good science unit

**LindaU:** One of the things that the Olympics does, is show the world about other cultures.

**LindaU:** I love the parade of nations at the beginning of the Opening Ceremonies. It's a great way to learn/teach about world geography.

**LindaU:** I wonder what it would be like to view the Olympics through the lens of someone from another country.. perhaps a school in another country.

**LindaU:** How might you do that?

**AntoinettR:** yes that would be a global learning concept ..... Uhm

**AntoinettR:** multi-user virtual environment for the 2 sides to meet

**AntoinettR:** videoconferencing

**LindaU:** You mentioned that your former tech faciliator did a project with a school in Japan.. I wonder what students at that school think about the Olympics and their athletes.

**LindaU:** Ah.. like Tapped In?

**AntoinettR:** well I do have a virtual classroom in tapped in..... what are the possibilities of that classroom

**LindaU** remembers using Tapped in for a project her students did with a school in Brazil

**AntoinettR:** I would love to hear about that

**BJB2** smiles...it's very cool, Antoinette!

**LindaU:** That project is still online: <http://www.garlic.com/~lullah/brazilus/water.html>

**LindaU:** Not all the links will work.. it hasn't been updated.

**LindaU:** There is a transcript of our students working together though.

**AntoinettR:** what topics and concepts did it cover

**LindaU:** It was a water pollution project.

**AntoinettR:** is that you in the picture

**LindaU:** I was able to put my student groups together with their team members in Sao Paulo.

**LindaU:** yes, in the dark pants with two of the Brazilian teachers in Israel where we were trained in Global PBL.

**LindaU:** Tapped In was a very effective venue.

**AntoinettR:** how did they do the water art pictures ..... they are great

**LindaU:** Video conferencing is another great venue. I use Skype (<http://www.skype.com>) with my schools now.

**LindaU:** The Brazilian students did those using digital art.

**AntoinettR:** I see and you use Skype for synchronous communication ??

**LindaU:** Okay--back to using the Olympics as a way to connect students for better multi-cultural understanding..

**AntoinettR:** Between the students there and here ?

**LindaU:** Yes.. Skype is synchronous.

**LindaU:** I work with schools in NC and Louisiana. I work for a foundation that works with schools all over the US. I coach those schools in PBL.

**LindaU:** We also connect students between the schools with Skype and other tools.. Some are now using Google Sites

**LindaU:** to work on projects.

**LindaU:** collaboratively between schools.

**AntoinettR:** the students here could hear about the culture of the students around the world as

far as what sporting events are unique to those areas

**LindaU:** exactly.

**AntoinettR:** sure because sports are not the same everywhere

**LindaU:** I'm going to show you some sites I found about Olympics projects.

**AntoinettR:** great way to teach tolerance and an appreciation for other cultures

**LindaU:** Ah.. good.. One question you might ask students is why some countries don't participate in the Winter Olympics, but do in the Summer Olympics.

**AntoinettR:** good idea

**LindaU:** I found this site when preparing for tonight.. It's called: How Can the Olympic Games Help Us Perceive Peace Amidst Existing Obstacles?--  
[http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/entries/q\\_winter\\_olympics/](http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/entries/q_winter_olympics/)

**LindaU:** It's a blog..

**LindaU:** I wonder if any themes or thread jump out.

**LindaU:** BTW--what grade do you teach?

**AntoinettR:** I am basic skills grades one and two but may be changing job positions for next year

**LindaU:** Thanks.. this blog is definitely not for grades one and two..

**AntoinettR:** this site is great. I have not participated in many blogs so far

**LindaU:** The next site is a high school project.. but I think it could be adapted for elementary school: <http://www.pecentral.org/lessonideas/viewlesson.asp?id=828>

**AntoinettR:** when you register for a blog how does the discussion come up automatically

**LindaU:** Blogs use an online text editor..

**LindaU:** When you post your comment, it shows up.

**AntoinettR:** I want to register for one but one that is beneficial to me

**LindaU:** ah

**LindaU:** There are a lot of good educational blogs.

**LindaU:** You might check out My eCoach. Barbara Bray (who runs My eCoach has a good blog.

**AntoinettR:** what's the difference in that and an RSS feed

**AntoinettR:** thank you I will check that out

**LindaU:** <http://my-ecoach.com>

**LindaU:** RSS sends you links to articles and sites you might be interested in.

**AntoinettR:** I bookmarked it thanks

**AntoinettR:** okay

**LindaU:** This site has a variety of project ideas for the Olympics for various age levels.<http://www.teachers.ash.org.au/researchskills/Lessons.htm>

**LindaU:** It's a Filamentality site.

**LindaU:** You might find some good ideas there.

**AntoinettR:** BTW any good ideas on rain forest animals for a multi-user virtual environment or a Gaming MUVE on that topic

**LindaU:** This site says it's for 2nd and 3rd Grade--Lesson plans about the Olympics.  
<http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/TLRESOURCES/units/Byrnes-celebrations/olympics.html>

**AntoinettR:** I bookmarked that Olympic site for youngsters thanks

**LindaU:** Interesting.. I used to do the Jason Project.. I remember doing one on the Rain Forest

**AntoinettR:** I'm looking at one of the projects now on the olympic site

**LindaU:** <http://www.jason.org/public/whatis/start.aspx>

**AntoinettR:** wow really ?

**LindaU:** When I worked with their projects it was for grades 4-12. I had 3rd grades involved, though.

**LindaU:** Their materials are really good. I haven't been involved with them for a long time now.. but the idea is that they take a team of researchers somewhere in the world--doing real science... and classrooms follow the real scientist and study about what the scientists are doing..

**AntoinettR:** I am looking for a distance learning project that involves the animals of the rain forest

**LindaU:** Here is my email address: [linda\\_ullah@yahoo.com](mailto:linda_ullah@yahoo.com) Email me and remind me, and I'll look and see what I can find that might help you.

**LindaU:** You might also try ePals

**AntoinettR:** thanks

**LindaU:** <http://www.epals.com/>

**LindaU:** take a look at the links in this room. You might find something there.

**LindaU:** Click on LINKS on the left.

**AntoinettR:** okay now that looks like a really great site. I am going to search through that more

**BJB2 . o O** ( if you've detached your chat, Antoinette, the web window with Links is on the screen behind the chat )

**BJB2** looks at the clock on the wall. The next GPBL discussion is March 31

**LindaU:** Okay.. don't forget to email me and I'll search for project resources for you..

**AntoinettR:** okay thank you

**BJB2:** Thanks, Linda! You are wonderful!

**AntoinettR:** good night

**LindaU:** I hope you got some of your questions answered..

**LindaU:** Good night...

**BJB2** hugs goodnight. Safe travels

**LindaU:** Thanks, BJ...

**LindaU** smiles.. BJ knows how much I travel

**BJB2:** yeppers!

**BJB2 . o O** ( it's a good thing you like to do that! )

**LindaU** has her bag always partially packed.

**BJB2:** wind is howling like a banshee...going to go see what the weather forecast is

**BJB2:** take care.

**LindaU:** Okay-- Spring is coming.. I promise..

**BJB2** nods solemnly