

Title of Session: K-3+ Resources - Gingerbread and Snow

Moderator: Susan Roseman

Guest Speaker: Midge Frazel

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Date: January 9, 2007

Room: Comfy Conference

SusanR joined the room.

BJB2: better, Sue?

SusanR: no

MidgeF can't chat in the dark

SusanR: one more time I have a grayed out area in the chat

SusanR: It's like chattin in the dark

SusanR left the room (signed off).

MidgeF: Well, I can talk while Sue get "fixed"!

MidgeF: I'm Midge (aka the guest speaker)

LoriSmi smiles

MidgeF: I live in Massachusetts, am a technology consultant and author

SusanR joined the room.

SusanR: much better

MidgeF: I have my own Web site and blog. That's who I am.

BJB2 cheers

MidgeF yippee

SusanR: Welcome Lori and Maureen

LoriSmi: Thanks!

SusanR: Lori from Nova Scotia

LoriSmi: Nice to meet you Midge! Thanks for the intro

SusanR: I am from Ottawa, Ontario

LoriSmi: Yes from NS

MidgeF been there

SusanR: How is the weather?

LoriSmi: That's right fellow Canadian!

LoriSmi: Very mild, rainy ...no snow yet

MidgeF people from up above are sooo nice

LoriSmi big smile

MidgeF: So.....

SusanR: we are praying for snow..tourism depends upon it..Winterlude and skating on the Canal

MidgeF: This is such a big group that we can stretch out and relax. I am in my PJs.

MidgeF: I am thrilled we have no snow.

SusanR: Has Maureen introduced herself

MidgeF she probably went to get her bathrobe

SusanR . o O (may be I should change into my pjs)

LoriSmi: I am in mine!!

SusanR: cool

SusanR: classroom teacher, Lori?

LoriSmi: yes gr. 1

MidgeF: One of my favorite sites to share is my Snow page

LoriSmi: sounds good

MidgeF: <http://www.MidgeFrazel.net/snow.html>

SusanR: Let's get started. Perhaps this session will bring on the snow!!

KaelaAZ joined the room.

JulieTh joined the room.

MidgeF: Sue and I did this last month and we also covered gingerbread

MidgeF: It seems spicy but a bit out of season

MidgeF: <http://www.MidgeFrazel.net/gingerbread.html>

SusanR: welcome Kaela

KaelaAZ: Hi

SusanR: We are looking at Midge's Gingerbread Thematic site

MidgeF: Hi, big snow in Wisconsin?

KaelaAZ: No quite the opposite...

SusanR: <http://www.midgefrazel.net/snow.html>

MidgeF: I actually looked at the weather country-wise today thinking about this session

SusanR: <http://www.midgefrazel.net/>

MidgeF: That's me in my mother-of-the bride look

KaelaAZ: very nice!

MidgeF letting people look at those pages

MidgeF maybe a new photo soon if I can get someone to take one in Florida

SusanR: Midge, what do you think is causing this lack of snow in select areas that is normally swamped with snow and cool weather.

KaelaAZ: like Wisconsin!!

MidgeF: A guy on the TV said that a couple more winters like this and they will know it is El Nino causing it

SusanR: I have been spring skiing..now no skiing

MidgeF: But they need several years in a row to make appropriate data

MidgeF: Since I am flying in a couple weeks, I hope it stays like this...

MidgeF: I was reading Laura Inglass Wilder's The Long Winter to my husband last weekend.

KaelaAZ: I teach 5th do you focus on primary grades mostly

MaureenB: sorry my son came home so I have to go

MidgeF: My Web site is pretty flexible but is developed from workshops I used to teach and the grad classes I took for my Master's

KaelaAZ: There is A LOT Of good stuff on it!

MidgeF: Bye Maureen see you next time

LoriSmi: There is a lot in it!

MaureenB left the room (signed off).

SusanR: K to 3+, Kaela

MidgeF: I enjoy making theme pages so that there is something for every grade to use.

SusanR: How often do you update, Midge

MidgeF: I was surprised at the amount of literature about snow

SusanR: and check all links

MidgeF: I try to check a page each weekend or as I think teachers will look at them based on last year's visits.

MidgeF: Nothing is perfect ...sigh...takes a lot of time

SusanR: indeed it does

MidgeF: As we are calling it now..Web 1.0 is pretty stable.

SusanR: Have you seen Jennifer Wagner's Holiday Album.. bubbleshare

LoriSmi: no

MidgeF: Many high end teachers are moving into blogging and such and moving away from non interactive work.

MidgeF shakes head no

SusanR: this could be done with students ..we shared our weather conditions around the world during the holiday season

SusanR: <http://www.bubbleshare.com/album/98586.956e3977ba0/overview>

KaelaAZ: What grade Susan?

SusanR: this was a collaboration among fellow teachers

MidgeF: I have heard of Bubbleshare.

SusanR: but could be easily adapted

MidgeF: I do think this type of sharing is good...

MidgeF: If teachers have the time to work together and the school's policy doesn't block this type of site.

SusanR: 79 photos were posted within a two week period

SusanR: with comments and audio

LoriSmi: I like it!

KaelaAZ: I do to!

MidgeF: I like looking at Christmas stuff in warm climates

MidgeF: I think teachers are really excited about the visual Web we are involved in

SusanR: It's called "Scenes of the Season"

MidgeF: But, it is worry some to think that they could be blocked out at school.

KaelaAZ: Mine too. The Milwaukee Public School server is very strict

SusanR: So it would be blocked then, Midge

MidgeF: Many schools are reporting that no one is telling them what is blocked

MidgeF: Teachers are learning this in grad classes and then find they can't access them at school

MidgeF: I am blocked occasionally by a school as my first page mentions my blogs

SusanR: Do you get much feedback from teachers and parents or homeschoolers, Midge..regarding your sites

MidgeF: Not as much as I used to...mostly people visit and are so used to using the Web, they just don't think to say anything

MidgeF: I do have trouble with companies wanting me to advertise their products.

KaelaAZ: teaching companies or other?

MidgeF: One nice principal in Florida was going to use my Snow page as most staff and kids have never seen snow

MidgeF: Teaching companies who sell pre-made curriculum

SusanR: hmm interesting

MidgeF: I occasionally re-do a page or remove it as curriculum dictates.

KaelaAZ: that requires a lot of time then

MidgeF: Since I pay for hosting my pages and don't make a profit, I try to keep things free for teachers.

SusanR: I have used the Winter scavenger hunts here..Cindy's page

SusanR: <http://homepage.mac.com/cohora/index.html>

LoriSmi: Thanks...I appreciate the free info without ads

MidgeF: Yes, people like Cindy have great resources. I have emailed her back and forth

MidgeF: But it costs me money and without a job, I can't keep this up forever.

SusanR understands

LoriSmi: no you can't

MidgeF: I am accessing my stats page to see how many people are using my pages at this given moment

LoriSmi: that's a neat feature....how many?

MidgeF: 58 visitors

KaelaAZ: Where do you find info? Constantly searching?

MidgeF: At Thanksgiving sometimes over 100 people are looking at my pages. It's amazing.

MidgeF: Yes, I do spend a lot of time surfing for new things but I try to make sure there's quality

MidgeF: I think they should be useful and free

KaelaAZ: Where do you go to go to start a website like this? and a domain name?

LoriSmi: You have some very useful links

MidgeF: In the early morning, some users are in very exotic countries where there isn't as much access

MidgeF: I hired a semi-local company and they helped me register my name

MidgeF: I had help from the famous Kathy Schrock (who is a personal friend)

KaelaAZ: It sounds like a lot of fun I love searching the web for info and finding sites that don't require a yearly fee!!

MidgeF: Yes, I was not happy when some people gave up their sites and sold them but you can't work forever for just glory.

KaelaAZ: Is it expensive to run your site, besides putting in your time?

LoriSmi: I love it too but it is time consuming...love a site like yours that has it organized

MidgeF: \$30 per month and the fee for my domain name which is paid on a five year basis

MidgeF: I do get SPAM blocking, and several email boxes too but my connection is not included.

SusanR: Have you seen <http://www.riverdeep.net/>

MidgeF: Yes, Riverdeep is buying up stuff like crazy

MidgeF: They just bought Houghton Mifflin a Boston textbook and book publisher

SusanR: They have a Classroom Flyer which you can subscribe to

MidgeF: Things are changing quicker now. Much more talking and sharing as everyone uses the Web for a multitude of purposes.

SusanR: Riverdeep's Classroom Flyer: Tues. January 9th, 2007

SusanR: each day or so I receive a number of timely sites

MidgeF: This is my favorite page of theirs...

SusanR: which I may or may not use

MidgeF: http://www.riverdeep.net/current/2002/01/010702_light.jhtml

MidgeF: But, ladies, you must remember, I have been making Web pages for 10 years.

KaelaAZ: Thanks for the help Midge Great site

MidgeF: You're welcome. I'm glad you like it. Suggestions are welcome.

MidgeF: May I plug my next session?

BJB2 listens to Midge's plug

MidgeF: On Jan 30, at 7PM EST I will be taking about personal history and community history

SusanR: absolutely

MidgeF: I am a genealogist and gravestone groupie

LoriSmi: interesting stuff

MidgeF: There are some great ideas for bringing students into the community to learn the steps of research

MidgeF: Even young children can learn about a monument in their town (or the name of their school)

MidgeF: Anyway, that's what I am going to discuss...

LoriSmi: Time for bed for me. Thanks for sharing your snow website. It will be useful!

LoriSmi: Bye!

LoriSmi waves

SusanR: Are you adding any new themes to your site?

SusanR: a sneak preview please, Midge

MidgeF: I haven't decided on any new ones

MidgeF: I have to write an article when I get back on youngest computer users plus try to get a job.

SusanR: I like your blog <http://midgefrazel.net/blog/>

SusanR: "Five Things"

MidgeF: I took a class in Emerging Technologies (and loved it) and spent HOURS learning to make blogs.

MidgeF: Yes, there's a lot of crazy stuff in blogging

SusanR: time consuming to follow all those blogs

MidgeF: So, now you know about my nail polish addiction

SusanR: I wonder if the Time article will have an immediate impact on schools!

MidgeF: Yes, I am subscribed to too many. Lots of talk and ideas but nothing super concrete for all that reading.

MidgeF: No, I don't think so, schools move very, very slowly

MidgeF: Wow, it is almost Nine! And I am still awake! I'll let you all go have fun.

SusanR: Thanks again, Midge for joining the K to 3+ gang!

SusanR: A nice intimate session!

MidgeF: You're welcome. Love Tappedin

BJB2 waves goodnight

SusanR: me too

MidgeF: CYA later guys!

