

**Title of Session:** MPS-Teacher Tools that Integrate Tech

**Moderator:** Kimberly Lightle

**Title of File:** 20081110mpsconnect

**Date:** November 10, 2008

Room: Middle School Portal Group

**BjB**: Welcome to this month's MSP discussion...

**KimberlySL**: Thanks BJ - let's get started. Why don't we introduce ourselves

**BjB**: a reminder if you are new to Tapped In to go to the Actions menu in the top right of the chat and select DETACH

**BjB**: and if Kim shows us a url, make sure you hold down the ctrl or shift key when you click n the url

**BjB** listens to intros

**KimberlySL**: I'm a math and science educator at Ohio State University - I have a couple of projects - one of them is the Middle school Portal for Math and Science Teachers ( <http://msteacher.org> )

**WendyQ**: I teach adults who are trying to get their high school credentials

**WendyQ**: in Cambridge, MA

**CindiM**: I'm a teacher-librarian for a middle school in LA

**KimberlySL**: Hi Cindi

**LaraO**: I teach middle school technology in saint louis missouri

**BjB**: I'm in Pennsylvania and am on Tapped In helpdesk

**JeffC**: I'm on Tapped In Helpdesk, in Forest Grove Oregon, and resident wiseguy.

**NoraG**: I am a library clerk in the elementary level

**ChristieE**: I'm a graduate student at UMW

**KimberlySL**: Sounds like a great crowd

**CindiM**: Hi Kimberly, so have you actually used electronic communications with students successfully?

**WendyQ:** Hi Jeff!

**KimberlySL:** In a very limited situation - I was one of the participants

**JeffC:** Hi Wendy

**KimberlySL:** Have you tried before?

**CindiM:** No, I'm new to all the technology, being this is my first year in the library. I'm taking a tech class now at CSULB; I know teachers here on campus would love to get kids involved in in-line chats, videoconferencing, etc .

**KimberlySL:** If you look at the whiteboard on the Middle School Portal you'll see a tinyurl - that has all the info that we are going to talk about tonight

**BjB :** <http://tinyurl.com/6p8cwx>

**KimberlySL:** Lots of teachers are making it happen - hopefully you'll find some good examples this evening

**KimberlySL:** Collaborative and real-time data projects engage students in collecting and sharing local data; communicating with other students around the world; using and analyzing “pooled” data from web-based databases; and accessing unique, primary source information.

**KimberlySL:** Some wonderful collaborative and real-time data projects have been available online for years. To get a feel for the breadth of available projects, try a few searches in the <http://www.globalschoolnet.org/gsh/pr/>

**BjB** checks to make sure everyone got the url

**WendyQ:** got it

**KimberlySL:** There are also projects listed in KidsProj  
<http://www.kidlink.org/KIDPROJ/projects.html>

**KimberlySL:** Have a quick look at that URL too and some of those projects

**KimberlySL:** GSN lets you start your own project and submit to the database - do you see where you can do that?

**KimberlySL:** GSN is GlobalSchoolNet

**WendyQ:** I wish these weren't so very kid-oriented

**KimberlySL:** Wendy - What do you mean?

**WendyQ:** I'm not sure how my 30- and 40-year old students would react, at least to the graphics, and the constant refrain of "connecting kids."

**KimberlySL:** Ahhhh

**WendyQ:** I need to find -- or make -- some adult resources like these

**JeffC:** here you go Wendy... <http://www.nabuur.com> ...have your students adopt an impoverished village... lots to do worldwide.

**KimberlySL:** I see what you mean - the reason I showed you these two sites is just to see that breath of those available - let's get into the ones that I think are some of the best available

**KimberlySL:** Let's go to Journey North -  
<http://www.learner.org/jnorth/season/spring2009/>

**WendyQ:** Thanks, Jeff -- I will check that one out

**KimberlySL:** Jeff - That sounds very interesting

**BjB:** Journey North has been around a long time!

**KimberlySL:** It has!

**KimberlySL:** but they have added some wonderful new projects and the technology has sure improved

**WendyQ:** neither ctrl nor shift works to get me to these urls

**WendyQ:** suggestions?

**BjB:** Wendy, go to the Actions menu in the top right of the chat...

**BjB:** and select Send to Pasteboard

**LaraO:** so glad it wasn't just me, I went from the main page off the whiteboard

**BjB:** highlight the url and copy it

**CindiM:** I had to open another browser and I'm working in two windows so I can view the sites

**WendyQ:** Yay!

**BjB** : and paste it into a new browser window

**KimberlySL**: All the projects that are on this page will start in Feb 2009 so you could start planning now

**KimberlySL**: (I'm sure glad BJ is here to help us)

**WendyQ**: Cool!

**KimberlySL**: I also love it that Journey North takes the tack of Citizen Science so its not so kid-ish

**CindiM**: We have a new horticulture teacher at our school; the tulips project would be a great one for his students to participate in. I'll forward this info to him.

**KimberlySL**: I'm an avid gardener so the Tulip project really speaks to me

**LaraO**: the eagles would be great here - they nest just across the river

**KimberlySL**: For instance - the monarch watch - you map the migration pattern of monarch - they go an amazing distance

**KimberlySL**: When you see monarchs in your area you put that data into the database and everyone adds that data to their map

**JeffC** . o O ( danged pesky imperialist insects! )

**KimberlySL**: Eagles are very cool too

**WendyQ**: We're in a pretty urban area...not sure how well these would work

**KimberlySL**: Good point

**LaraO**: this mystery class sounds cool

**KimberlySL**: The next set of projects we are going to look at are from CIESE - collaborative projects <http://www.k12science.org/collabprojs.html>

**LaraO**: looks like that would work in the urban area

**BjB** : Wendy, you might find another resource if you visit the Natural Disaster Help Center

**LaraO**: oooh now I'm excited - engineering projects!!

**CindiM:** The gray whales project provides daily migration data from our own back yard (LA). One of the science teachers here takes the kids annually to see the whales. This would be a perfect fit for them.

**KimberlySL:** All great ideas

**WendyQ:** I like these CIESE projects

**KimberlySL:** CIESE also has projects they call Real Data - <http://www.k12science.org/realtimeproj.html>

**KimberlySL:** With the Real Data projects, students are looking at data being collected by buoys in the middle of the ocean for instance - it is definitely real!

**KimberlySL:** I have a math teacher friend who loves the Collaborative project - Boiling Point Project and the Real Data project - Stowaway Adventure

**LaraO:** the air pollution one may be just what my kids need - we keep talking about positive and negatives of technology - and they always bring up air pollution

**WendyQ:** I was looking at that boiling point one -- starts just in the beginning of our semester

**KimberlySL:** What better than collecting their own samples and looking at real data from the EPA for instance!

**KimberlySL:** In terms of the Stowaway project, it is integrated with geography - depending on the buoy data (currents, ie.) you decide where the boat would go

**KimberlySL:** and map that - the story is kind of silly but Terry says her students think it's fun

**KimberlySL:** CIESE says that these projects have a significant engineering component <http://www.k12science.org/engineeringproj.html>

**KimberlySL:** Is everybody busy looking?

**KimberlySL:** Just tell me when you want me to go on

**CindiM:** Great ideas for unit culminating projects.

**KimberlySL:** Some of these projects can go on all year - such as the Tulip project - you're growing, measuring, planting, etc.

**KimberlySL:** Well... let's go ahead and look at the Globe Project <http://www.globe.gov/projects>

**KimberlySL:** Teachers need to go through training to actually participate so it becomes a little more work but it's well worth the effort.

**KimberlySL:** However, all the materials (lessons, background info) are available for anyone to use

**KimberlySL:** Also - all the data that has been collected for years (since 1995) I think is available for data analysis - lots of real data

**CindiM:** Kimberly, the teacher's guide where you can search by concept and grade is very helpful.

**KimberlySL:** Nora - Globe has a program for elementary teachers  
<http://www.globe.gov/fsl/html/templ.cgi?elemGLOBE&lang=en>

**KimberlySL:** There are non-fiction science stories for students that are the basis for the data that students collect

**KimberlySL:** They do have a good search and you can use the materials in any way you like

**KimberlySL:** so it doesn't just have to be as a collaborative project

**KimberlySL:** Nora - there is an elementary version of the article that is directing tonight's discussion  
<http://beyondpenguins.nsd.org/issue/column.php?date=April2008&departmentid=professional&columnid=professional!technology>

**KimberlySL:** In that version, I highlight what I think are the best elementary collaborative project resources

**KimberlySL:** The last resource is epals <http://www.epals.com/>

**KimberlySL:** ePals offers K-12 students and teachers around the world a free and safe environment for building and exchanging knowledge based on protected connectivity tools, evidence-based curricula and authentic, collaborative learning experiences. The ePals Global Learning Community is the largest online community of K-12 learners, enabling more than half a million educators and millions of students across 200 countries and territories to safely connect, exchange ideas, and work together.

**KimberlySL:** the link to epals projects is  
<http://content.epals.com/projects/info.aspx?DivID=index>

**KimberlySL:** I don't know any teachers that have joined any of these projects but epals sure has a good reputation for bringing classrooms together from across the world -

especially through their pen pals project

**KimberlySL:** Is anybody familiar with epals

**JeffC:** yup

**CindiM:** No, but these are all such timely topics!

**LaraO:** I did it with my fourth grade class when I taught younguns

**ChristieE:** no

**KimberlySL:** Neat!

**KimberlySL:** epals is a controlled environment with free email/blogging functionality

**JeffC:** one downside to epals is spam... you have to watch out for it... I believe you can create up to 35 free student accounts... after that you have to purchase a premium membership (or create additional teacher accounts and cheat).

**KimberlySL:** Interesting - I just heard the founder talk about epals and he said that he was working towards everything being free

**JeffC:** plusses include the project based community as Kim mentioned... plus there are in-house translations for the emails.

**JeffC:** it's possible they're changing policies... that would be great.

**KimberlySL:** National Geographic just gave epals a bunch of their content (and I would assume money) and integrated their KidsNet project stuff

**KimberlySL:** into epals

**JeffC:** excellent... I definitely would recommend epals for monitored student email accounts.

**KimberlySL:** the translation piece looks great - I saw it demonstrated

**JeffC:** and set the spam settings to max... so that no spam will reach the students (teacher will have to approve emails... which can be a bit onerous... but worthwhile).

**LaraO:** my kids loved the Cinderella project and we also did a postcard from every state project them mapped and graphed the distances

**KimberlySL:** That's right - teachers can set the system so that they have to approve any emails or blog postings

**KimberlySL:** I forgot about that!

**KimberlySL:** All of these resources are discussed in one of my blog posts - <http://expertvoices.nsdl.org/middle-school-math-science/2008/11/10/connecting-classrooms-sharing-real-data/>

**KimberlySL:** so you'll have something to refer to or you can share the post if you would like

**KimberlySL:** Does anybody have any questions or comments?

**CindiM:** I'm glad I logged on. This has been very helpful. Can't wait to share the sites with the teachers here at my school.

**BjB:** The next MSP discussion will be on December 8.

**WendyQ:** This has definitely got me thinking

**KimberlySL:** That's great

**BjB:** . o O ( bring your teachers to the next discussion, Cindi! )

**ChristieE:** Thank you.

**KimberlySL:** That's even better!

**CindiM:** I'll work on that one.

**KimberlySL:** Not sure what the next chat topic might be - any requests?

**BjB:** . o O ( have admin offer CEUs for participating )

**WendyQ:** I'm looking at e-pals and thinking there might be some connections for my classes, so thanks!

**BjB:** Thanks, Kim. Good discussion

**KimberlySL:** Well - looks like we are coming to the end. If you have any ideas for next month - give me a holler at [lightle.16@osu.edu](mailto:lightle.16@osu.edu)

**KimberlySL:** I would appreciate it

**BjB:** if anyone gets an idea you can post to the group discussion board or send to Kim

**WendyQ:** Thanks Kimberly and BJ



**BjB** . o O ( join this group if you want to post to the discussion board )

**KimberlySL**: Thanks to all for coming