

**Title of Session:** Beyond Penguins and Polar Bears  
**Moderator:** Jessica Fries-Gaither and Kimberly Lightle  
**Title of File:** 20080604beyondpenguins  
**Date:** June 4, 2008

Room: Beyond Penguins Group

**JessicaFr:** Let's get started. I'm Jessica Fries-Gaither. I work at Ohio State and I'm the project director for Beyond Penguins.

**JessicaFr:** Please introduce yourself to everyone

**KimberlySL** joined the room.

**BJB2:** Welcome to the first Beyond Penguins and Polar Bears discussion!

**JessicaFr** waves

**JanF:** It's hot here in Texas. Any penguin environment has to be better:0

**BJB2:** if you are new to Tapped In, a reminder to go to the Actions menu in the top right of the chat and select DETACH

**JessicaFr:** Jan, are you an elementary teacher?

**KerryLD:** I'm Kerry. I'm a Kindergarten teacher in San Dimas, CA.

**JanF:** Not exactly

**BJB2:** I teach communication and am located in Pennsylvania

**BJB2** waits for Jan to introduce herself

**JanF:** I am a technology coordinator.

**JeffC:** I'm on Tapped In Helpdesk, in Forest Grove Oregon, and waiting for an explanation of why penguins torture polar bears, as evidenced here: <http://jur-linux.com/linux/pics/Penguin%20polar%20bear%20symbols.jpg>

**JeffC:** hold the Ctrl key down while clicking or your popup blocker might log you out.

**BJB2** groans...I don't believe you did that, Jeff!

**JessicaFr:** haha...so untrue

**JessicaFr:** but funny

**KimberlySL:** Hi everyone - sorry I'm late. Jessica is the project director for the project and she is going to give us a tour of the new online magazine - take it away!

**JanF:** Cute! But a little staged.

**JessicaFr:** great...let's start with an overview

**JessicaFr:** Beyond Penguins is a free, online professional development magazine written for elementary educators.

**JessicaFr:** We are funded by NSF.

**JessicaFr:** We hope to help teachers understand polar science concepts and integrate science and literacy instruction.

**JessicaFr:** We are publishing monthly issues, and 20 issues total.

**JessicaFr:** Each issue has a theme that is reflected in elementary science curricula

**JessicaFr:** so, first, let's look at those...look in featured items for [issue\\_schedule.pdf](#)

**JessicaFr:** it shows all of our 20 issue themes...take a look and then we can discuss

**KimberlySL:** You might have to scroll down to see the file

**BJB2:** if you detached your chat, you can either attach or look on the web window that is behind your chat window

**KerryLD:** I got an error message

**KerryLD:** I can't open it

**KimberlySL:** it took a minute but it did load for me

**JessicaFr:** it opened for me too...any ideas BJ or Jeff?

**JeffC:** hmmm...

**BJB2:** opened fine for me too

**JanF:** I am seeing weather and climate for this month on the pdf

**JessicaFr:** yes, that is our current issue

**JessicaFr:** is that a topic covered at your school?

**JanF:** yes

**BJB2:**

[http://tappedin.org/tappedin/do/FileAction?ROOM\\_ID=24069&FILE\\_ID=48137&state=doDownloadFile](http://tappedin.org/tappedin/do/FileAction?ROOM_ID=24069&FILE_ID=48137&state=doDownloadFile)

**BJB2** . o O ( try that, Kerry )

**JessicaFr:** Jan, do you work with students or just support teachers?

**JeffC:** do you have Acrobat Reader, Kerry?

**KerryLD:** Yes

**JanF:** both

**JessicaFr:** we definitely have highlighted some collaborative projects and activities that involve technology...those might be a good fit for your role

**JessicaFr:** any luck Kerry?

**JanF:** Great!

**BJB2:** this is to the current

issue: [http://tappedin.org/tappedin/do/FileAction?ROOM\\_ID=24069&FILE\\_ID=48136&state=doDownloadFile](http://tappedin.org/tappedin/do/FileAction?ROOM_ID=24069&FILE_ID=48136&state=doDownloadFile)

**KerryLD:** Not yet, still trying though

**JessicaFr:** we can move on and look at the issues...unless there are any questions or comments first

**BJB2:** you can always try later, Kerry. You can come back to this room at any time

**KimberlySL:** let's move on

**KerryLD:** Ok, sorry about that

**JessicaFr:** the other document in Featured Items shows how our magazine is organized

**JessicaFr:** but I'll just tell you so we all know what it says

**KimberlySL:** no problemo - see if the second document opens

**JessicaFr:** We have five departments: Professional Learning, Science and Literacy, Across the Curriculum, In the Field: Scientists at Work, and Polar News and Notes

**JessicaFr:** each department has a number of columns that appear each month

**JessicaFr:** if you can open the other pdf document (cyberzine\_organization), you'll see a screenshot and a description of each department

**JessicaFr:** So let's look at the departments from Issue 4

**JessicaFr:** we'll start with Professional Learning

<http://beyondpenguins.nsd.org/issue/dept.php?date=June2008&departmentid=professional>

**JessicaFr:** follow that link and take a few minutes to explore

**JessicaFr:** we can discuss and answer questions when you come back

**KimberlySL:** there is an embedded teachertube video in the Literacy Content Knowledge article and links to standards - science and English and reading

**BJB2** checks to make sure everyone got that link?

**KerryLD:** Yes, I got it

**KerryLD:** Very interesting stuff

**JessicaFr:** thanks...what did you look at?

**KerryLD:** I looked at the link on Weather and Climate

**KerryLD:** I also checked out the Vocab. Dev.

**JessicaFr:** that's a long article...but it has lots of great information

**KerryLD:** I read Marzano's book, too

**JessicaFr:** a climate scientist at UCAR wrote it

**JessicaFr:** Marzano's work is really helpful

**KerryLD:** I never knew the difference between weather and climate

**JessicaFr:** I'm sure you don't cover that in K ;)

**KimberlySL:** UCAR is University Corporation for Atmospheric Research - its a

consortium of a bunch of universities that do atmospheric research

**KerryLD:** When it comes to vocab. dev. Marzano has got some good stuff

**JessicaFr:** do you find those strategies helpful for K?

**KerryLD:** No, we don't dig that deep into weather in K

**KimberlySL:** Kerry - do you have a personal or class webpage

**KerryLD:** No, I'm building one for my Master's program, though

**KerryLD:** Yes, I find some of Marzano's strategies helpful for K

**KimberlySL:** the teacher tools articles provides some insight into publishing on the web

**KerryLD:** I actually do have a googlepages webpage

**JessicaFr:** I'm going to go ahead and give you another link...will talk to the others as they come back

**JessicaFr:** Science and Literacy department has lessons and a bookshelf

**KimberlySL:** would you like us to focus on anything specific?

**JessicaFr:**

<http://beyondpenguins.nsd.org/issue/dept.php?date=June2008&departmentid=literacy>

**JessicaFr:** Kerry, I'd be interested in your feedback on the K-2 lessons and books...

**KerryLD:** Weather is good, but not anything too difficult

**JanF:** I am looking at the contentclips.com. It has searchable images, videos, and audio

**KerryLD:** Ok, Jessica. I can do that

**JessicaFr:** Jan, we have electronic books for students through them...I'll give you a direct link to the article

**JanF:** sometimes using images and videos enables students to operate at a higher level than their voc and reading level I might suggest

**JessicaFr:**

<http://beyondpenguins.nsd.org/issue/column.php?date=June2008&departmentid=literacy&columnid=literacy!feature>

**JessicaFr:** Jan, follow that link and look for a section called Electronic Books

**JessicaFr:** and definitely - they can really help with vocab development

**JessicaFr:** content clips is also great because you can create your own activities and then use them in class

**JanF:** Found it. Now I am looking at electronic books for 4-5

**JanF:** I am seeing Antarctic: King of the Cold

**KerryLD:** Oh my goodness! The lessons on Weather Walks are great! The kids would love doing each of them

**JessicaFr:** it can take a few seconds for the audio to load...turn up your volume and click on "play"

**JessicaFr:** great, Kerry. Hope you can use those!

**KerryLD:** There are 5 days of lessons there

**KimberlySL:** I was just listening to the narration of the electronic book - very nice

**JessicaFr:** Kerry, did you get to look at the literacy lesson that was paired with the science?

**JessicaFr:** Jan, any luck with the electronic books?

**KerryLD:** The one on How does My Garden Grow?

**KerryLD:** I'm looking at that right now

**JessicaFr:** Kerry, I don't remember which one off the top of my head...I'll take look in a minute

**JanF:** Yesssss I am on page 6. One of the questions that the kids have is the difference between tundra and polar ice cap. --when they are trying to understand the word Biome

**JessicaFr:** it is hard for kids when they've never seen either one

**JessicaFr:** another article you both might be interested in is the virtual bookshelf

**JessicaFr:**

<http://beyondpenguins.nsd.org/issue/column.php?date=June2008&departmentid=literacy&columnid=literacy!bookshelf>

**KerryLD:** This lesson is great is links plants and writing field journals

**JanF:** Page 7 indicates that the Antarctic is a desert. Does that mean that is desert instead of a tundra?

**JessicaFr:** yes, it is a desert.

**KerryLD:** There are also some suggestions of great books about gardening

**JessicaFr:** it is hard to believe, but the air is so cold that it doesn't hold much moisture at all

**JessicaFr:** the tundra is actually found in the Arctic...and alpine areas. Not Antarctica

**KimberlySL:** children's librarians help with choosing books for the virtual bookshelf

**JanF:** Does the Antarctic have permafrost?

**JanF:** It would seem that you would have to have plants in order to have permafrost. Are all of the plants in the ocean in the Antarctic?

**KerryLD:** I found a great resource link to "Read Write Think" for book creating

**JessicaFr:** there are some plants on the Antarctica peninsula...so possibly permafrost as well.

**KimberlySL:** we've highlighted lots of the Read Write Think resources in the magazine

**JanF:** I am going to check out another electronic book. This is nice especially the vocab and the experiment

**JessicaFr:** and that area is considered Antarctic tundra. my apologies for the mistake earlier

**JessicaFr:** Jan, did you think that was an appropriate reading level for 4-5?

**JessicaFr:** and Kerry, I love ReadWriteThink...they have such wonderful resources!

**KerryLD:** That lesson alone would take weeks, maybe even months to complete. It's great!

**KerryLD:** So, is this just from one issue?

**JessicaFr:** Yes, this is just our most current issue. We can look at more from this issue or look at the lessons from other issues...whatever you would like to see!

**KerryLD:** Does each issue have this many lessons to choose from?

**KimberlySL:** one of goals with the project is to help teachers do more science because we are helping teachers figure out ways to integrate science into their literacy teaching

**JanF:** It depends. Some of our second language learners would struggle. Some of the SPED kids would too. The GT would find it appropriate.

**KimberlySL:** each issue is very similar in terms of articles and activities, electronic books, etc

**JessicaFr:** We do have the other versions. I try to modify the text so it is less difficult...maybe check out the one for grades 2-3.

**JanF:** We live on the border with Mexico. Most of our kids are ELL. Some have matriculated out of the program but we still have to watch their literacy for at least two years.

**JanF:** I'm checking the electronic books at a lower grade level now.

**KimberlySL:** the first issue was Sense of Place - where is the world is the arctic and antarctica. you can get to all four issues if you go to <http://beyondpenguins.nsd.org>

**KerryLD:** National Geographic Xpeditions has some great lessons

**JessicaFr:** in each issue, you'll find lessons and activities in Science and Literacy and Across the Curriculum

**KimberlySL:** issue 2 was polar past - and issue three - seasons and day and night

**JessicaFr:** we've highlighted several Xpeditions lessons

**JessicaFr:** esp. in Issue 1

**KimberlySL:** the topics for upcoming issues are in the document that is in the Feature area in the Beyond Penguins welcome area

**JessicaFr:** We haven't looked at the other departments...so here's a quick overview

**KimberlySL:** we also have a blog that is posted to 3-4 time per week - <http://expertvoices.nsd.org/polar>

**JanF:** The 2-3 level lacks the experiment. I think that the kids need to do an experiment - something tactile to understand.

**JessicaFr:** Across the Curriculum brings in other content areas



**JessicaFr:**

<http://beyondpenguins.nsd.org/issue/dept.php?date=June2008&departmentid=curriculum>

**JessicaFr:** there are also experiments in the Science and Literacy Lessons and Activities article

**JessicaFr:** but that is a good idea to remember

**KerryLD:** There are a lot of great online resources I just don't know how many of them can be done with K

**JessicaFr:** In the Field profiles polar scientists

<http://beyondpenguins.nsd.org/issue/dept.php?date=June2008&departmentid=field>

**KerryLD:** Maybe I can do them as a whole group activity

**JessicaFr:** do you have any suggestions for us to better meet K-1 needs?

**KimberlySL:** Kerry - did you look at the electronic books (they can also be printed and folded) for K-1 under the Feature Story article?

**JessicaFr:**

<http://beyondpenguins.nsd.org/issue/column.php?date=June2008&departmentid=literacy&columnid=literacy!feature>

**KerryLD:** Was that at Read Write Think?

**JessicaFr:** no - use the link just above your last comment

**JessicaFr:** then look for the Electronic book section

**KimberlySL:** You can subscribe (get an email) when new content is added to the blog or magazine - go to <http://beyondpenguins.nsd.org> (homepage) and look at the header or footer - there is a subscribe link

**JessicaFr:** Jan, the books also come in printable form with illustrations...you can print and copy them and each kid can have a copy of the book

**KerryLD:** These are very useful for K

**JessicaFr:** the books?

**KerryLD:** I was just looking at some of the writing lessons, and most are online

**KimberlySL:**

<http://beyondpenguins.nsd.org/issue/column.php?date=June2008&departmentid=literacy&columnid=literacy!feature> - here is the page to find the electronic books

**KerryLD:** Most Kindergarteners don't have the fine motor skills to type, yet

**JessicaFr:** definitely

**KerryLD:** But, if I did those lessons as a whole group, that would be beneficial

**KimberlySL:**

<http://www.contentclips.com/cc/cz/templates/flashTemplate.do?title=King+of+Cold&rights=Copyright+June+2008%2C+The+Ohio+State+University&isGuest=true&width=520&height=580&url=http://www.contentclips.com/uri-res/N2R?urn:fdc:www.contentclips.com:2000:clp:633>

**KerryLD:** They are great brainstorming tools

**JessicaFr:** I think that is a common modification for the younger grades

**KimberlySL:** click on the above link - I know it's huge but does it work

**KerryLD:** That sent me to the electronic book, King of Cold

**KerryLD:** I was already there from the other link

**JessicaFr:** Jan, this article has some information about sharing weather data and online projects

<http://beyondpenguins.nsd.org/issue/column.php?date=June2008&departmentid=professional&columnid=professional!assessment>

**KimberlySL:** We have all sorts of narrators for the electronic books

**JessicaFr:** And also this one

<http://beyondpenguins.nsd.org/issue/column.php?date=April2008&departmentid=professional&columnid=professional!technology...it> is all about collaborative projects

**JanF:** Look. I found an answer on the link about research--about plans and permafrost--They noticed a dried and faded plant. What type of plant was it? How old was it? What kind of climate existed when the plant was alive? Because Lonnie works to describe the history of climate on Earth, knowing the age of the plant and the kind of conditions it grew in were important pieces of the puzzle

**KerryLD:** I like how the same text has been modified for more advanced readers.

**KerryLD:** Great for differentiating instruction

**KimberlySL:** So glad to hear it!

**JessicaFr:** Jan, you're right. that's an example of alpine plants, if I remember correctly.

**JanF:** It turns out that the plant that Lonnie found is a moss---the plant (a type of moss; *Distichia muscoides*) was about 5,200 years old!

**KerryLD:** I actually have a Kindergarten student who could probably read the 2-3 one now

**JessicaFr:** it is a really interesting story...and it shows how scientific discoveries can actually be accidental

**JessicaFr:** wow, Kerry!

**JessicaFr:** we have similar stories (with grade level versions) in each issue

**JessicaFr:** always in the Feature Story article

**KerryLD:** So, each issue has a different leveled text?

**KimberlySL:** It's about time to wrap our discussion up - any last questions?

**JessicaFr:** yes, each issue has a different leveled text.

**KerryLD:** great

**KerryLD:** There is so much to look at, thanks!

**JessicaFr:** check out all of the issues at <http://beyondpenguins.nsd.org/...and> share with your colleagues!

**KimberlySL:** We plan on having Tapped In events every month. We would love you to join us.

**JanF:** This article is great because it talks about the scientific process and correlative data from other parts of the earth to indicate a period of cooling and moisture.

**JessicaFr:** and feel free to contact me at [fries-gaither.1@osu.edu](mailto:fries-gaither.1@osu.edu) if you have questions or comments

**KerryLD:** Thank you for sharing!

**JanF:** There is so much to look at. I think that it will be a helpful resource. thanks for the tour

**JessicaFr:** Thank you for participating!

**KimberlySL:** Have a great evening

**KerryLD:** You, too!

**JanF:** Will we receive a transcript of this?

**JessicaFr:** yes, you should get a transcript. I'm also going to save it as a Word file and upload it in a folder in this room...so if you come back, you can find it here as well!