

Thoughts from Jen

Dear Friends –

I truly enjoy conferences – going to sessions, visiting the exhibitor's booths, getting the free junk (oops merchandise).....but this year, I did pretty much NONE of that, yet still had a wonderful time at NECC.

The NECC conference was held from June 24 – 27th in Atlanta, GA. They have posted statistics that over 17,000 were in attendance. Grins, I could not verify that because my conference pretty much stayed in a 60 sq foot of space in a WONDERFUL location called "Bloggers' Café."

It was an exceptional location to just listen and learn. Many of the people who stopped by are blog writers which I have great respect for (Chris Lehmann, David Warlick, Mark Wagner, etc) and blog writers I had not yet read (Kevin Honeycutt, John Pederson – to name a few.) And it was fantastic. Every time I went to head to a session, someone new would show up and a new conversation began.

The Bloggers' Café made such an impression on me that we are continuing the conversation at a new website – www.thebloggerscafe.com – which I invite you to join in.

People might wonder why I paid the \$\$\$ to attend a conference which I didn't really attend – but to be honest, I learned more at the Bloggers' Café than almost any conference I have been to.

I know this might sound silly – but it was like sitting at the feet of giants – and I learned a great deal!!

Jennifer

Sites to See

Topic for July "NUTRITION"

Team Nutrition

<http://www.teamnutrition.usda.gov/>

Health Smart Virginia

http://healthsmartva.pwnet.org/resources/grade_4/4_1_d.php

Nutrition Education

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns/nutrition.htm>

Food & Fitness Freebies

<http://www.uen.org/ate/family/foods1/materials.html>

Nutrition Lesson Plans

http://www.teach-nology.com/teachers/lesson_plans/health/nutrition/

Clean Up the Classroom Offer from Clorox Company

<http://www.cloroxclassrooms.com/register.html>

The Clorox Company is offering a free "Clean Up the Classroom" multimedia kit for teachers. The free kit includes a DVD, poster, and guide. You also receive a free canister of Clorox Disinfecting Wipes. This free offer can be requested by or on behalf of teachers. You will need Adobe reader to print out samples!

Check for new kits in July 2007!

Technology Tip

SETTING UP TWITTER

Program: Twitter

With everything else you have going on in your life, adding one more distraction might just seem like too much. And that is exactly what I thought when presented with "Twitter".

However, I am truly enjoying it now, and though perhaps you might wish to test it out too.

Think of it as an extension of Instant Messaging. A way to keep in contact with a variety of people. Think of it as FLUFF (because sometimes the conversation is silly) but also SUBSTANCE (because sometimes one comment can get everyone thinking of possibilities!)

Twitter (<http://twitter.com/>) is free and very easy to join.

When you get to the main page, look to the right to sign up.

You will be prompted to choose a user name (mine are Technospud and JLVagner) and provide an email address and enter a captcha code.

Once you sign on, you will go through a few more screens to set up preferences – feel free to skip these.....and then you will come to your main page.

At the top of your page will be your twitter window where you are welcome to type in text. You are limited to 140 characters of text – which can be fun to see how much you can say in a itty-bitty limit of space!

You can also add friends – feel free to add me. (JLVagner or Technospud) and start twittering.

And if you really are enjoying it, you do have the option to add it to your phone or your RSS feed. Hmmm, up to you on how much you wish to TWITTER! (grins)



Kirsten Van Dyke
3rd Grade Teacher
Woodland Elementary

Kirsten Van Dyke has created a very comfortable site for parents, students, and teachers.

Her "About Me" has a listing of her current reading list which I feel is a very effective way to encourage your students to read!! (wished I had thought of this)

On her student page – be sure to check out S.T.A.R. (Students That Are Responsible!) She is doing an excellent job in encouraging good behavior with her students!

Be sure to check out the "Word Funeral" too. I am interested in finding out how they chose the words. It is a good idea – I am wondering if perhaps we should continue this idea with words like "can't, too hard, impossible, and not fair".

There is a lot to see on her page! I hope you enjoy it as much as I have!

Kirsten Van Dyke
<http://www.mrsvandvke.com/>

Want to nominate a teacher site for next month's Teacher Site Review?

Please send an email to jlw@technospud.com with the teacher's name, school, and website address.

Please remember that:

1. The site needs to load quickly!
2. The site may not have any inappropriate ads.
3. The site cannot ask you for personal information nor have the need to download anything to view the site.
4. The site needs to have been updated within the last few months.
5. If graphics are used, an appropriate link of acknowledgement needs to be listed on the site somewhere.