



Nings

Nings are online platforms that allow people to create social networks. Members of groups with common interests or objectives are formed, whose members are then able chat, share resources, collaborate on forums and reflect through blog posts. Students are drawn to Nings due to the wealth of options offered by them. In many ways the features of this social networking tool closely resemble Facebook, an application that students use regularly out of school to stay in contact with friends. As in Facebook students who join a Ning are able to customise their own pages, add applications and form groups of friends to collaborate and share with.

The potential for Nings in education is enormous as teachers and students are able to bring files, multimedia, groups and discussions together in one place. At present our students are learning how to use them in ICT lessons as part of a unit on Social Networks. Both the reflective and collaborative aspects of the Ning have been a focus in ICT as well as other subjects.



Virtual Worlds

Virtual Worlds are becoming very popular in education. They offer a means of providing opportunities for students and teachers to move outside the of the classroom and pursue learning experiences that would be difficult or even impossible to manage in the traditional classroom. Virtual worlds allow students to take virtual field trips, meet up with students from other schools from around the world, and participate in virtual classrooms. Whyville is a virtual world, which is based on educational ideas, and is safe for our younger students to get around in.

The activities in Whyville are again educationally founded and include such things as recycling, sorting, construction and design. In order to chat with others in Whyville, students must first take an internet safety test. Students can earn clams(Whyville currency) by working or participating in games and activities and teachers are able to work with their classes in the virtual world. Later in the CAL, 6th grade will have the opportunity to engage in online learning through the Whyville virtual world.



Gmail and Goolge Docs

Every student in KS3 now has a Gmail account. These accounts are superior in many ways to our traditional email service, and include such exciting options as video, audio and text chat. One of the many applications that comes with a Gmail account is Google Docs. Using Google Docs students can upload documents, as well as create them online. Document types include presentations, text and spreadsheets and can be published as web pages and/or shared with others wishing to view or collaborate on them.

Just imagine the potential! A group of students must produce a project. They are not allowed to get together outside of school in order to work on it, but can get together virtually, writing to the same document at each student's convenience, not only when it is convenient for the group. They can also chat about their work in real time with either text, audio or video chat and practice presentations in front of their groups as they run them in Google Docs and view the presenters through video chat. This is one powerful learning tool!

Podcasting

Podcasting has become a popular and powerful method for students to share their ideas with the world. In its simplest form, a podcast is an audio file that can be uploaded by the author and accessed via the internet by a listener.

Students in various areas of the ABC have been working on podcasts in different subjects. In ICT 6th grade is currently podcasting about internet safety and the 7th grade is podcasting a radio report on World War One. We hope to have these podcasts ready for uploading shortly after Easter.

Reminders



Lunch on the Lawn

L.O.L performances are live streamed weekly starting at 11:20 at:

<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/live-at-the-lrc>

Book Requests

We are currently working on the new library order for SY08/09. If you have any suggestions for books you think should be in the library you can make your request on our Requests for Resources page at <http://learningresourcescentre.pbwiki.com/>