- **for the Media**
- **for Presenters**
- **for Exhibitors**
- **for Attendees**

iste atlanta
LEARNING AND LEADING WITH TECHNOLOGY
NECC 2007 June 24–27, Georgia World Congress Center

NECC 2007 > **Program** > **Search Results Details**

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RSS What is RSS?

Questions about the Program?
neccprogram@iste.org

Key:

Additional Fee Required
$

Leadership Strand

Virtual Schooling Strand

Global Collaboration

Video-on-Demand

Program Search Details

Ramapo Islands: Another Dimension of Learning
[Session : Lecture]

Peggy Sheehy, Ramapo Central School District/Suffern Middle School
Tuesday, 6/26/2007, 12:30pm–1:30pm; GWCC B208

Extend your classroom with the tools of simulation, socialization, and edutainment in Second Life: an immersive, persistent 3-D world where curriculum-based constructivist learning flourishes.

Blog Tag(s):   necc, n07s776
         View blog entries about this event (if any)
         View blog entries about NECC

Theme/Strand: Virtual Schooling/e-learning—Virtual Learning Technologies

Program Search
Program Planner

Tips for Searching the NECC Program

- See **Program** for preselected searches by category.

- See **Registration** for a listing of events included in your conference fee. **Note:** workshops and some selected events require an additional fee.

- See **Conference Planner** for preselected searches by time; the planner is a great

Video-on-Demand

Podcast

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*Learning & Leading
with Technology
magazine*
L&L

Workshop
Format

Hands-On

Seminar/
Demo

Workshop Lab
Environment

Full Lab

Partner Lab

BYOL Own Laptop

NO LAB No Lab

Workshop Lab
Platform

WIN Windows

Mac Macintosh

NONE None

Keywords:	Second Life, curriculum, virtual, constructivist, simulation
Special Focus:	Program content involves some type of global collaboration between students and/or teachers, or the speaker is from outside the U.S.
Audience:	Technology Integration Specialists, Technology Facilitators, Technology Coordinators, Teacher Educators, Teachers, School Board Members, Superintendents, Staff Developers, Principals, Library Media Specialists, Curriculum Specialists, Chief Technology Officers
Level:	6-12
NETS•S:	1- 6
NETS•T:	I- VI
NETS•A:	I- VI
Commercial:	Contains commercial content
E-mail:	psheehy@ramapocentral.org
URL:	http://rampoislands.blogspot.com/

Purpose & Objectives

Pertinent project background information: Virtual simulations, multi-user virtual environments, role-playing games, discussion boards, instant messaging, and shared spaces are all infused into our students' culture. These must then be considered viable tools to foster student learning. Due to the digitized delivery and students' generally positive response to technology-based instruction educators are starting to realize the need to teach this generation with the tools of this generation. Most educators are familiar with the world-to-the-desktop interface that computers provide, enabling users to access resources, experts, collaboration, and communities of practice. The multi-user virtual environment is a different type of interface, in which participants interact with computer-based agents and artifacts. These environments are psychologically immersive in ways that the world-to-the-desktop interface is not. Virtual environments and augmented realities create a sense of sensory and physical immersion resulting in one's feeling "inside" an environment. Today, most multiplayer virtual environments are games. (1)

Tools used: Second Life is a unique three-dimensional virtual world that has

tool for helping you sort through all the options!

- See the **Schedule of Events** to view how everything fits together.

- See **Themes & Strands** to better understand your search results.

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On the **Program Search Results and Details** pages, we'll list the tag specific to each session.

On the Details page, we'll list the tags again, AND include a **session-specific Technorati link** so you can read all the entries on that specific session.

Bring your laptop and give it a try!

been constructed by users through modeling tools, a scripting language, and a functioning economy with a virtual real estate market. When compared to other platforms, it is unique in the ease of use, especially for content and scripting tools for interactive objects. Ramapo Central School District, in collaboration with Firesabre Consulting, has purchased and designed a virtual learning space in Second Life that will enable our students to demonstrate knowledge and explore concepts while using technology in a meaningful way. The virtual platform is an immersive environment that allows for authentic contexts, activities, and assessment. It also supports mentoring and apprenticeships in communities of practice. The result is a powerful pedagogy that allows for engagement and potent, extended experiences with problems and contexts similar to the real world. Active learning based on immersive experience (real or simulated) that includes frequent opportunities for reflection is both engaging and effective for a broad spectrum of students. (2)

Lesson plans or instructional activities/strategies employed: In the virtual environment, our students participate in and experience the ways a particular discipline thinks about and solves problems—as a scientist, an architect, an artist, an entrepreneur, and so on. Learning is then connected to performing activities within a specific domain that is safe, interactive and motivational! Our teachers who have brought their classes into Second Life have designed standard-based projects or experiences that support and enhance existing curriculum. The process of expression and problem solving in the virtual platform intrinsically supports differentiation and extension of the classroom. One example of an 8th grade social studies project was to have groups of students re-create a synopsis of major events surrounding WWII. The students researched and created a timeline and then decided on a format for their presentation in the virtual world. Some chose to create a virtual museum, while others actually had their avatars reenact the events live and film them with the movie tools within the platform.
Evidence of success: All evidence of success will be presented with actual student/teacher interviews and a visual presentation live from within the platform. (Evidence of success will focus on increased student interest, engagement and motivation in mastering curriculum content, specifically improved writing, technology, and communication skills.)

1. D. Oblinger, "Digital games have the potential to bring play back to the learning experience," in Educause Quarterly, http://www.educause.edu/apps/eq/eqm06/eqm0630.asp
2. C. Dede, "Planning for Neo-Millennial Learning Styles: Implications for Investment in Technology and Faculty," in Educating the Net Generation, D. G.

and J. L. Oblinger, eds. (Boulder, Colo.: EDUCAUSE, 2005), .

Outline

Content outline: All portions of presentation will be lecture supported with visuals
WHY…5-10 minutes
Background on the learning style, brain function etc of digital natives and why
the virtual platform makes sense
HOW..: 10-15 minutes
An overview of the second life platform –movie and slides showing the virtual
world and examples of some of the educationally sound places/activities
WHAT… 10-15 minutes
Overview of the initial plan for Ramapo Islands, the evolution and the
curriculum connections, and the final implemented design in Machinima movie
format created in Second Life on Ramapo Islands. Show examples of student
builds in Ramapo and interviews with students and teachers
DEMO: 10 minutes Bring the audience into the virtual world live.
Q & A duration of session.

Supporting Research

Predicting How People Play Games: Reinforcement Learning … - Erev - Cited by
424
What video games have to teach us about learning and … - Gee - Cited by 272
Digital game-based learning - Prensky - Cited by 282

Presenter Background

Peggy Sheehy Instructional Technology Facilitator/Media Specialist
Presented at ASSET 1999, 2000, 2001 annual Technology Conferences
"Tomorrow's Classroom Today"

District Technology Trainer,
Greenville School District, Greenville, SC.
Mt. Sinai School District, Mt. Sinai , New York
Ramapo Central SChool District, Suffern, New York

Prerequisites

NA

Referenced Web Links

www.secondlife.com

http://secondlife.com/education

http://www2.kumc.edu/netlearning/SLEDUCAUSESW2005/
SLPresentationOutline.htm

[program search]

National Educational Computing Conference
June 24–27, 2007 • Georgia World Congress Center • Atlanta, GA

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Suffern Middle School in Second Life

A running account of the process of the proposal, acquisition, development and integration of a virtual

presence for education at Suffern Middle School, Suffern, NY.

Saturday, June 23, 2007

Maggie Marat and Chaser Brody SL NECC Badge

Maggie Marat2.jpg

Originally uploaded by Know Clue

Here is an image of my SL at NECC Badge! Thanks so much to KnowClue Kidd for great energy

and results! Coreina and I are sitting in Stewart Airport waiting for flight to Atlanta (I can't

get Little Feat out of my head!) - Following email closely for updates from KJ on Machinima

Project - Talk about cutting it close!!!!

posted by MaggieMarat at 4:08 PM 1 comments

Thursday, June 07, 2007

The Body Image Class Discussion Samples

Diane Whiting (Liz Lowe on Ramapo Islands) has sent me some of the chat logs from her

Health classes in Body Image (please see past postings for lesson outline and procedures)

Basically, using the pods, each day the kids designed their avatar differently - to reflect their

perceptions of self, of beauty as it is porttrayed in the media, as cross-gendered impressions,

and finally as their desired appearance in the virtual world. They explored many important

issues relevent to adolescence and self-image. I think they were nothing short of brilliant and

that these transcripts truly reflect the power of the virtual world to stimulate discussion on a

more meaningful level, and to provide visual stimuli, interraction and immersion in otherwise

unaavailable realms of experience. They are completely unedited and rather lengthy - as they

reflect a full 45 minute cllass period. Tell us what you think!

R[6:22] Rawiszer Hillburn: yes use avater name

[6:22] Mormile Hillburn: everyone thinks i am prettiy

[6:22] Mccormick Hillburn: Stop laughing. Don't hate me cuz u aint me

[6:22] You: Stop messing around McCormick

[6:22] Mccormick Hillburn: ok

[6:23] Remmell Hillburn: lets start talking people

[6:23] Mccormick Hillburn: ok

[6:23] Chinkan Hillburn is Online

[6:23] You: I didn't receive the discussion questions so somebody else start off

[6:23] Remmell Hillburn: who wants to start

[6:23] Mormile Hillburn: i rather stay with my own image because i feel that i am beautiful in my ow way

[6:23] Remmell Hillburn: samee here

[6:23] Remmell Hillburn: i could care less what the media says

[6:23] Rawiszer Hillburn: dud you want to change your avater or would you rather stay with your own image?

[6:23] Mormile Hillburn: same

[6:23] You: I had no problem with my old image, but I have to admit i like the new one

[6:24] Mormile Hillburn: if they compare themselves 2 the meadia they would be ugly

[6:24] Remmell Hillburn: i want to put my person back to the way there were cause it looks like mine is like gunna die from being to thin

[6:24] Mormile Hillburn: lol

[6:24] Mccormick Hillburn: I really don't care. They are both different.

[6:24] Rawiszer Hillburn: I like my new avater but my old one represents me. My new avater is too "perfect"

[6:24] You: Ya there's no way I could be this jacked in real life

[6:24] Mccormick Hillburn: me 2

[6:24] Mormile Hillburn: yea i know the media is stupied for the way they show yound women they way they look

[6:25] Remmell Hillburn: yeahh thats right

[6:25] Mormile Hillburn: they should show real women not skinny all the time

[6:25] You: The people don't even look that way, anyway

[6:25] Mccormick Hillburn: men don't have to look like captain America

[6:25] You: it's all makeup and editing

[6:25] Rawiszer Hillburn: yea very stupid, they change the aperrances and other stuff to make

them look deathly skinny

[6:25] Remmell Hillburn: i no it i sso stupid

[6:25] Mormile Hillburn: Fat isnt good but ppl gotta face the facts tht were not all beauty

modls

[6:25] You: But to is, it's still attractive

[6:25] You: *us

[6:26] Mormile Hillburn: yea but thts wat the media is showing

[6:26] Remmell Hillburn: who cares

[6:26] Remmell Hillburn: what the media says

[6:26] Mormile Hillburn: so wat fat ppl have to alone the rest of there lives

[6:26] Mccormick Hillburn: Let's face it, only JZ get Beyonce

[6:26] You: The reason they portray beauty that way is because people like that

[6:26] You: Why do you think everyone shops at Abercrombie or Hollister?

[6:26] Liz Lowe: I'm here. How's it going?

[6:26] You: They want to look like the models

[6:27] Rawiszer Hillburn: Good Low

[6:27] Remmell Hillburn: i like going there cause i liek how thr cothing looks

[6:27] You: It's going good

[6:27] Mormile Hillburn: yea but if the media shows more meat on some of the gurls it

wouldnt be so bad

[6:27] Rawiszer Hillburn: Yes people shop there because they care about there apperance

[6:27] Mccormick Hillburn: I don't. I get my clothes from sporting events, and bar mitzvas

[6:27] Remmell Hillburn: i think that would be good

[6:27] Remmell Hillburn: oohhh

[6:27] Liz Lowe: Excellent! Your chat looks very interesting. Good work!

[6:27] Mormile Hillburn: thanks

[6:27] Rawiszer Hillburn: Yes we are good at "chatting"

[6:27] Remmell Hillburn: :p

[6:27] Rawiszer Hillburn: :D

[6:27] Mormile Hillburn: LOL

[6:27] Mormile Hillburn: =)

[6:28] Remmell Hillburn: ::pp

[6:28] Rawiszer Hillburn: :>

[6:28] You: So what did you guys change about your avatars to make them look good?

[6:28] You: In the media's POV

[6:28] Mccormick Hillburn: I am taller now

[6:28] Remmell Hillburn: i put my person way o skinny

[6:28] Rawiszer Hillburn: I added muscle, taller, and blonda hair

[6:28] Remmell Hillburn: to*

[6:28] You: I'm taller, thinner, more muscular, have less hair

[6:28] You: My clothes are different

[6:28] Mccormick Hillburn: I have a gotee

[6:28] Rawiszer Hillburn: me 2

[6:28] Remmell Hillburn: im taller and skinnyer

[6:29] Rawiszer Hillburn: lol mccormick :P

[6:29] Mccormick Hillburn: I look like tom cruise

[6:29] You: My cheekbones are higher and I have a more defined face

[6:29] Mormile Hillburn: When the media shows thin women (SUPER THIN) they are showing

tht there is no way in the world that ppl who dont have there ribs are attracttive

[6:29] Rawiszer Hillburn: ll

[6:29] Rawiszer Hillburn: *lol

[6:29] Rawiszer Hillburn: True mormile

[6:29] Mormile Hillburn: thanx

[6:30] Rawiszer Hillburn: Next question is were you surprised with what some of your

classmates defined as beuty? explain

[6:30] You: Are you more "cpmfortable" with the way you look, or did you have no problem

before?

[6:30] Mccormick Hillburn: No. Everyone sees the same commercials every day.

[6:31] You: I knew what basically everyone would look like

[6:31] Rawiszer Hillburn: skinny…. etc

[6:31] Remmell Hillburn: they all want to be thin

[6:31] Remmell Hillburn: well for girls

[6:31] Mormile Hillburn: Tenore wat would your dream women b

[6:31] Rawiszer Hillburn: lol

[6:31] Rawiszer Hillburn: good question

[6:31] You: I like tall blondes

[6:32] Rawiszer Hillburn: :P

[6:32] Rawiszer Hillburn: no comment

[6:32] Remmell Hillburn: why tall

[6:32] You: 'Cause I'm tall

[6:32] Remmell Hillburn: so

[6:32] Rawiszer Hillburn: true dat

[6:32] Remmell Hillburn: it does not matter

[6:32] Mccormick Hillburn: He doesnt want a munchkin

[6:32] Rawiszer Hillburn: lol

[6:32] Rawiszer Hillburn: :P

[6:33] Remmell Hillburn: =]

[6:33] You: What about you guys?

[6:33] Mormile Hillburn: louis wat type of gurl do you like

[6:33] Rawiszer Hillburn: no real names

[6:33] Mccormick Hillburn: Crmen Electra is hot

[6:33] Rawiszer Hillburn: avatar names

[6:33] You: Yes!!!!

[6:33] Rawiszer Hillburn: true dat

[6:33] Remmell Hillburn: woooww

[6:33] Mormile Hillburn: BRAD PITT IS HOTTT

[6:33] Remmell Hillburn: oh yes

[6:33] Rawiszer Hillburn: ewww brad pitt

[6:33] You: Stop using the word hot

[6:33] Mccormick Hillburn: brad pitts a loser

[6:33] Remmell Hillburn: okay

[6:34] Rawiszer Hillburn: what word hot?

[6:34] Rawiszer Hillburn: hot hot hot

[6:34] You: And brad pitt is a terrible role mdel to have

[6:34] Mccormick Hillburn: hotness

[6:34] Rawiszer Hillburn: true dat

[6:34] Remmell Hillburn: PICK A NEW THING TO TALK ABOUT PEOPLE

[6:34] Mormile Hillburn: how could u say tht

[6:34] Mormile Hillburn: okay

[6:34] You: Thatnk you

[6:34] Mccormick Hillburn: hot

[6:35] Aronoff Hillburn is Offline

[6:35] You: What about your dream people?

[6:35] Mccormick Hillburn: warm

[6:35] Mccormick Hillburn: chilly

[6:35] You: It's ok to have preferences

[6:35] Mccormick Hillburn: Ill stop

[6:35] Remmell Hillburn: okay good

[6:35] Remmell Hillburn: lol =]

[6:36] Mormile Hillburn: my dream people have to nice to me knda tall loveable n cute brown

hair playes sports…

[6:36] Mccormick Hillburn: stop with the -}

[6:36] Remmell Hillburn: mine would be nice loves to talk and just being them selfs

[6:36] Remmell Hillburn: i could care less aout how tall they are or how short

[6:36] Mccormick Hillburn: me 2

[6:36] Mormile Hillburn: yea i agree

[6:36] You: It's ok to have a dream person. The question is, is the media affecting that vision?

[6:36] Remmell Hillburn: not at all

[6:37] Rawiszer Hillburn: Yep

[6:37] Rawiszer Hillburn: lol

[6:37] Mormile Hillburn: yea some of it

[6:38] Mormile Hillburn: great talk everyone

[6:38] Mccormick Hillburn: yea

[6:05] Liz Lowe: Please switch your headings so they say "looking good", not literary analyst,

etc

[6:08] Liz Lowe: Your images should still look human. It's what you would see in a magazine or

on TV

[6:10] Rodriguez Hillburn is Offline

[6:10] Aronoff Hillburn is Offline

[6:12] Rodriguez Hillburn is Online

[6:13] You: rodriguez u wanna race

[6:13] Rodriguez Hillburn: im guessing thats what i like

[6:14] Rodriguez Hillburn: with what

[6:14] You: i dunno just fliying up to the podium thng and back

[6:14] Zabler Hillburn is Online

[6:14] Rodriguez Hillburn: ok thats here right

[6:14] You: Ya

[6:15] You: go

[6:16] Cancelled Sit

[6:17] Aronoff Hillburn is Online

[6:17] You: ok whos a three, im leader

[6:17] Rawiszer Hillburn: lala

[6:17] Malm Hillburn: whos the leader

[6:17] Bernstein Hillburn: im leader for 5

[6:17] Liz Lowe: all leaders, please announce yourselves

[6:17] Malm Hillburn: ok

[6:17] Bernstein Hillburn: jon b is leader

[6:17] Remmell Hillburn: help me i cant sit down

[6:17] Zysman Hillburn: no ima 1

[6:17] Rubenoff Hillburn: who is the leader 4 group 5

[6:17] Lynch Hillburn: im a leader

[6:17] You: i am leader of 3

[6:17] Mcenery Hillburn: lets go up

[6:17] Malm Hillburn: jon

[6:17] Rubenoff Hillburn: for wht group

[6:17] Rawiszer Hillburn: who is the leader of 4

[6:18] Malm Hillburn: 5

[6:18] Tenore Hillburn: im leader of 4

[6:18] Rubenoff Hillburn: RYYYANNNNN

[6:18] Ryan Hillburn: hueeeelllllooo

[6:18] Carew Hillburn: i'm so alone

[6:18] Subhedar Hillburn: which pod am i at

[6:18] Rubenoff Hillburn: RRYYYANNNN

[6:18] Subhedar Hillburn: Clifford

[6:18] Malm Hillburn: ryan

[6:18] Ryan Hillburn: heeellooo againm

[6:18] Rubenoff Hillburn: heyyyy

[6:18] Ryan Hillburn: whatss goiinn on

[6:18] Rubenoff Hillburn: we r in the same pod haha

[6:18] Mormile Hillburn: hello sam

[6:18] Rubenoff Hillburn: idk

[6:18] Bernstein Hillburn: is everyone here for pod 5

[6:18] Remmell Hillburn: hheyyy

[6:18] Magliano Hillburn: where is everybody?

[6:19] Rubenoff Hillburn: idk

[6:19] You: ok is every1 in the pod

[6:19] Liz Lowe: please go up as soon as you're ready

[6:19] Magliano Hillburn: we need to go up

[6:19] Rothmann Hillburn: i don't knoe

[6:19] Rothmann Hillburn: w

[6:19] Rubenoff Hillburn: lets go

[6:19] Subhedar Hillburn: yes

[6:19] Remmell Hillburn: who else is in group 4

[6:19] Ryan Hillburn: i dont knoe ether

[6:19] Mcenery Hillburn: if you are in group 3 get to the pod

[6:19] Tenore Hillburn: should we go up?

[6:19] Magliano Hillburn: no ones here

[6:19] Malm Hillburn: lets go

[6:19] Rubenoff Hillburn: ok\

[6:19] Rawiszer Hillburn: if you are in group 4 come sit

[6:19] Bernstein Hillburn: were going up

[6:19] Mcenery Hillburn: who is the leader of group 3

[6:19] Subhedar Hillburn: should we go up

[6:19] Mccormick Hillburn: Can anyone see me, because Nick can't

[6:19] Ryan Hillburn: lets flyy awaayyy

[6:19] Platform-Three whispers: Platform-Three now ascending.

[6:20] You: ok guys

[6:20] Mcenery Hillburn: okay

[6:20] Subhedar Hillburn: descend the pod

[6:20] You: we are full so i assume every1 is here

[6:20] Zabler Hillburn is Offline

[6:20] You: im not descending

[6:20] Subhedar Hillburn: no go down

[6:20] Mcenery Hillburn: why

[6:20] Song Hillburn: who is the leader

[6:20] Subhedar Hillburn: please im at the wrong one

[6:20] You: we have a full pod

[6:20] You: then get up and drop down

[6:20] You: it wont crash

[6:20] Subhedar Hillburn: go down i should be at one

[6:20] Keppler Hillburn: w/e just start discussing

[6:21] Rodriguez Hillburn: I would rather stay with my regular avatar, i coul;dnt change much

except for fat

[6:21] You: ya subhedar just go

[6:21] Keppler Hillburn: what about fat ?

[6:21] You: OK guys

[6:21] Mcenery Hillburn: subheda stand up

[6:21] Rodriguez Hillburn: how skiny you are

[6:21] Nasar Hillburn: i made myself alot skinnier and taller

[6:21] Subhedar Hillburn: im staying

[6:21] You: yeah just go to your group

[6:21] You: ok thats fine

[6:21] Nasar Hillburn: and put alot of makeup on

[6:22] Keppler Hillburn: everybodu stand up so that we can see

[6:22] Mcenery Hillburn: i made myself muscular

[6:22] You: Ya i made my guy alot more thin, and muscula

[6:22] Subhedar Hillburn: i made mt ears smaler

[6:22] Rodriguez Hillburn: me too

[6:22] Song Hillburn: did anyone want to stay with their regular appearance

[6:22] Keppler Hillburn: i made myself thinner and taller

[6:22] Nasar Hillburn: me too

[6:22] Keppler Hillburn: and changed my hair

[6:22] Rodriguez Hillburn: yeah i still look kinda the same

[6:22] Nasar Hillburn: i changed my eyes

[6:22] Song Hillburn: i made myself taller and muscular

[6:22] You: I didnt keep my regular appearence, because by media definition, im pretty gross

looking

[6:22] Subhedar Hillburn: me too

[6:23] Mcenery Hillburn: i changed my hair a lot and made it longer in the back and the front

[6:23] Mcenery Hillburn: same here clifford

[6:23] You: lol

[6:23] Keppler Hillburn: i wanted to change because its funner to be what everybody thinks is

beautiful

[6:23] Keppler Hillburn: you cant be self consious

[6:23] Rodriguez Hillburn: yup

[6:23] You: No, i thin that beauty is not a truely expessionist thing

[6:24] Mcenery Hillburn: it depends on what everyone thinks is beautiful and what you think

is beautiful

[6:24] Keppler Hillburn: explain

[6:24] Keppler Hillburn: never mind

[6:24] You: You dont find it etertaining, you just arent comfortable with who you are

[6:24] Mcenery Hillburn: they can be totally different

[6:24] Subhedar Hillburn: beaty is just not shape and looks

[6:24] Nasar Hillburn: ok wut do you think we get all of our ideas of beauty from?

[6:24] Keppler Hillburn: but nobody is totally comfortable with how they look

[6:24] Subhedar Hillburn: rom the media/advertisments

[6:24] You: if, you make an avatar like yourself, it sas alot about youre character

[6:24] Mcenery Hillburn: magizines and movies

[6:24] Nasar Hillburn: yeah

[6:24] Rodriguez Hillburn: true who do you see on tv?

[6:24] Nasar Hillburn: but beaty is in the eye of the beholder

[6:25] Song Hillburn: magazines, tv and movies

[6:25] Subhedar Hillburn: models and actresses

[6:25] Nasar Hillburn: skinny tall ppl

[6:25] You: not nessecarily "just like you" but containing some of your faults

[6:25] Keppler Hillburn: were teenagers and expecially girls are all self consious right now

[6:25] Nasar Hillburn: yep

[6:25] Rodriguez Hillburn: the only time i see fat women is on the street or on comedies made fun of

[6:25] Keppler Hillburn: it says nothing about your character

[6:25] You: people just dont care about health anymore

[6:25] Liz Lowe: Looks like having good discussion!

[6:25] Nasar Hillburn: i knoww

[6:25] Mcenery Hillburn: i would say yes but it depends on what they feel is self concious

[6:25] Nasar Hillburn: woo! lol

[6:25] Nasar Hillburn: yeah

[6:26] You: aot of what people do can kill them, but they do it because it will make them look "better"

[6:26] Rodriguez Hillburn: heck yeah

[6:26] Liz Lowe: Could someone please TP Chinkan?

[6:26] Keppler Hillburn: i think overweight people like try to tell themselves that its okay but its not

[6:26] You: I will

[6:26] Liz Lowe: YOu guys are great!

[6:26] Keppler Hillburn: like really overweight i mean

[6:26] Keppler Hillburn: its unhealthy

[6:26] Nasar Hillburn: yeah

[6:26] You: Well, im overweight, however am healthy so yes, it is okay

[6:27] Keppler Hillburn: yes it is but you arent obese at all

[6:27] Subhedar Hillburn: its not bad to be overweight really

[6:27] Keppler Hillburn: i meant obese

[6:27] Subhedar Hillburn: robs not obese

[6:27] Nasar Hillburn: no, its worse being underweight in most cases

[6:27] Keppler Hillburn: i know i said hes not

[6:27] You: well obesity is just another kind of disorder, which stems not really from poor

body image, but lack of will

[6:27] Rodriguez Hillburn: obesse is 200pds and over

[6:28] Mcenery Hillburn: but the reason why people who are overweight, like really

overweight, not like clifford but bigger, is because that people tell that person that they

need to lose weight when that person really dosen't need to because they feel good about

them selve

[6:28] Keppler Hillburn: and you keep hearing about famous people with eating disorders and

stuuf but somehow it doesnt discourage girls from undereating

[6:28] You: thats because they still admire those people

[6:28] Subhedar Hillburn: the truth is their not healthy at all(actresses/models)

[6:28] Song Hillburn: maybe it is about stress

[6:28] You: if they jumped off a bridge

[6:28] Keppler Hillburn: yes they think that its not a big deal but it really is

[6:29] You: yeah i mean its not healty to "diet" but people always do it

[6:29] Mcenery Hillburn: the thing that i hate is that when girls are undrweight and they say

that they need to lose weight

[6:29] Keppler Hillburn: the media should help us feel more confidant bt they really just do

the opposite

[6:29] Rodriguez Hillburn: actually some people commit to diet but say they go to to the dr.

again , if he losses weight that person will think he can take breaks and eat bad food more

[6:29] Subhedar Hillburn: its ok to diet but not for bad reason

[6:29] Song Hillburn: were you more or less comfortable in second life

[6:29] You: well, thats like a sigh of anorexia

[6:29] Mcenery Hillburn: \yea

[6:30] Rodriguez Hillburn: i know that

[6:30] Nasar Hillburn: yea

[6:30] Subhedar Hillburn: next q

[6:30] Keppler Hillburn: yeah i know girls who are really really thin and they always complan

about how fat they arefor attention

[6:30] You: well dieting, is not okay, but you should be a little constrictive of how much junk

you eat

[6:30] Nasar Hillburn: yeah i knoww

[6:30] Chinkan Hillburn: ya

[6:30] Subhedar Hillburn: its not ok for children but it is ok for adults

[6:30] Keppler Hillburn: but almost all 13 year old girls secretly want to lose weight if only in

their minds

[6:30] Subhedar Hillburn: clifford

[6:31] Chinkan Hillburn: its not ok for anyone

[6:31] You: not really either tho, it creates a bad inflence for children

[6:31] Song Hillburn: i agree

[6:31] Chinkan Hillburn: ya

[6:31] Nasar Hillburn: yeah

[6:31] You: and is just really not good for you

[6:31] Subhedar Hillburn: no it doesnt

[6:31] Song Hillburn: i think it is for adults

[6:31] Keppler Hillburn: but its not a sign of anorexia if you think youre fat

[6:31] You: how s

[6:31] Mcenery Hillburn: yea, that is what really scares me about how an 80ilb girl needs to be skinnier

[6:31] You: Well if you r skinny, and think youre fat it is

[6:31] Subhedar Hillburn: dieting is just getting in shape…its ok if you dont go to extreme levels

[6:31] Rodriguez Hillburn: thats scary

[6:31] Nasar Hillburn: ppl r so obsessed w/ beng thin tht they dont eat even healty stuff anymore

[6:31] Keppler Hillburn: because then three quarters of the girls i know would be anorexic

[6:32] You: maybe thats the medias fault now isnt it

[6:32] Mcenery Hillburn: yea it is

[6:32] Rodriguez Hillburn: theres rather overweight and underweight people

[6:32] Keppler Hillburn: maybe its normal

[6:32] Keppler Hillburn: up to some extent

[6:32] Subhedar Hillburn: yeah pretty much

[6:32] You: not really a healthy thing none the less

[6:32] You: just because its normal doesnt make it right

[6:32] You: its like nazi germany

[6:32] Mcenery Hillburn: people now think that being skinny is being healthy

[6:32] Keppler Hillburn: yeah but im saying that almost every girl wants to lose a little weight

[6:32] Subhedar Hillburn: its right if u dont go to extreme levels

[6:33] Keppler Hillburn: its not a big deal

[6:33] You: ppl didnt care that they were kkilling others, because it was everyone else was

doin to

[6:33] Nasar Hillburn: oo i have a question

[6:33] You: it makes it seem okay

[6:33] Mcenery Hillburn: if you are overweight by like 10ilbs that your fine

[6:33] Keppler Hillburn: it is okay up to some extent

[6:33] Nasar Hillburn: do u think avatars looked better today or yesterday?

[6:33] Mcenery Hillburn: but if you underweight by like 50ilbs than there is something wrong

[6:34] You: you actually, should have a little more weight in many cases

[6:34] You: especially women

[6:34] Nasar Hillburn: yeah

[6:34] Keppler Hillburn: and it really bothers me when people just complain about their

weight for attention

[6:34] Rodriguez Hillburn: tyeah

[6:34] Chinkan Hillburn: a

[6:34] Subhedar Hillburn: its good for them

[6:34] You: because you need extra weight to bear children

[6:34] Song Hillburn: i think too much of one thing is bad

[6:34] Keppler Hillburn: and too little

[6:34] Nasar Hillburn: do u think the avatars looks better today or yesterday?

[6:34] Mcenery Hillburn: yesterday

[6:34] You: i dont really

[6:35] Chinkan Hillburn: i think ppl schould be who they r

[6:35] You: I would rather be me, than some media robot which perpetuates steriotypes

[6:35] Aronoff Hillburn is Offline

[6:35] Nasar Hillburn: nicely worded

[6:35] Subhedar Hillburn: agreed

[6:35] You: ty

[6:35] Mcenery Hillburn: yuppers

[6:35] Keppler Hillburn: yesterday they were more varied and today they just look like a

bunch of models that we see in the media almost every day

[6:35] Nasar Hillburn: super skinny

[6:35] Chinkan Hillburn: ya

[6:35] Song Hillburn: were you less comfortable in second life in this new image today

[6:35] Rodriguez Hillburn: yeah skinny and muscular

[6:35] Nasar Hillburn: its better to look like us with naturl bodies

[6:36] Keppler Hillburn: no im more comfortable because no one can judge

[6:36] Subhedar Hillburn: id rather be fat than the apperences of models

[6:36] Keppler Hillburn: why ?

[6:36] Song Hillburn: really

[6:36] Nasar Hillburn: just because the media thinks super sknny is the def. of beauty doesnt mean we should all try to starve to achieve tht loiok

[6:36] Mcenery Hillburn: i would rather not try to lose the weight but try to maintain the weight im at insted of gainning or losing weight

[6:36] You: ya why would i want to be me to

[6:37] Keppler Hillburn: im not saying that it should be this way but being attractive does make life easier

[6:37] Subhedar Hillburn: i agree w/ rob m

[6:37] Song Hillburn: who is the leader

[6:37] You: I am

[6:37] Mcenery Hillburn: yea who is

[6:37] You: i got ic

[6:37] Mcenery Hillburn: okay

[6:37] Subhedar Hillburn: the media portraits bad things on people

[6:37] You: yep

[6:37] Chinkan Hillburn: yeah

[6:37] You: okay lets stop

[6:37] Subhedar Hillburn: kool

[6:37] Subhedar Hillburn: good job

[6:37] Mcenery Hillburn: yuppers

[6:37] Chinkan Hillburn: kk

[6:37] Keppler Hillburn: good job guys :)

[6:38] Nasar Hillburn: :)

[6:38] Chinkan Hillburn: bye

[6:38] Nasar Hillburn: tht went good, byez

[6:38] Song Hillburn: who is the leader

[6:38] Rodriguez Hillburn: yeah

[6:38] Subhedar Hillburn: cliffors

[6:38] Keppler Hillburn: goodbye :)

[6:38] Keppler Hillburn is Offline

Ryan Hillburn: so take it awy burnstein bear

[6:20] Rubenoff Hillburn: would you guys rather have the avatar tht looked like u or the one

tht definrd beauty

[6:21] Ryan Hillburn: i would like to be prettyful

[6:21] Malm Hillburn: i like are avatar looking like me

[6:21] You: i would want mine to look like me

[6:21] Rubenoff Hillburn: me 2 i think i looked ugly as me

[6:21] Rubenoff Hillburn: who is malm

[6:21] Ryan Hillburn: how no one even loos like they rele di…all he avatars bascly looked the

same

[6:21] Malm Hillburn: me

[6:22] Ryan Hillburn: and thats robert

[6:22] Ryan Hillburn: the big guy who dont rele do anthin haha

[6:22] Rubenoff Hillburn: i know its soo weird

[6:22] You: were any of you surprised with what other kids defined as buety

[6:22] Malm Hillburn: yes

[6:22] You: i was to

[6:22] Rubenoff Hillburn: yea some people looked a loittttle strange to wht is ee beauty as

[6:22] Malm Hillburn: yea

[6:23] Rubenoff Hillburn: soooo

[6:23] Rubenoff Hillburn: do u like this activity

[6:23] You: wat activity

[6:23] Ryan Hillburn: so does ur avatar define what u think of beauty as

[6:23] You: kind of

[6:23] Rubenoff Hillburn: well its as closse as its gonna get

[6:23] Malm Hillburn: yea

[6:23] Ryan Hillburn: yup…..

[6:24] Rubenoff Hillburn: yea yea

[6:24] Malm Hillburn: si

[6:24] Rubenoff Hillburn: heyy

[6:24] Ryan Hillburn: heyyyy tht was random were in the midle of a convo and ur like heey

[6:24] Rubenoff Hillburn: heyyyyy

[6:24] You: where do you guys think our images of buety come from

[6:24] Rubenoff Hillburn: i mthought it was cool

[6:25] Rubenoff Hillburn: i think they come from the magazine and tv

[6:25] You: me oo

[6:25] You: to

[6:25] Malm Hillburn: same here

[6:25] Ryan Hillburn: yupp

[6:25] Rubenoff Hillburn: some might come from billboards too

[6:25] Malm Hillburn: i guess so

[6:26] You: were you more comfortable or less in second life in this new image today?

[6:26] Ryan Hillburn: i thuoght it was finee

[6:26] Malm Hillburn: same

[6:26] Rubenoff Hillburn: i think i am morte comfortable with this i image

[6:27] You: it is easier in second life cause you can always change

[6:27] Malm Hillburn: yea

[6:27] Rubenoff Hillburn: yea u can make you lookj like whtever u want

[6:27] Rubenoff Hillburn: hii ryan

[6:27] Rubenoff Hillburn: hehe

[6:28] You: what did you do today to change your avatar

[6:28] Ryan Hillburn: hmmm

[6:28] Liz Lowe: I'm here. How's your discussion going?

[6:28] Malm Hillburn: good

[6:28] Rubenoff Hillburn: its goig pretty well

[6:28] Ryan Hillburn: yess going well indeed

[6:28] Malm Hillburn: great

[6:28] You: i made my avatar taller and more muscular

[6:28] Liz Lowe: Great! Any comments or questions for me?

[6:28] Rubenoff Hillburn: i made mine skiiner ad more defined

[6:29] Malm Hillburn: i ghanged his cloths

[6:29] Rubenoff Hillburn: i like this project

[6:29] Malm Hillburn: me2

[6:29] Ryan Hillburn: i made mine taller and stronger, made his face beteter

[6:29] Liz Lowe: I'll be back. Keep up the great work! I'm really glad you like this project!

[6:29] Rubenoff Hillburn: okey dokey smokey bear

[6:29] Rubenoff Hillburn: haha

[6:30] You: do you uguys think the avatars look better today or yesterday and why

[6:30] Rubenoff Hillburn: i think it looked better today because i thought i looked soo ugly and gross yesterday

[6:30] Ryan Hillburn: to be honest its really the same to me becasue i dont really care of wat people think of me

[6:31] Malm Hillburn: not so much me i only changed the cloths

[6:31] You: they all look pretty similar to each other from the day before

[6:31] Malm Hillburn: yep

[6:31] Rubenoff Hillburn: i care about wht people think of me

[6:31] Ryan Hillburn: thats becuz im a guy nd i dontt

[6:31] Rubenoff Hillburn: true true

[6:31] You: i dont care much either rob

[6:32] Ryan Hillburn: like how much tmie does it take u to get ready in the morning

[6:32] You: 5 minutes

[6:32] Rubenoff Hillburn: sometimes it 1.5 to 2 hours

[6:32] Ryan Hillburn: seee

[6:32] Ryan Hillburn: for mee

[6:32] You: sometime 10 minutes

[6:32] Ryan Hillburn: its like 30 seconds

[6:32] Ryan Hillburn: for me

[6:32] Malm Hillburn: 3 mins to 11mins

[6:32] You: very acurate

[6:33] Rubenoff Hillburn: haah well i have to look good when i o out of the house

[6:33] Ryan Hillburn: yahhh and i dont care wat i look like

[6:33] Rubenoff Hillburn: i nknow u dont

[6:33] Malm Hillburn: haha

[6:33] You: me either

[6:33] Ryan Hillburn: hahah oh thanks alot

[6:33] Rubenoff Hillburn: well thats cause u guys r boys

[6:34] Ryan Hillburn: soooo

[6:34] Ryan Hillburn: hahah

[6:34] Rubenoff Hillburn: hahha

[6:34] Ryan Hillburn: at least im beautiful in the insidee :)

[6:34] Ryan Hillburn: hahahah

[6:34] You: very nice ryan

[6:34] Rubenoff Hillburn: do u wish u could look differnt than u look in real life

[6:34] Malm Hillburn: yea ryan

[6:34] You: not really

[6:34] Rubenoff Hillburn: me either

[6:35] Malm Hillburn: same

[6:35] Aronoff Hillburn is Offline

[6:35] You: im fine the way i am

[6:35] Ryan Hillburn: i dont caree realll

[6:35] Ryan Hillburn: stop clapping

[6:35] Ryan Hillburn: hahah

[6:35] Malm Hillburn: ?

[6:35] Rubenoff Hillburn: hahaha

[6:35] Ryan Hillburn: try to wrap this up now theres only 4 more minss

[6:36] Malm Hillburn: k

[6:36] You: do you guys think were done

[6:36] Ryan Hillburn: prety muchh

[6:36] Malm Hillburn: yes

[6:36] Ryan Hillburn: coppyy thttt

[6:36] Ryan Hillburn: but jills still typinn

[6:36] Rubenoff Hillburn: ok so some of us do like the avatars tht look like u are better right

[6:36] Malm Hillburn: si

[6:36] Ryan Hillburn: sure

[6:36] Rubenoff Hillburn: coool

[6:36] You: ill take us down

[6:36] Platform-Five whispers: Platform-Five now descending

_____

posted by MaggieMarat at 5:41 AM 0 comments

Wednesday, June 06, 2007

The Teachers Speak...

I asked Julie to write down a reaction- including any observations she had gleaned from her experience teaching in SL this year--I asked about the pros and cons. Knowing how busy my teachers are, especially at this time of year, she (once again) dazzled me with this very thorough response:

From Good Intentions to Best Practices: My Dream English Class in Second Life

From the time Peggy Sheehy (our library media specialist at Suffern Middle School in Suffern, New York) introduced me to Second Life last May, I was hooked. I was working on my Masters Degree through Walden University's online program, so I knew the value of virtual communication, at least at the university level. The idea of applying this platform to our elementary/secondary curriculum (and adding it to the old "teacher's toolbox") was quite enticing. I could do everything I was doing in my class AND MORE. I immediately signed up for the free download of this program at home and began to make my way around the incredibly user-friendly main grid. As I explored this new world and adjusted to my new lack of physical limitation, I was inundated with flashes of inspiration regarding the classroom application of

this powerful tool. By the time September rolled around, Peggy had convinced the district to purchase three islands on the Second Life teen grid that were completely inaccessible from the main world. She also had a group of in-world volunteers who worked to design the orientation section, classrooms and buildings, and various games and activities around the island. This was shaping up to be quite a campus!

This method of instruction and assessment seemed the most applicable to the English teacher and "best practices" nut in me. Lessons could be standards-based, authentic, easily assessed, and geared to any learning style or level. The method of communication is one that students are already familiar with, and are likely to continue to use in business and personal life in the future. That meant a real-life/authentic application of standards-based curriculum for them. All communication is done in-world, so it would be simple to assess students' writing and communication of ideas. In the case of online discussion, students' grades would be contingent on participation. Students who might not normally participate in person might feel more comfortable speaking through an avatar. This "student accountability" aspect was the most enticing for me. The fact that I could save these communications also seemed incredibly valuable. These student histories could be used as evidence of student progress that they could apply to reflective pieces, and that I could use in progress reports. This medium would give me the physical evidence to back up grades or steer the course of a lesson to ensure student understanding. Performance assessments like presentations and plays could be more enriching for the same reasons. Literature is easily accessed and uploaded in this world, as are videos and music - we would literally have the world at our fingertips. It is an educator's Nirvana. All of these literacy-based applications made this venture seem like a no-brainer to

me.

Peggy had obtained online names and passwords for most of the eight grade students; the sixth and seventh grade students did not make the established age limit. But as thrilled as I was with the educational potential of the program, I was not the first English teacher to use it. Kristy Ann McGrath's English classes obtained their passwords first, and did some work with John Steinbeck's novel, Of Mice and Men on Second Life. They even held a trial for George and Lennie, with a judge, defense and prosecution teams, witnesses, and a jury! This required a court house, of course, but that is exactly the kind of ordinarily imaginary classroom prop that is easily obtained in this world. Gail Yodowitz, our Home and Careers teacher, was next. She had students using online research to design presentations that could be displayed in-world, at the island's gallery. She also had students design resumes and conduct mock job interviews in-world, to prepare them for their upcoming real-world work experiences. Then, Teresa Ivey's classes worked online in groups on literature circle discussions and group presentations. The presentations were PowerPoint based, and her students came together in the virtual auditorium to share them. I was amazed at the depth of the academic and social results, especially when Diane Whiting brought her Health class in for a unit on body image. Students used their ability to adjust their avatar's appearance to reinforce the ideas of "popular" and "real" beauty. It turned out to be quite an interesting behavioral study.

I finally made it to Second Life with my classes when Teresa was almost done with her unit. It was great to be able to learn from Kristy Ann's experience with performance assessment and Teresa's experience with literature circle groups in this world. I was able to take my existing literature circle unit, adapt it for use by avatars, and design a "virtual-communication-

friendly" rubric for discussions. My classes were as immediately comfortable working in Second Life as I was. There was absolute silence in the room during discussions, except, of course, for the sounds of furious typing. When they had a question or a problem, they could send me an instant message. They were so intensely involved in this new program that students who stayed home sick were downloading the program at home and coming to discussions anyway! It almost seemed like less work to them because they were doing what they normally do with their friends after school, plus I didn't have to ask them for a handwritten summary of what their group discussed every day. Students cut and pasted their discussions (which include time stamps and names next to each and every response) into note cards that they sent to me when their discussion ended. It was all right there for me to grade. I could easily see who was participating, who had read and done their role for the day, who had misunderstandings that needed clearing up, and who was showing incredible insight into the reading.

If they needed help getting their discussions going, I could sit my own avatar down with their group and help them out for a while. Or, I could transport my avatar from one group to another to check in on them from time to time, just like I would normally have done during real-world literature circle discussions. Students who had never spoken to each other were finding commonalities and discovering each others' talents. In their final reflections, many of them astutely remarked that if they had been in groups with their friends, they would not have gotten as much work done - a level of self-realization that astonished me. Several commented that they now knew who they could go to when they wanted peer help with certain English skills. They also noted that, when they were in groups that included their friends, they formed deeper friendships through their discussions, many of which ended up

being much deeper than the normal classroom discussions. They were all quite good at keeping each other on task, and they used their daily roles (a carry-over from our normal literature circle unit) to keep the conversation rolling.

My English classes had more academic and social success using this program than I have ever seen in a literature circle unit. Their final reflections show that the students agree, and that they would LOVE to spend more time learning in Second Life. Other educators may disagree, but given my own experience as a graduate of an online university, I could see easily converting all of my existing units and conducting my entire year's worth of English classes online now.

--Julie Nicholson Bujtas

DIANE WHITING SPEAKS:

My Experience Using "Second Life"

Diane Whiting: Health Teacher

As an eighth grade health educator, I believe that one of the most important things that I can teach is self-acceptance, self-esteem, and the development of a healthy body image. I want my students to examine the factors that influence body image and how they can create a more positive regard for themselves. The following are excerpts from conversations that happened in one of my classes. Discussions were led by students without direct instruction from a teacher.

Discussion #1

Did you want to change your image?

Girl 1: I'd rather stay with my own image because I feel that I am beautiful in my own way.

The media is stupid for the way they show young women and the way they look.

Girl 2: Yeah. That's right!

Girl 1: They should show real women, not skinny all the time.

Boy 1: The people don't even look like that anyway. It's all makeup and editing.

Boy 2: Yeah. Men don't have to look like captain America.

Boy 3: Yeah. Very stupid. They change the appearances and other stuff to make women look

deathly skinny.

Girl 2: I know. It's so stupid.

Girl 1: Fat isn't good, but people have to face the facts that we're not all beauty models.

Discussion #2

Did anyone want to stay with their regular appearance?

Girl 1: : I made myself thinner and taller

Girl 2: Me too.

Girl 1: and changed my hair

Boy 1: Yeah I still look kinda the same

Girl 3: I changed my eyes

Boy 2: I made myself taller and muscular

Boy 3: I didn't keep my regular appearance, because by media definition, I'm pretty gross

looking

Boy 4: Me too

Girl 1: I wanted to change because its funner to be what everybody thinks is beautiful

Boy 1: No, I think that beauty is not a truly expessionist thing

Boy 3: It depends on what everyone thinks is beautiful and what you think is beautiful

Girl 1: Explain

Boy 2: Beauty is just not shape and looks

Girl 3: OK. Where do you think we get all of our ideas of beauty from?

Girl 1: But nobody is totally comfortable with how they look

Boy 3: From the media/advertisements

Boy1: If you make an avatar like yourself, it says a lot about your character

Girl 3: Yeah

Girl 2: Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

Girl 1: But you keep hearing about famous people with eating disorders and stuff but

somehow it doesn't discourage girls from under eating

Boy 1: That's because they still admire those people

Boy 2: The truth is they're not healthy at all (actresses/models)

Boy 3: Maybe it is about stress

Girl 1: Yes. They think that it's not a big deal but it really is.

Boy 1: Yeah I mean it's not healthy to "diet" but people always do it

Boy2: The thing that I hate is that when girls are underweight and they say that they need to

lose weight

Girl 1: The media should help us feel more confidant but they really just do the opposite.

Although I go to great lengths to foster an environment that encourages honest and

thoughtful discussions in my classes, I must point out that this discussion did not occur in my regular classroom. It happened in my Second Life classroom. Students were asked to create avatars that resembled their actual appearances as much as possible. After they created their realistic avatars, they were put into groups to discuss how comfortable they were with these images in Second Life. The next day, they changed their avatars to resemble what they thought was the media's representation of perfect beauty. Again, they went into groups to discuss how they felt about that process. This allowed students to discuss how the media portrays beauty, how realistic those images are, and how they personally felt in these different images.

Since this was my first experience with Second Life, The first day of the project was less organized than a normal lesson would be for me. Once I became comfortable using the messaging systems and note cards, I was amazed to see the learning that was happening in the discussion groups. At first it was difficult to predict what the students would get out of this process. I expected them to enjoy the process of creating avatars, but I had no idea how profound their discussions would become when they formed groups in the "pods". When we cover body image in a traditional class, it's easy for most students to discuss how they fell about the media, but it's more difficult for students to discuss how these messages affect them personally. As a health teacher, it was incredibly rewarding to see my students examine these issues frankly and support one another in the goal of self-acceptance. I do not believe this level of communication could have happened in a traditional classroom. Second Life is a tool that has allowed my students to explore feelings and concerns that I know would not have happened otherwise. Not only did they discuss their concerns, but they were able to

provide each other support. Second Life is a forum that easily lends itself to teaching body

image and self acceptance. I look forward to using this tool in the future and to exploring

new ideas to apply it to other units as well.

posted by MaggieMarat at 7:02 AM 0 comments

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

ISTE Presentation

Just some pics...

posted by MaggieMarat at 12:55 PM 0 comments

Friday, May 11, 2007

A little visitor, and a big lesson....

During our class presentaions the other day, the windows in the library were open, as warm weather has finally arrived in Suffern. During our work, a pigeon landed on the window sill, and proceeded to step down onto the computer tables and stroll across the keyboards. Naturally, the kids were initially distracted by the arrival and entrance of our fine feathered friend. But the lesson is - the first thing they did - ON AUTO PILOT- was whip out their cell phones (which they are supposed to keep in their lockers) and start photographing the event! So here's my question: When are we, as educators, going to harness this technology instead of banning it? Teachable moment? Yes, especially for us, the teachers!
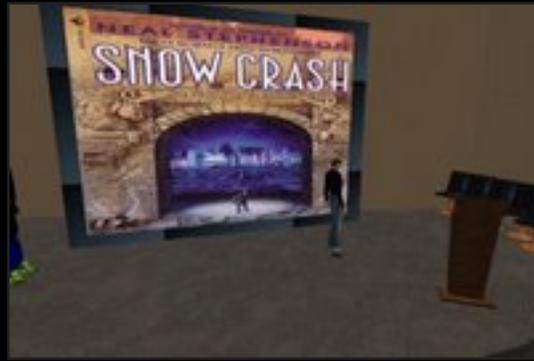
PS: We had some good laughs coming up with a caption for the pic of the pigeon on the keyboard. My favorite was "Pigital Native"!

posted by MaggieMarat at 1:14 PM 1 comments

Wednesday, May 09, 2007

The Snow Crash Presentation...

Clifford Hillburn: ok, so yesterday we left off on slide 4

[10:16] Clifford Hillburn: this obviously, is a new addition to the show

[10:17] Clifford Hillburn: this is the cover of the book

[10:17] Clifford Hillburn: ok so liu will start us off

[10:18] Liu Hillburn: hiro begins the story as a pizza deliverer

[10:18] Liu Hillburn: working for the mafia

[10:18] Liu Hillburn: he's the wrold's greatest swordfighter and the last of the freelance

hackers

[10:18] Liu Hillburn: now, he meets Y.T. when he gets into an accident

[10:18] Liu Hillburn: that's when their relationship begins

[10:19] Liu Hillburn: they decide to work together in the information sharing business

[10:19] Liu Hillburn: they become partners

[10:19] Liu Hillburn: in that business, they discover the narcotic, snowcrash

[10:19] Clifford Hillburn: now, obviuosly

[10:19] Clifford Hillburn: snow crash is a drug

[10:20] Clifford Hillburn: the difference between it and conventional narcotics

[10:20] Clifford Hillburn: is that it is distributed using a computer

[10:20] Clifford Hillburn: ok next slide

[10:20] Snow Crash project: Touched.

[10:21] Clifford Hillburn: unless you have anything to say tenore

[10:21] Ivey Zeami: Nice work so far…very interesting

[10:21] Tenore Hillburn: they basically introduced the plot

[10:22] Tenore Hillburn: as the story continues, there are several "antagonists", such as Raven

and L Bob Rife, who are involved in snowcrash

[10:22] Tenore Hillburn: Hiro's friend David is the first affected by this narcotic

[10:22] Tenore Hillburn: that we see in the book

[10:22] Tenore Hillburn: ok next slide

[10:22] Clifford Hillburn: ok

[10:22] Snow Crash project: Touched.

[10:23] Clifford Hillburn: ok, so the majority of snow crash takes place in the realm of reality

[10:23] Clifford Hillburn: however the world is broken up much different thn today

[10:24] Clifford Hillburn: the world is a consumerist liveing environment

[10:24] Clifford Hillburn: where there are no nations, only franchises

[10:24] Liu Hillburn: there is no more government

[10:24] Liu Hillburn: as clifford said, the majority of the book takes place in a realm of reality

[10:25] Liu Hillburn: but the virtual reality - this is called the metaverse

[10:25] Liu Hillburn: the metaverse is actually an alternate computer generated reality

[10:25] Clifford Hillburn: much like a videogame

[10:25] Liu Hillburn: it's a new way of communication, much like the internet is today

[10:25] Clifford Hillburn: and *second life*

[10:25] Tenore Hillburn: not unlike second life

[10:26] Tenore Hillburn: you read my mind clifford

[10:26] Ivey Zeami: interesting

[10:26] Clifford Hillburn: ok next slidde

[10:26] Snow Crash project: Touched.

[10:27] Tenore Hillburn: Neal Stephenson is an author who started most of his work in the

mid-80's

[10:27] Tenore Hillburn: he's most remembered for his invention of the cyberpunk genre

[10:27] Tenore Hillburn: yesterday we mentioned what cyberpunk is, but just for recap

[10:28] Tenore Hillburn: it basically is a modern reality with much more advanced technology

[10:28] Tenore Hillburn: anything you want to add

[10:29] Ivey Zeami: Definitely sounds like a challenging but engaging read.

[10:29] Clifford Hillburn: well, stephenson also had many political undertones in his work

[10:29] Liu Hillburn: many dealing with religion

[10:29] Ivey Zeami: We should stop for questions

[10:29] Tenore Hillburn: yes he made many criticisms of religion

[10:29] Clifford Hillburn: he trys to poke at american consumerism

[10:29] Ivey Zeami: We need to move in (sorry!!!!)

[10:29] Tenore Hillburn: specifically protestant christianity

[10:29] Clifford Hillburn: ok so ill stop for a mnute and open for questions

[10:30] Clifford Hillburn: I would say the book, as a read, is definitely a ten!

[10:30] Liu Hillburn: i'd rate it as a 8-9

[10:30] Liu Hillburn: we're not done

[10:30] Liu Hillburn: nvm

[10:30] Clifford Hillburn: yes we are

[10:31] Clifford Hillburn: ok good

[10:31] Liu Hillburn: let's finish.

[10:32] Liu Hillburn: that is neal stephonson

[10:33] Clifford Hillburn: ok so this book

[10:33] Clifford Hillburn: created a high influence

[10:33] Clifford Hillburn: for many of my favorite game designers

[10:33] Liu Hillburn: "videogame

[10:33] Clifford Hillburn: for example, a man named will wright has cited it as his main

influence in creation

[10:33] Clifford Hillburn: as, does philip rosedale

[10:34] Clifford Hillburn: the founder of second life

[10:34] Clifford Hillburn: ok so, who has any questions

[10:34] Liu Hillburn: questions?

[10:34] Shanahan Hillburn: wat did u thin of the book?

[10:34] Shanahan Hillburn: *think

[10:35] Liu Hillburn: anyone?

[10:35] Clifford Hillburn: well, as ive said it was definitely a fantastic read

[10:35] Shanahan Hillburn: ok

[10:35] Hertzman Hillburn: did u learn anything from the book

[10:35] Clifford Hillburn: tenore

[10:35] Hertzman Hillburn: (Y)

[10:35] Hertzman Hillburn: (-.-)

[10:36] Tenore Hillburn: um, well i found it interesting how he wrote this book so long ago and described the metaverse very closely to second life

[10:36] Hertzman Hillburn: c((-)(-)

[10:36] Liu Hillburn: i think it puts together a lot of the ideas and fears we have today of technology in thought

[10:36] Ramon Hillburn: c((")(")

[10:36] Clifford Hillburn: well, second life is built around it

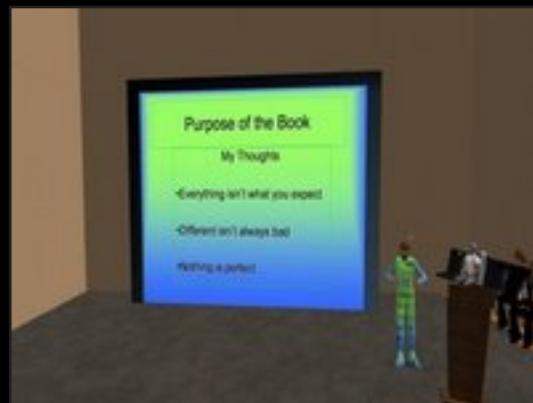[10:36] Tenore Hillburn: our technology is heading toward what he described

[10:36] Shanahan Hillburn: (-.-)

[10:36] Clifford Hillburn: like its made for that purpose

[10:36] Tenore Hillburn: exactly

posted by MaggieMarat at 1:38 PM 0 comments

Ivey Wednesday...

Here are more pics of slides and a transcript of the chat for one presentation:

[5:47] Roberts Hillburn: should we start

[5:48] Hammershlag Hillburn: Other books that H.G. Wells wrote that he is well known for are The Time Machine, The War of the Worlds, The Invisible Man and The Island of Doctor Moreau.

[5:48] Hammershlag Hillburn: H.G. Wells along with Hugo Gernsback and Jules Verne are referred to as "The Fathers of Science Fiction"

[5:49] Hammershlag Hillburn: When H.G. Wells was a child, his family was very poor. He had to think of a way to make money. He started out drawing because it was an easy way to express his feelings. He then tried writing and it hit him that he can make a lot of money by his science fiction writing. The Time Machine, The War of the Worlds, The Invisible Man and The Island of Doctor Moreau.

[5:50] Broder Hillburn: In the time machine the time traveler travels to the future and needs to solve the mystery of where his tme machine went. it takes place in england in 1895 and

802'701. the central conflict is that the time traveler loses his time machine and needs to get it back. the main protaginist is the time traveler and he learns to adapt to the future. the central theme is survival of the fittest and the Eloi cant defend themselves against the morlocks while the ime traveler can

[5:51] Ivey Zeami: Cool pictures

[5:51] RokN Hillburn: time machine and what it looks like when it is heading to a different time

[5:51] RokN Hillburn: there are also some pix of the book cover and movie advertisements these are the mesmerizing pictures of time machine

[5:52] Roberts Hillburn: The time machine was written in 1895 by H.G. Wells.

[5:52] Roberts Hillburn: He believed that the future would be potrayed as mutants, and aliens.

[5:53] Roberts Hillburn: Today, the people of 2007 believe the future will be a bunch of hovering buildings and flying cars and disintegrating guns.

[5:53] Roberts Hillburn: H.G. Wells makes the future seem less technological

[5:54] Mcinerney Hillburn: Everything is'nt what you expect. The Time Traveler thought that the future would be technologically advanced. H.G Wells decided to show the future as a simpler time with simpler needs. Different is'nt bad. Just because the future wasn't technologically advanced didn't mean that it was a horrible future. Their needs were supported and there was no conflict. It was as close to perfect as possible. Nothing is perfect though. The Eloi may have been supported, but there was a problem. The Morlocks eat the Eloi during the night. The Eloi are to peaceful to fight back. This book was written to entertain the reader.

[5:54] Mcinerney Hillburn: The main purpose is to entertain

[5:54] RokN Hillburn: he pictures here are of the morlock an eloi which is what Weena is

[5:54] RokN Hillburn: Weena is the female next to the morlock the elderly man is a picture of the Author H.G Wells the rest are some interesting pix of the book and movie

[5:55] Puncar Hillburn: The Time Machine has many aspects that make it such a great book to read. These aspects include suspense, action, futuristic plot and conflict, vocabulary, science fiction and the characters. Throughout the main part of the book, suspense fills your mind. The reader is constantly wondering if the Time Traveler will ever return home or end up living in the future forever.

[5:57] Puncar Hillburn: While he is looking for his time machine, the Time Traveler becomes very frantic. What he does to get it back makes for a huge amount of action. Also, as you can imagine, the whole concept of time traveling and being in the future makes the book full of science fiction.

[5:58] Puncar Hillburn: This book has some of the best vocabulary I have ever seen before. Words such as endowed, repugnance, convulsively and pallid really help paint a picture in the reader's head as if you are really there.

[5:58] Puncar Hillburn: Characters in this book are so mysterious and there are so much not told about them. For instance, the Time Traveler, the main character, never reveals his name. He always is acting strange and mysterious.

[5:58] Puncar Hillburn: Characters in this book are so mysterious and there are so much not told about them. For instance, the Time Traveler, the main character, never reveals his name. He always is acting strange and mysterious.

[5:58] Puncar Hillburn: This book is able to entertain the reader all within 38,000 words,

which is apparently a small amount of words for a novel.

[5:59] Hammershlag Hillburn: the end

This comment was left by LArry Steckler, but had to be deleted due to the link not showing

up properly: Thank you LArry for this great info!

COMMENT: Here is a link to a new book – (un-attributed autobiography) of Hugo Gernsback.

Long lost manuscript edited by Larry Steckler, was found in the company files when they

stopped publishing in January 2003.

http://www.amazon.com/Hugo-Gernsback-Well-Ahead-Time/dp/1419658573/

ref=pd_bbs_sr_1/103-7652021-9294241?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1179073017&sr=8-1

posted by MaggieMarat at 9:01 AM 1 comments

Tuesday, May 08, 2007

Working...

OK - First of all I now realize that I need to create a different blog section for each project as we now have three different teachers using Ramapo simultaneously and there is just so much to tell! I have asked each of the teachers to write an entry about their experiences using SL and I will post them ASAP. For now I want to talk about Ms. Ivey's class project as it is concluding this week and the results have been astounding! (Please read prior "Ms. Ivey's Class" posts for background.) To catch you up, after discussions in the classroom platforms, the kids were asked to create presentations. They were allowed to use either OS (mac or pc), so they either created the presentation in PowerPoint or Keynote applications. They then saved their slides as JPGs and uploaded them to SL. One person in each group retrieved a FreeView TV from a dispenser in the library, and they were in charge of loading the slides into the viewer. The students created notecards on which the script of their presentations were pre-written. The presentors all sat on the stage in the auditorium and the rest of the class filed into the seats. As each presenters slide came up on the screen, they walked to the podium and entered their notes into the chat. At teh conclusion of each presentation there was a brief Q&A session. Here are some pics of the first groups to present:

Here is the group notice that Ms. Ivey sent out when we were ready to begin presentations:

Group Notice From: Ivey Zeami

All avatars:

Please report to the library for the first presentation. Follow these steps:

1. Get to the library (on Ramapo)

2. Go through curtain

3. Have a seat

4. Refrain from talking or moving or contributing to the chat during presentation as I want to have a clean log for each group

5. Watch the slide show and read the chat from each presenter

6. Be prepard to ask questions at the end

7. Thank you for cooperating!

posted by MaggieMarat at 10:40 AM 0 comments

About Me

Peggy Sheehy

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View my complete profile

Links

- 21st Century Literacy

- Global Kids

- SimTeach

- Eye4You Alliance

- Marc Prensky

- Teen Second Life

- Janor's List of the Very Cool

- Mrs. Yodowitz's ENTREPRENEURS

- Puritan's Guide to Second Life

- Teen Grid Clearance Procedure

-

- Dubai American Academy in Teen Second Life

-

- The Story of My Second Life

-

- Second Life in Education

-

- Video: Did You Know?

-

- SimTeach

-

- Kathy Dryburgh's Second Life Guide

-

Previous Posts

- Maggie Marat and Chaser Brody SL NECC Badge

- The Body Image Class Discussion Samples

- The Teachers Speak…

- ISTE Presentation

- A little visitor, and a big lesson….

- The Snow Crash Presentation…

- Ivey Wednesday…

- Working…

- OK! Body Image class has begun - very interesti…

- You have to read this discussion….

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