

Develop your own learning community: Personal Learning Networks

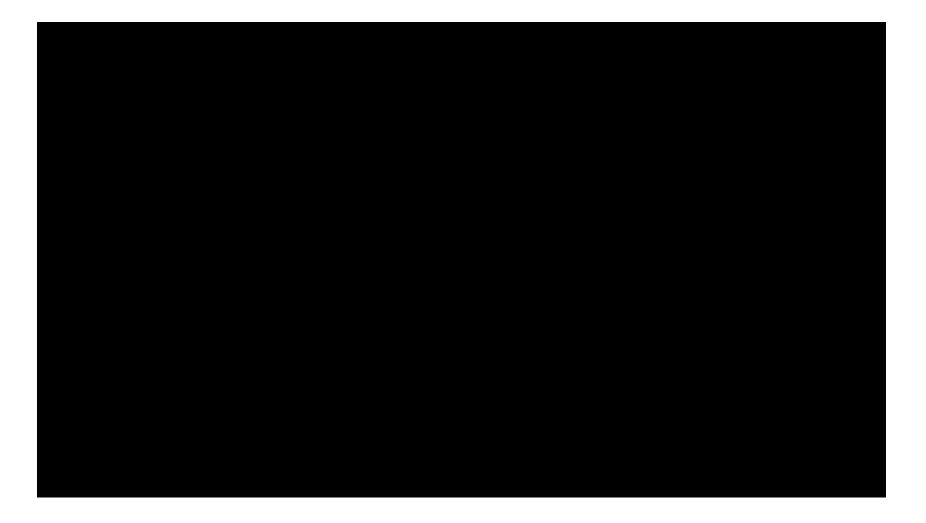
Andrea Prupas, Coordinator ALDI Initiative April 17th, 2015 Heritage Regional High School, RSB

Our discussion today

- What is a PLN?
- The importance of being "networked"
- Leveraging technology and social networks to build your PLN
- 3 great (and free!) technology tools to build your PLN

How many of you use social networking to connect to other educators?

What types of social networking do you do? (low-tech and high tech!)



What is a PLN?

 A personalized learning network is a tool that uses social media and technology to collect, communicate, collaborate and create with connected colleagues anywhere at any time.

Components of a PLN

- Making connections and building personal relationships
- Using different media and tools
- Sharing ideas and resources, collaboration, and learning
- Developing a local and global learning network

(Edublogs teacher challenges)

PLN's nurture and cultivate growth mindsets & giving mindsets



A GROWTH MINDSET

Means that you believe
INTELLIGENCE
can be
DEVELOPED

And you have a
PASSION
to
LEARN
which means you

Embrace challenge

LEARN

WHEN THINGS GET
TOUGH

Are
INSPIRED
by the
GREATNESS
in others

AND

SEE effort AS THE PATH TO mastery

What does a growth mindset school look like?

 Administrators support teachers' learning, and learn from their teachers. Teachers collaborate with their colleagues and instructional leaders. They strive to strengthen their own practice.

Why is it important to be "networked"?

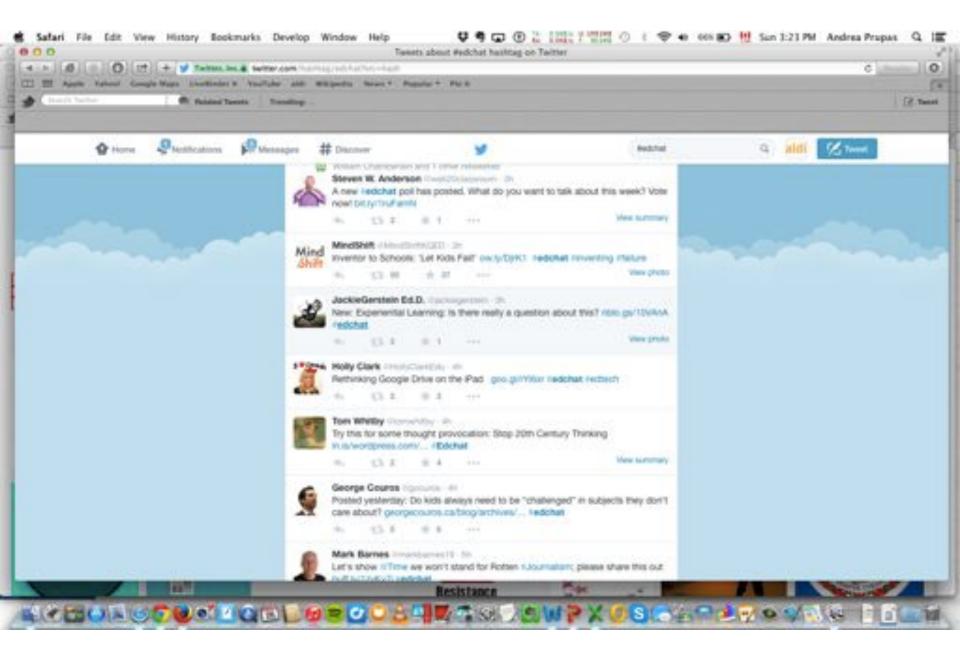
Informal learning is a significant aspect of our learning experience. Learning now occurs in a variety of ways – through communities of practice, personal networks, and through completion of work-related tasks.

(Siemans, G. Connectivism: A Learning Theory for the Digital Age)

How do you learn?

Does your learning occur in different ways?





Your PLN

"The world's largest staff room"

Change comes with our own learning

"I really believed that if I was going to talk about moving things forward, I needed to do it myself. The impact that my own learning has had not only on the way I do things, but also the passion I have about kids and learning, has forever changed for the better. We are seeing a system change where I am at because we are seeing so many educators immerse themselves in their own learning first. That has been by far the biggest shift in our division's mindset; we all need to be learners first."

(George Couros, in reply to Will Richardson, October 2011, willrichardson.com)

"I can have an educator in Australia answer my question in 5 minutes. How amazing is that?"

"I've learned more on Twitter in one year than I have learned in my 5 year teacher training program."

What educators are saying...

Education doesn't stop when you get your teaching degree. You can become a lifelong learner through your PLN."

"The key is to surround yourself with passionate educators from a multitude of different backgrounds."

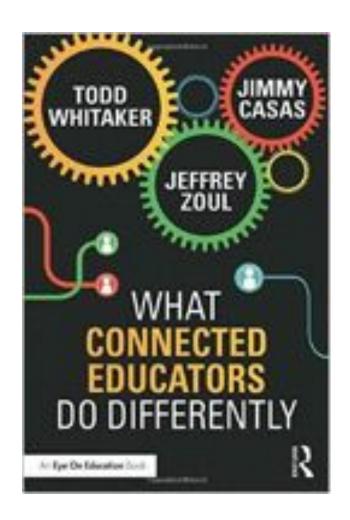
Where do I begin?



Let's talk about...

 How to leverage social networks and technology tools for your own learning





"Educators, like any other professionals, need peer-to peer interaction and reciprocal investments in order to grow and develop.

Our profession has been silent and isolated for too long."

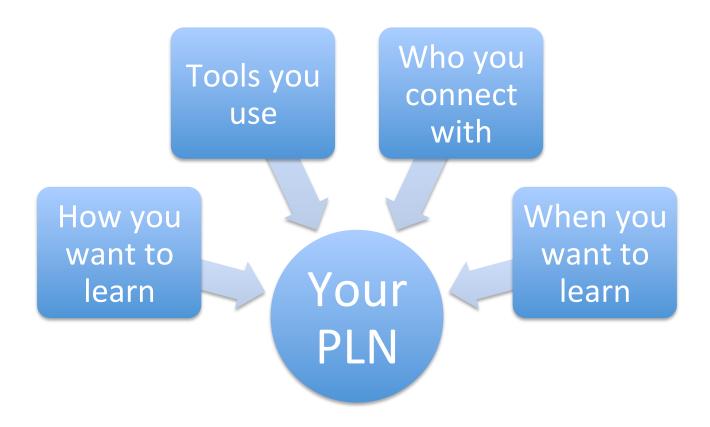
(Whitaker, Zoul, and Casas, 2015)

Power up your PLN with technology

- Connect
- Collaborate
- Converse
- Contribute
- Request

(gettingsmart.com)

Make it personal...



My PLN interests

- Assistive, educational technology
- Professional development for teachers
- Educational leadership
- Pedagogy for students with special needs
- Universal design for learning
- 21st century learning and school improvement

Who I connect with



How and when I learn

- Through reading blogs that are relevant to my interests
- Through online training opportunities (webinars)
- Through live and archived chats on Twitter
- Through ongoing content curation
- Through social learning platforms
- Whenever I have 10 minutes to spare!



Stories of learning and leading

HOME

PRINCIPAL QUALITY STANDARD

SPEAKING/CONSULTING

WHAT THEY SAY

PRESENTATION RESOURCES

ABOUT

8 Characteristics of the Innovative Leader

12 Replies

"Why are we okay that management hasn't seen innovation in a 100 or 50 years, but we demand innovation in every other aspect of our lives?" Jamie Notter

As we continue to look at teachers, students, and learning becoming more "innovative", it is important that leadership changes. As administrators often set the tone for their district or their building, if they are saying the same, it is not likely that things are going to change in the class-room. Leadership needs to not only "think" different, but they need to "act" different.

For leaders to be effective in changing a school or an organization, they need to change themselves first. It is way too easy to go a leadership conference and get ideas of things that you are going to do with your staff. What is important is changing your own practice first. So along the



ABOUT ME



I am the Division Principal for Parkland School Division and an Innovative Teaching, Learning, and Leadership consultant. I believe we need to inspire our kids to follow their passions, while letting them Browse Topics *

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Join the Conversation *

About Us *

October 27, 2064

TRENDING: Make Blended Learning Work in Your Classroom

Search



School Leadership

Discover the challenges, strategies, and triumphs of troubleshooting, guiding, and inspiring not just a classroom, but an entire academic community.

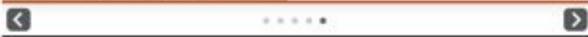
RELATED TAGS: Teacher Development, Teacher Leadership





School Leadership: Resource Roundup

For principals and other school administrators, this list of videos, blogs, and articles includes advice and tips on effective leadership strategies, partnering with teachers, and cultivating and retaining strong leaders.



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Resources .

ALDI-ASSET Innovation Grant 2014

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search...

Redefining the writing process with new mobile technologies

in Ambres Propos

I just read an interesting article in edudemic that changed my perspective of the writing process with new technologies.

"Five myths about writing with mobile devices" discusses the fact that many educators feel that mobile devices are not an effective tool for writing (in the traditional sense). The article looks at our definition of "writing" and reevaluates what is it to write in a 21st century learning environment on a mobile device. Below are three myths that.



really challenge our assumptions as educators, and are also extremently relevant for our students with special needs.

1. Writing-word processing

The author makes an important point: we have no idea what platform and tools students will be using when they enter the workforce, many years from now. The tool is invelopent what's important is the process of writing, and we need to think beyond Microsoft Word.

"For example, Drive allows for collaborative writing, while AudioNote (iPad or Android) syncs recorded audio with typed or written words, and Evernote makes written content available on any device."

Upcoming Events

The Web from a Social Model Perspective-5th Annual Rathlyn Lecture on Disabilities Studies @ McGill University October 29 @ 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Joyful Learning: Using Active and Collaborative Structures to Support Differentiated Instruction with Paula Kluth

Follow me on Twitter



A great day spent with WQSB teachers getting: into #UD: Implementation. Check out our wall of MISOLITONS AT 101 IN WIGGISCOOL



How Twitter "feeds your brain" (ISSystWNSDUS) **BPLN Fedback**

Tools I use

Content curation



Microblogging



Social learning platforms



Building your PLN with content curation

 Content curation is sorting through a large amount of web content to find the best, most meaningful parts and presenting these in an organized, valuable way.

(Buffersocial)

What does it look like?

Padlet example:

bit.ly/WQSBUDL

UDL resources

All things UDL. A resource to accompany presentation to WQSB #TN on October 22nd, 2014.

Tech tool: Google Read and Write

Google Chrome app that supports student with test to speech, pdf annotation and picture dictionaries. Free teacher account. Supports multiple means of representation and expression.



Tech tool: Natural Reader

Free test to speech tool. Supports multiple means of representation.



UDL strategy: Active learning spaces in KIII

Resource on why designing your

LIOL strategy. Why use audio in the classroom?

A great guide by Ed Tech teacher on why and how to use audio to support multiple means of representation and expression.



Tech tool: Libreoffice

free office suite to create accessible PDFs. Allows students to annotate documents.



UOL strategy Learning Spaces

blog on re-designing your learning space



Tech took Padlet

What we're using right now! A virtual "wall" to post resources visually. Start one for your classroom, have students gather resources for a project online, or use it as a too! to organize projects and homework.



UOL strategy Brain Frames

Visual organizers for teaching and learning.



UDL strategy Supporting students in the classroom with working mercory difficulties CanLearn Society

Defines working memory and suggests strategies for multiple means of representation.



Tech tool: Goodreader

POF annotation on an iPad. Allows students to markup, annotate, draw on text for notetaking and for reading. Supports multiple means of expression.



Tech tool: Using Mac's Preview application to annotate POF's

Preview is Mac's application for reading PDFs. Amazing tool to take advantage of if your students have Macs. Free! Soudents can annotate, markup, draw, highlight text as they read.



Tech tool how to enable dictation (speech recognition) on a mac (free)

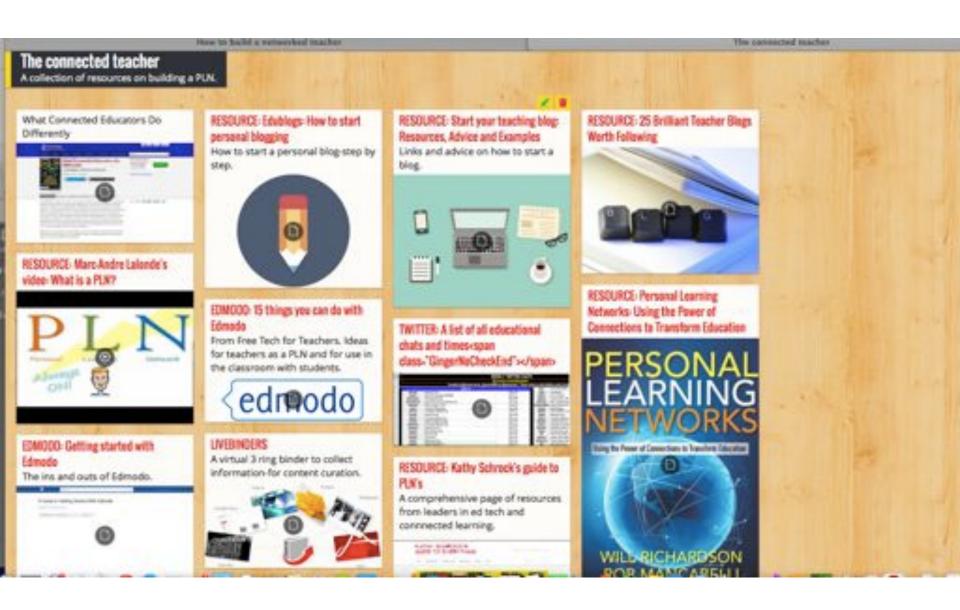
For students who need alternate methods of writing, Supports multiple means of expression and action.



A resource for you...

bit.ly/heritagePLN

 Add information, links, video to make this a collaborative resource!



As a school community, how could you use a tool like Padlet to further your own learning?

Your students' learning?

Building your PLN via Twitter (microblogging)



Twitter as a river...

 The river keeps flowing but sometimes you might just walk past and have a quick look, sometimes you might hang around and dip your toes in, other times you might spend hours swimming around.

(Sheryl-Nussbaum-Beach)

Step 1-your account



Step 2-Follow!

 http://www.teachthought.com/social-media/ 50-educator-twitter-accounts-worthfollowing/





Eric Sheninger

GE Sheninger

Senior Fellow at ORigorRelevance – Principal, Learner, Google Certified Teacher, Adobe Education Leader, Author, Speaker, #digiteed | Thoughts are my own

- O Staten Island, NY
- @ ericsheninger.com
- (§ Joined March 2009)



. 104 Followers you know













23 1 1/2 1 1+1



Eric Sheninger de Sheninger 3h

Looking for great examples of schools in UT or NV that have integrated blended learning. Anyone?



13 1

RT @Primary_Ed: How Minecraft Actually Helps Kids Learn to Read: edut.to/1C1LFTU.





103K

45.7K

66.8K

5,342

29

Alec Couros

@courosa FOLLOWS YOU

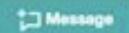
Professor of #edtech & #media, #education researcher, #consultant, #connected educator, keynote #speaker & #open scholar - Faculty of Ed., University of Regina.





Joined January 2007





Tweets

Tweets & replies

Photos & videos



Alec Couros Copuresa : 2h

I set up a Tagboard for tomorrow's #cohere2014 conference in Regina tagboard.com/cohere2014/195... #yqr #blendedlearning #onlinelearning #pedagogy





Alec Couros @courosa · 16h

"What is the ultimate purpose in life? Starting giving. See the joy in giving" bit.ly/1uXRGgB





















Be Awesome Today!





Educator, Speaker, Blogger, (Edichat Co-Creator, Author, Learning Evangelist, Dad, Edublogs Twitterer Of The Year, ASCD Emerging Leader, Top 50

O. Winston-Salem, NC

Innovators in Edu

- @ blog web20classroom.org
- (1) Joined February 2009







ce Keeler

No/countr

are not failures. Google Certified her, NMCk12 Ambassador, MS ch, adjunct prof CSUFreeno, floation, innovation, super nerd leeEDU (profotat

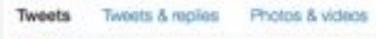
reeno, CA

licekseler.com

pined October 2010

Tweet to Alice Keeler

Fallowers you know



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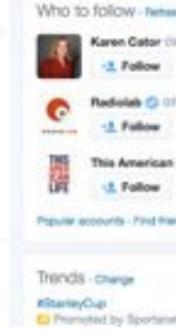
Alice Keeler Outcommir - Aug 29

Good Ts can't be replaced by tech. What tech does is allow Ts to spend more time focusing on their learners & building those relationships.

ES 207 × 200 ···

Alice Keeler (Italianium) - 12m.

.@benschulzey1 @google There is not enough PD in the world to get you what you need. You HAWE to do some on your own.







2



BITEO FO

TEO-Ed, TEO's education initiative, is an online library of short, captivating videos that engage inquisitive learners all over the world.



(3) Joined March 2011

Threat to TED-Ed

. 111 Followers you know



COLUMN CONTRACTOR OF STREET







Tweets & replies

218K

Photos & videos

1,670

TED-64 OTED FO - TA

111

3,126

Tweets

In celebration of Leonardo da Vinci's birthday, the math and philosophy behind his iconic Vitruvian Man: ow.ly/LBSxb

O. 15 M G. G. 111

TED-64 OTED, 60 - 160

Students/ Educators! If you've participated in #TEDEdChat, you can cohost. Email tededclubs@ted.com if you're interested.

0, 13.4 0.11

TED-66 0110, 20 - 189

Thanks to likgospenwee for co-hosting! Keep the #TEDEdChat. conversation going at the TED-Ed Community!

0. 17.2 0.4 ...

Who to follow - terren - view at



Followed by Leater B. Pears.

.... Follow



Karen Cator Chooler

1 Fallow



Clay Plaz C Polymer

1 Follow

Popular accounts - Find thends

Trends - charge

KittanleyCup

62 Promoted by Sportanel

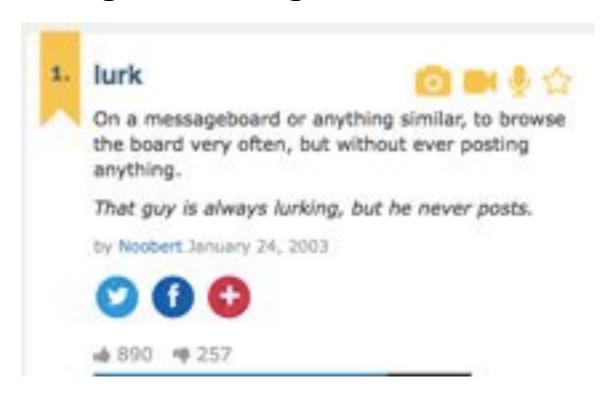
(StopFastTrack

Title 1 #58OE

bit.ly/10f58qb

Step 3: Lurk!

Lurking is learning!



Step 4: Build your voice

- Reply, retweet...
- Share resources via links
- Favorite a tweet



What's a hashtag?







Avi Spector da spector Oct 9

Anyone at #aidi2014 using Spritz to support students w/ reading difficulties? Pls share! #UDL spritzinc.com pic.twitter.com/is3ADktA3D









...

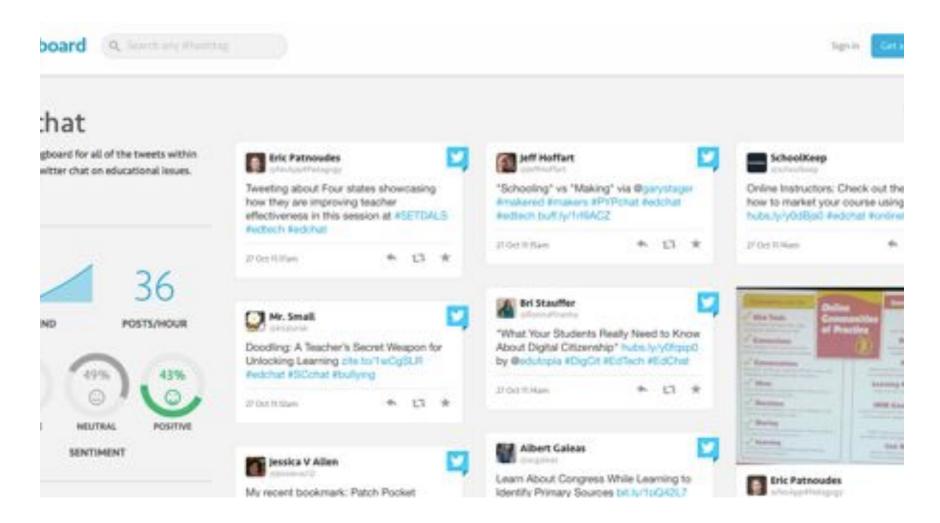


Chris Colley (Ich/scolleydog - Oct 9)

Transition planning in full prep. #aldi2014 don't miss them at 2:30



Organizing hashtags



Step 5: Chat!

 Education Twitter chats take place when a group of educators "meet" on Twitter at an agreed upon time, using an agreed upon hashtag, to discuss topics of interest in education.



Lea Lamoureux, M.Ed @LeaLamoureux · 12h

#Northern #Educators let's share! Using #iteachnorth can help us #connect! #cdnedchat #FNMIEd #saskedchat #Quebec #Manitoba #iteachnorth

Details



Tunes U @TunesU · Oct 21

Learn how Apple Distinguished Educators use iPad to transform their lessons. Join #ADEchat today at 5pm PT/8pm ET.



23 21





Canadian EdChat retweeted



Dana Ariss @DanaAriss · Mar 23

Q1: Where do you begin when planning learning activities to ensure relevancy to student's lives? Where do you draw inspiration? #cdnedchat







-

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Great chats...

- #edchat
- #canedchat
- #edtechchat
- #satchat
- #cpchat
- #mathchat

CST MST PST

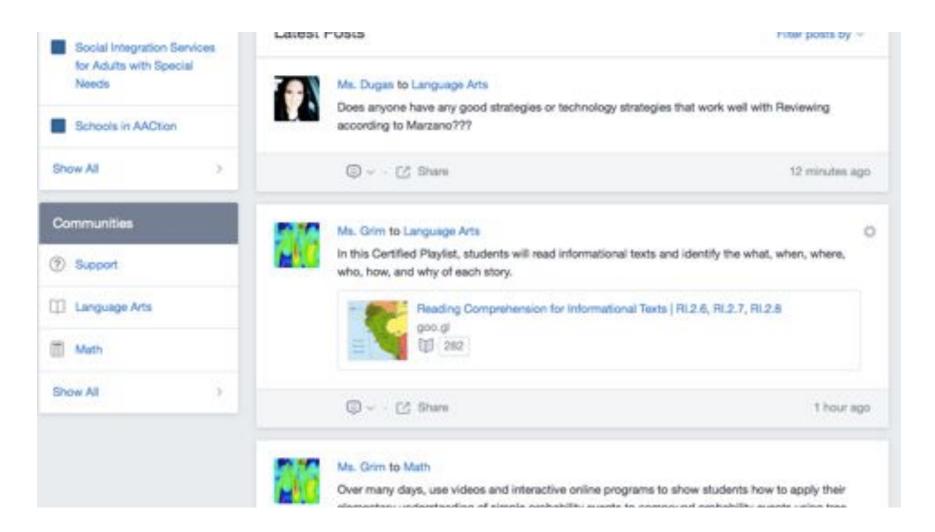
day:	Tuesday, April 21 😙	@Print	Week	Month	Agen
A. UVMITTE	eminustru. Dium unias (cumunum an uary) sucused nur dium munking un die minusi Guntamin.				
5:30am	#BFC530: The Breakfast Club				
7:30am	#BFC530: The Breakfast Club				
12:00pm	Wedchat: Education Chat				
2:00pm	#edchatDE: Germany edchat in German & English				
6:00pm	#makerED: Maker Ed (K12 classrooms built around Maker / DIY principles)				
7:00pm	Wedchat: Education Chat				
7:00pm	#reflectiveteacher; Reflective Teacher chat by @TeachThought.				
7:00pm	#WeAreWayne: Wayne Township Indiana				
8:00pm	#5thchat: 5th grade Teachers Chat				
8:00pm	#busedu: Business Educators (first and third Tuesday of the month)	Cybra	rvm	an.c	om
8:00pm	Wedteach: Ed Teach Chat	Cybra	. y	idi i. C	.011
8:00pm	#ELAchat : ELA Chat (first and last Tuesday of the month)				
8.00pm	Midscancode: Programming in Education				
8:00pm	#LAedchat: Louisiana's EdChat - details: https://si				
8:00pm	Windedchat: Maryland Ed Chat				
8:00pm	#noed: North Carolina Educators (biweekly)				
8:00pm	#pblchat: Project Based Learning Chat.				
8:00pm	#PISDedchat: An Ed chat for all content levels and disciplines. New theme each week.				
8:00pm	#profchat: Professors Chat (Higher Ed)				
8:00pm	#vasichat: Virginia School Librarian Chat				
8:30pm	#NJed: New Jersey Educators Chat - Archive at h				
8:30pm	#RurelEdChat: Rural Education Chat				
9:00pm	#123princhat: Chat focused on insights/concerns of 1st				
9:00pm	#ADEchat: Apple Distinguished Educators (ADEs) cha				
9:00pm	#edchatma: Massachusetts Educator Chat (1st & 3rd Tuesdays)				
9:00pm	#elmused: Elementary Music Ed Chat - hosted by @ca				
9:00pm	#gafechat: Chat centered around Google Apps for Edu				
9:00pm	#joedchat: Jefferson City Public Schools (MO) teach				
9:00pm	#ReggioPLC: Reggio Chat (every other Tuesday)				

Building your PLN with social learning networks

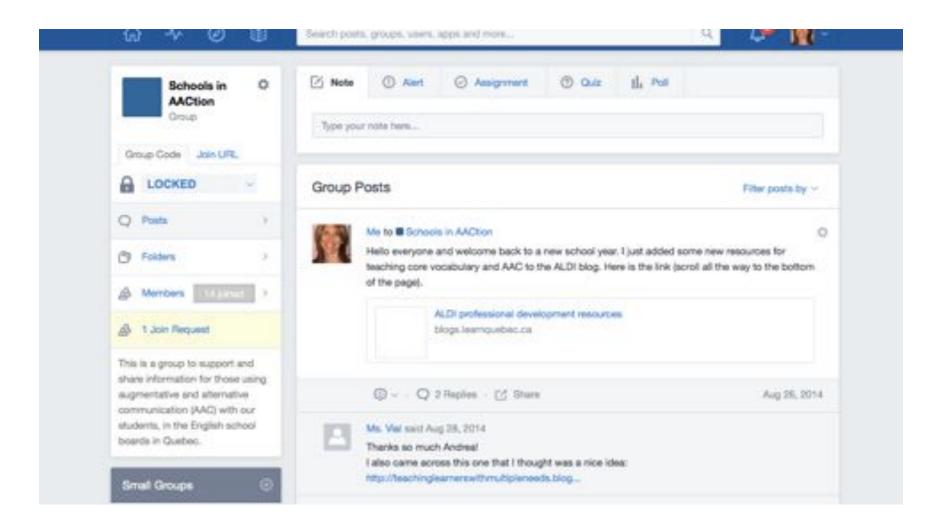
 Social learning networks designed for educational purposes (like Edmodo) are invitation-only.

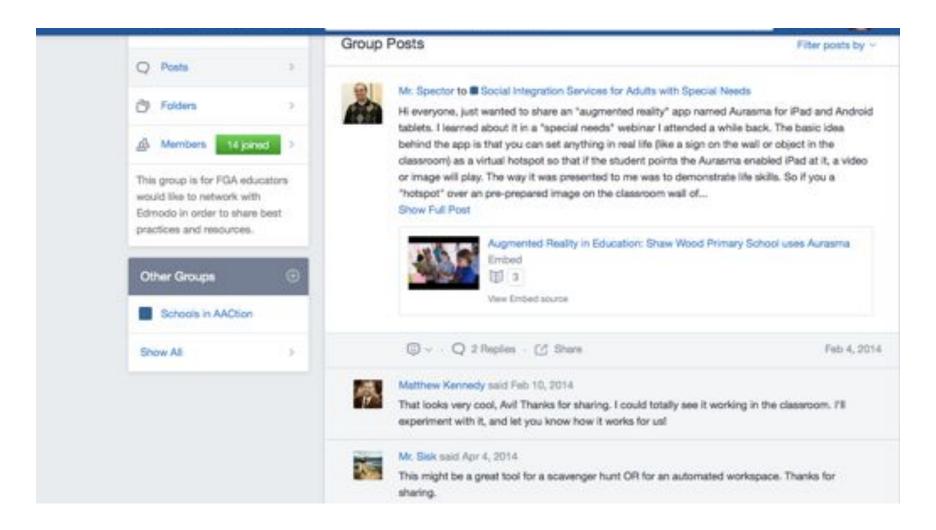
 The teacher (or moderator) has control over who enters the group.

 Can be used to share resources, start discussions, complete collaborative work.



Edmodo





As a school community, how could you use a tool like Edmodo to further your own learning?

Your students' learning?

What I've learned from my PLN in just 20 minutes...

- Watched a video clip of a TED Talk on developing resilience.
- Followed a math conference hashtag on Twitter, researched the concept and application of a "number talk."
- Asked a question to Nova Scotia teacher about UDL implementation in her district.
- Watched a 3 minute video on saving Office files in Google doc format.
- Skimmed an article on blended learning, added it to my Padlet for further reading later.

How relevant is the PD I've just received?

Hyper-targeted PD

Customized for me!

Connected Learning Manifesto

a collaborative statement on teaching & learning in the digital age

We believe in messy learning within a culture of collaboration. Through non-linear, non-directed, selfinitiated learning, collectively we find and solve problems within our networks, classrooms, communities, and the world.

learner

educator. In a syntergy that learning. your thinking

It's all above asking hard. questions and then listening deeply

Never than its individual

You are teaching when you are transparently sharing. You are leveraging your passion to help

others understand.

Community is built through the co-construction of knowledge.

Connecting makes our thoughts I believe that the

die

Experts guiden and are at your curricula You are never alone.

Connected learning is wide open learning.

and actions Stronger Connections increase serendipitous learnings.

share

Want to learn the people and like you into your network

Cell phones ARE

Learn

first, lead

second.

is always smarter than

Honor the gifts and talents each learner brings to

collaborations.

Be collaborative.

Own it. Share with others.

There's nothing powerful about mere technology. Real power rests in the hearts and minds of those Hearn with online. To question is the answer.

Connections enhance individual reflection.

Fail Forward!

earners are never lonely.

Think, share, and then act collectively.

I pledge to be a "networked" educator...

Take the pledge to become "networked"



Take the plunge! In a month, ask yourself...

- How has your network grown?
- Have you begun to see yourself as a networked learner?
- What were your "a-ha" learning moments?

(Connected Educator Starter kit)

Thoughts? Questions? Comments?



