



Julia's Picks for Educators: 6

December 6, 2008

Here is my current installment of selections from online material with potential for educators. It has a subject list and if things look interesting to you, you can read on, clicking on hyperlinks to read or visit the actual items. My intention is to periodically review content—as my hours permit—and send an update. (Note: I'm not promising a regular publishing schedule, here. ☺) Feel free to share this in part or in whole with any of your students or colleagues.

Julia Hengstler

Educational Technologist, Faculty of Education, VIU

Today's Subjects

- Changing Demographics & Teaching
- New Teachers
- Digital Media
- Assessment Alternatives
- Online Courses
- Moodle (Online Course Delivery Platform)
- Virtual Office Hours
- Leveraging Cell Phones
- Boosting Technology Use in Schools
- Web 2.0 Professional Development
- Leadership
- English & 21st Century Skills
- Mathematics
- Art & Science
- Literacy
- Testing & Special Needs
- Aboriginal Education
- Cross Cultural Connections
- Cyberbullying
- Publishing Student Work
- Technology Tools

Changing Demographics & Teaching

NB teachers take part in language training

Huge influx of immigrants forces NB teachers into training in an integrated English program.

<http://timestranscript.canadaeast.com/news/article/486923>

New Teachers

A Rookie Teacher Gets His Midyear Marks

Washington post follows new teachers in first year. http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/11/30/AR2008113001926.html?nav=rss_education

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Digital Media

Project probes digital media's effect on ethics

Article from EducationWeek re. how Howard Gardner is leading a research team studying the web norms of youth in the GoodPlay Project funded by MacArthur Foundation. http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2008/11/19/13gardner_ep.h28.html?tmp=1967125849

Media bombardment linked to ill effects during childhood

Article from Washington Post linking media use to childhood obesity & tobacco use in US. Average child spends 45 hours with media, 30 hours in school, & 17 hours with parents http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/12/01/AR2008120102920.html?nav=rss_education

Assessment Alternatives

If Md.[Maryland] exit exams don't earn a diploma, extra credit could

Article from Washington Post about how students failing high stakes tests are being allowed to complete academic projects to show competence in the subjects. http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2008/11/19/13gardner_ep.h28.html?tmp=1967125849

Online Courses

Next year, students must take distance learning course to graduate

US state of Alabama making an online course mandatory for graduation requirements.

http://www.timesdaily.com/article/20081116/ARTICLES/811160343/1011/NEWS?Title=Next_year_students_must_take_Internet_course_to_graduate

With students flocking online, will faculty follow?

Article from Inside Higher Ed. Regarding the increasing student interest in online courses and how that may or may not affect faculty movement to online delivery. <http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2008/11/18/online>

Moodle (Online Course Delivery Platform)

The many uses of Moodle

Article from Buddy2: The Next Generation of Teaching & Learning. <http://www.buddyproject.org/newsBytes/school/rossville.asp>

Virtual Office Hours

Virtual office hours get students, profs, together

Article from eSchoolNews. . <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/top-news/index.cfm?i=56017>

Leveraging Cell Phones

Soskiku=a reason for cell phones in school

Article on the creation of the free Soshiku site that allows students/teachers with web enabled cell phone browsers to add classes, add/track assignments as well as partners. <http://education.zdnet.com/?p=1980&tag=nl.e019>

Boosting Technology Use in Schools

The Joyce Journey

How to best encourage technology use to provide better education in schools

http://www.mindsharelearning.com/report/dec_08/docs/TheJoyceJourney.pdf

Web 2.0 Professional Development

Web 2.0: From curious to competent

Ebook from Atomic Learning

http://newbay.ebookhost.net/tl/atomic/2/ebook/1/index.php?e=29&user_id=37566&flash=10.12

Leadership

The challenge of assessing school climate

ASCD article importance of assessing /improving school climate to support learner success

http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational_leadership/dec08/vol66/num04/The_Challenge_of_Assessing_School_Climate.aspx

English & 21st Century Skills

P21 offers free guidance for English teachers

US site offers new framework to provide models for infusing 21st century skills into the English classroom

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/top-news/index.cfm?i=56256>

Mathematics

Dec. Math Jelly: Direct Variation

Online tutorial on direct variation. Remember that you can subscribe to the Math Jellies notifications—with my first, I had to scroll through the marketing material right to the bottom to get to the free educational “jelly” (See

<http://www.learnnowbc.ca/educators/OnlineToolsResources/MathJellies.aspx>).

http://www.pilotmath.com/assets/conceptcapsule/direct_variation/player.html

Art & Science

Imaging the ocean: Art mixes well with marine science

Article from edutopia about the benefits of blending art with teaching marine science. <http://www.edutopia.org/marine-science-art-integrated-studies>

Literacy

Tool translates test scores into reading lists

Article from Washington Post re US state of Virginia’s Dept. of Education’s new tool to help teachers and parents pick books that will be of interest and appropriate to young readers. http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/11/12/AR2008111200038.html?nav=rss_education

Testing & Special Needs

Researchers piloting ‘accessible’ guidelines

Article from EducationWeek re. work of researchers at Vanderbilt Univ. to provide field-tested guidelines to make tests more accessible. <http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2008/10/22/09assess.h28.html?tmp=1843578091>

Test Accessibility & Modification Inventory

Field tested checklist from Vanderbilt University for making your tests more accessible to special needs and second language speakers. <http://peabody.vanderbilt.edu/Documents/pdf/LSI/TAMI.pdf>

Aboriginal Education

Teachers learn to close culture gap

All employees of the New South Wales Department of Education in Australia required to attend compulsory training and will spend up to 10 hours learning about indigenous culture. <http://www.smh.com.au/news/national/teachers-to-close-culture-gap/2008/11/17/1226770355946.html>

Cross Cultural Connections

Asia-Europe ClassroomNet

Site connecting secondary schools in Asia & Europe for collaborative learning and cultural exchanges.

http://www.aec.asef.org/index_static.html

Dolls an expression of Ajax's diversity

Project in 23 Canadian schools to teach students to celebrate not just tolerate varied cultures.

<http://www.parentcentral.ca/parent/article/534466>

Cyberbullying

Cyber bullying case nets mixed verdict

Jury convicts mom of lesser charges in online hoax that lead to Missouri teen's suicide. <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/top-news/index.cfm?i=56225>

Publishing Student Work

YAMweb.org

Classroom network of the Young Author's Magazine Anthology publishing creative writing for classrooms.

<http://www.youngauthorsmagazine.org/>

Technology Tools

SchoolRack.com

Free site to create teacher websites to connect with students & parents outside the classroom. <http://www.schoolrack.com/>

(See free startup-guide here: http://www.schoolrack.com/tour/SchoolRack_Quickstart_Guide.pdf)

Google Mobile Browser Aid

Use this webpage to view full websites on mobile browsers <http://www.google.com/gwt/n>

Google Reader

Sign-up for an account and it keeps you up to date with your favourite news sites & blogs. Now will also automatically translate RSS feeds in multiple languages

<https://www.google.com/accounts/ServiceLogin?hl=en&nui=1&service=reader&continue=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2Freader>

Soshiku

Sign-up for an account to manage assignments, add partners with email or SMS (cell phone) notifications.

<http://www.soshiku.com/>

Educational Web 2.0 Tools

Site of resources from David Brear, SD43, Coquitlam Open Learning

<http://sites.google.com/site/educationalweb20tools/Home>