

Jen's Thoughts

Dear Friends

This entire online "presence" for the last 10 years of my life has certainly been a journey.

If you have been with me from the beginning, you know I began with Technospud (aka Computer Couch Potato) and then transitioned into GenuineTech.

But, in the last few months, I have realized that I really don't wish (and have not) wanted TECH to be my main emphasis.

Sure, I want to show you interesting and productive ways of using your computer within your classroom but TECH cannot and should not be my emphasis.

I host projects. First and foremost. With the primary purpose of helping you bringing creative and fun ideas into your classroom.

So, 1 week ago, I bought the web domain ProjectsByJen.com and relocated EVERYTHING to that site.

What do you have to do because of this -- smiles -- pretty much nothing. Everything has been redirected. So,

pretty much all you need to do is continue to support me on this journey. Smiles, I am glad you are along for the ride.

Jen

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Mrs P invites children to write a story on any topic, no less than 250 words and not to exceed 1,000 words. It may be fiction or non-fiction. All participants must be between the ages of 4 and 13 years old. There are two age competition categories: 4 to 8 years of age, and 9 to 13 years of age.

<http://www.contest.mrsp.com/>

ENTRY DATES September 1st to October 15, 2010

For Children ages 4 to 13 years of age



<http://www.projectsbyjen.com>

September 2010

Sites of the Month INTERACTIVE SCIENCE

Foss Web
<http://www.fossweb.com/>

HHMI
<http://www.hhmi.org/coolscience/forkids/>

Interactive Weather
Maker
<http://www.scholastic.com/kids/weather/>

Atoms Family
<http://www.miamisci.org/af/sln/>

Planet Impact
<http://amazing-space.stsci.edu/resources/explorations/impact/home.html>

Virtual Kitchen
<http://pbskids.org/zoom/games/kitchenchemistry/virtual-start.html>

Exploratorium
<http://www.exploratorium.edu/explore/>

30 Minute Tech Tip

Time To Get Your Own Website

Having your own site can be a bit scary but also a bit empowering (both for you and for others you share with.)

Each month, this newsletter highlights a teacher site and I know that most of you, when visiting those sites, realize with a little effort – you could do the same thing as well

To share not only what happens in your classroom but to also share those ideas that you know would work SUCCESSFULLY in other classrooms as well.

My first leap into web design was through Microsoft Publisher and I had to learn how to create links, and insert graphics, and do roll-overs, and and and..... grins, well I learned a lot. And let me tell you – Publisher is not the easiest (nor the best) web design program.

I then moved into Front Page and then found a happy home with Dreamweaver. Which works for me – does not have to work for you.

But the exceptionally grand part of this all is that 10 years ago, I was on my own. I had to take classes on web design, read tons of tutorials....and made a lot of mistakes.

NOW, when you decide to create your own page they have templates and wizards and all sorts of tools that help make you look professional with just a few clicks. (honest, this is true!)

There are many places to create an online home:

<http://iteach.org/hosting/>
<http://pbworks.com/>
<http://www.wikispaces.com/site/for/teachers>

<http://www.weebly.com/>
<http://www.teacherweb.com/>
(which are all great sites – but since you host with them, you won't "own" your name and will have limitations, at times, with options offered to you.

I host my site with siteground. And right now, they are having a fantastic deal. For just \$9.95 they are giving you a year of hosting AND your domain name!!! (unlimited space, unlimited bandwidth) Usually I pay about \$100 a year for this. All most sites are hosted with them, and I am quite content.

If you are ready to "own" your home on the web....I suggest you check them out: http://www.siteground.com/friends.htm?referrer_id=36773

(and if you need help, just holler. I would be glad to help!)
Jen

Site

Of The Month

Beth Newingham 3rd grade
Hill Elementary School
Troy, MI

<http://hill.troy.k12.mi.us/staff/bnewingham/myweb3/>

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I enjoy websites that have themes – and hope you do to – which is why I chose this month's teachers website.

Mrs. Newingham's has put together a teacher resource page you will really want to check out.



And I think the student created websites on Where Is Troy is just grand!! What a clever idea.

But if you only have a wee bit of time, be sure to check out the classroom economy link. Easily easily replicated in your classroom and the opportunities it offers are numerous.

Very very nice and helpful site.

Thank you, Mrs. Newingham!

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