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**New Adventures**

**Debbie Rohlmeier, Digital Immigrant/Risk-Taker**

**2010-2012**

**A Whole New Approach**: Frustrated by bright students waiting to be “fed” with the teacher’s knowledge, a teammate and I overturned the apple cart on how students learned in class. With the help of long-range planning using the Understanding by Design model and technology, See the parent letter on the website: [www.alpharesources.weebly.com](http://www.alpharesources.weebly.com) and 2011 PotPourri presentation at Texas Association of Gifted and Talented on independent learning and 21st Century Skills.

1. **From Google Docs to Spreadsheet** – Get to know your students with this first day questionnaire based on Da Vincian qualities

(resource book: How to Think Like DaVinci)

<http://alpharesources.weebly.com/16th-century-da-vinci.html>

1. **Student Collaboration using Google Docs** – Students from different schools can collaborate on a project as they are able to revise and chat from anywhere. Here is an example of a newscast script and research by four fourth grade girls (chatting not featured here for privacy).

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VrAALviqGoppWWh20BtdZI41kSRwxARiAvXjx3pMIVo/edit>

1. **Student practice through *Quizlet*** – Students practice content vocabulary and Latin/Greek word roots and related words through online flashcards and competitive games.

<http://quizlet.com/3010137/graphics-and-stories-flash-cards/>

1. **Detecting original source and bias from a website –** Third graders discover the internet is not all as it seems as they research different theories on King Tut’s death only to find several of their sources are a hoax!
2. **Safe Blogging** -- Written in kid-friendly language, a list of *Best Blogging Practices* and rubric for self and teacher evaluation. Posted on teacher-created website made specifically so students could communicate critical thinking about visual literacy in a safe environment with teacher monitoring.

<http://mindseyeblogging.weebly.com> (Password – alpha1112)

1. **Creating Film through Writing** – Students (individually, pairs, or small groups) write, film, and produce an end-of-year film to share with district parents and peers at an Academy-Award style ceremony. The single, best learning experience as far as problem-solving many real-world technological mishaps. Presented at 2010’s Texas Association for Gifted and Talented annual conference.
   1. ***Year One*** – Narrative Focus: Students learn the elements of story and camera angles through graphic novels to write a film script, culminating in a student-directed movie.
   2. ***Year Two*** – Expository Focus: Through the eyes of a journalist students research, interview, and write a news article with space limitations before writing and filming their own documentary or newscast.

<http://alpharesources.weebly.com/sample-films.html>

1. **Science Competition, Exploravision, prompts students to learn Microsoft Word** -- Basic word processing skills cannot be assumed as students, most with home computers, show a very limited awareness of skills such as screen capture, centering, tabs, page breaks, etc.
2. **Noodle Bib Teaches Students the Process of Citing Sources** – Like the key/classification of living organisms in biology, this site helped students not only get the correct format for citing sources, but understand the process behind it.
3. **Students Create Websites to Showcase Research** – Through the Jason Project, Math Science collaborates with ELAR to solve a community problem.

<http://rohlcoldisasters.weebly.com>

1. **Recording the Writing Process Using Microsoft Word’s Track Changes –** Research says students are more likely to write and revise longer pieces more often. I found this to be *exactly* the case as students easily document revisions for my review.
2. **Teachers Collaborate with Symbaloo, a Webmix** – I created several webmixes to share with my ELAR team so that we can quickly share and use the same resources in several areas such as writing, Web 2.0 tools, film resources, and more.

**Ready to Implement or On the Horizon for 2012-2013**

1. **Continuous Learning --** Requested to visit High Tech High in Coppell to see how they integrate subject areas and use technology through Problem Based Learning.
2. **Edmodo** – Communicate in this social network with parents, planning teams, the school. Send and receive assignments to/from students.

<http://www.edmodo.com/home>

3. **Electronic Annotation through Digolet –** Students interact with text by highlighting and

annotating news articles for research and save into their library. Example: <http://www.diigo.com/bookmark/http%3A%2F%2Fideas.time.com%2F2012%2F04%2F25%2Fwhy-floundering-is-good?tab=people&uname=drohlmeier>

1. **Flipped Classroom** – TED Education is a great tool to begin here, although I planned to video and make my own as well. Example:

<http://ed.ted.com/>

1. **Electronic Portfolios** – It is so easy to document student work with a click on the iPad. Record notes or student reflections too!

6. **Going Global** – Looking to share and collaborate projects with a class in another country, possibly

through E-Pals.

<http://www.epals.com/my/home/>