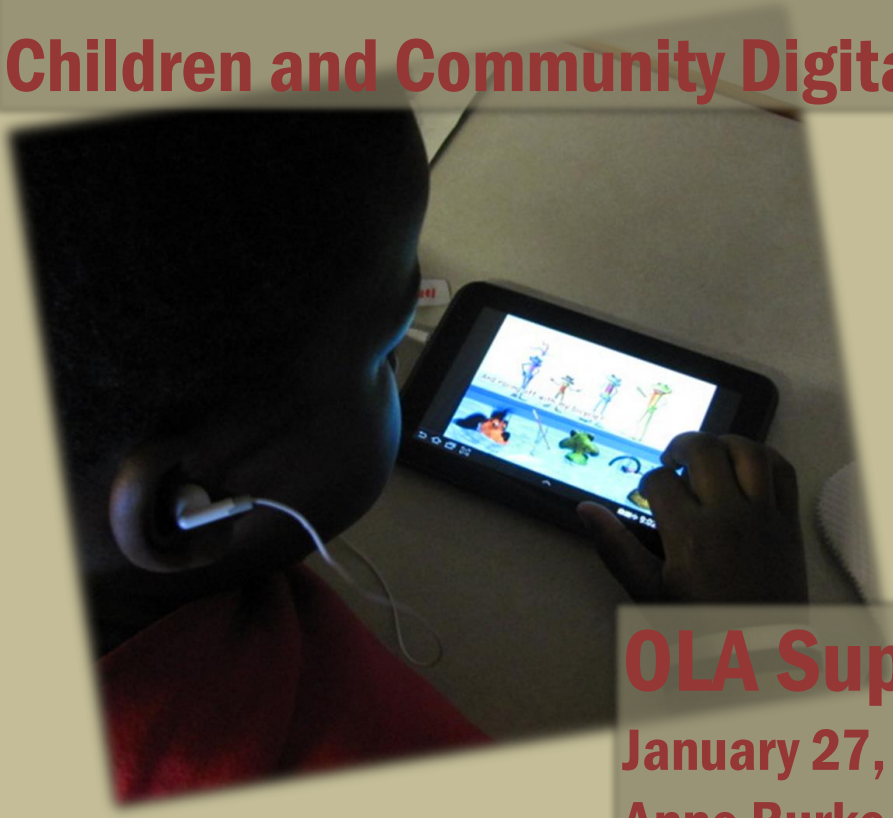
CONNECTING SPACES:

Children and Community Digital Literacy



OLA Super Conference

January 27, 2016

Anne Burke & Beth Maddigan

Project Overview

Funded by the Margaret and Wallace McCain Family Foundation and the Jimmy Pratt Family Foundation

Grade three students used tablet computers with a pre-selected series of applications over a seven month period at school and through a community afterschool program.

Project Overview

Students benefited from differentiated learning in the school environment and online collaborative play in the afterschool centre.

Benefits of the exposure to digital tools included:

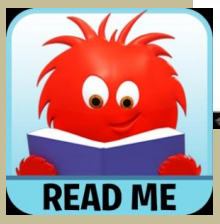
- **intergenerational learning as children assisted both parents and teachers with digital applications;**
- **problem-solving; and**
- **enhanced collaborative play for students across environments.**

@ School Sample Activities & Projects

BUDDY READING

Tablets provided a great equalizer for students struggling to assist their reading buddy

MeeGenius Children's Books



Read Me Stories

@ School Sample Activities & Projects

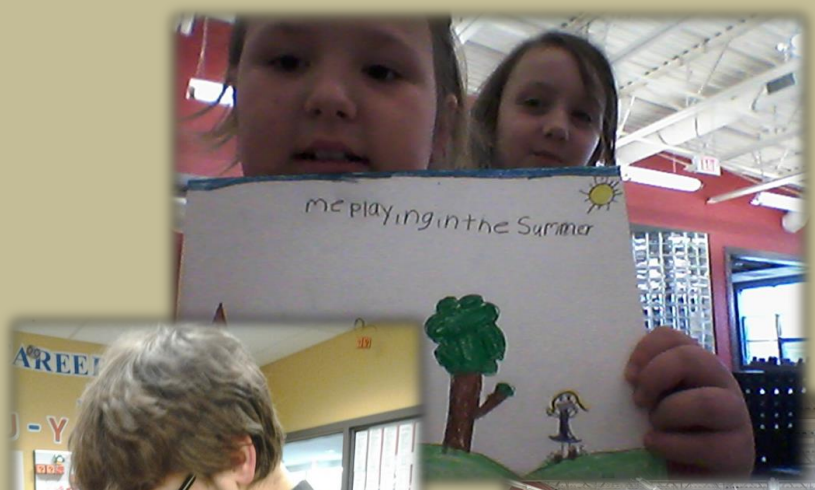
Classroom Blog

Writing and English language skills improved with diary and blogging activities

Diary Notes Multimedia

Kidblog

@ B&GC Computer Club



Boys & Girls Clubs of St. John's

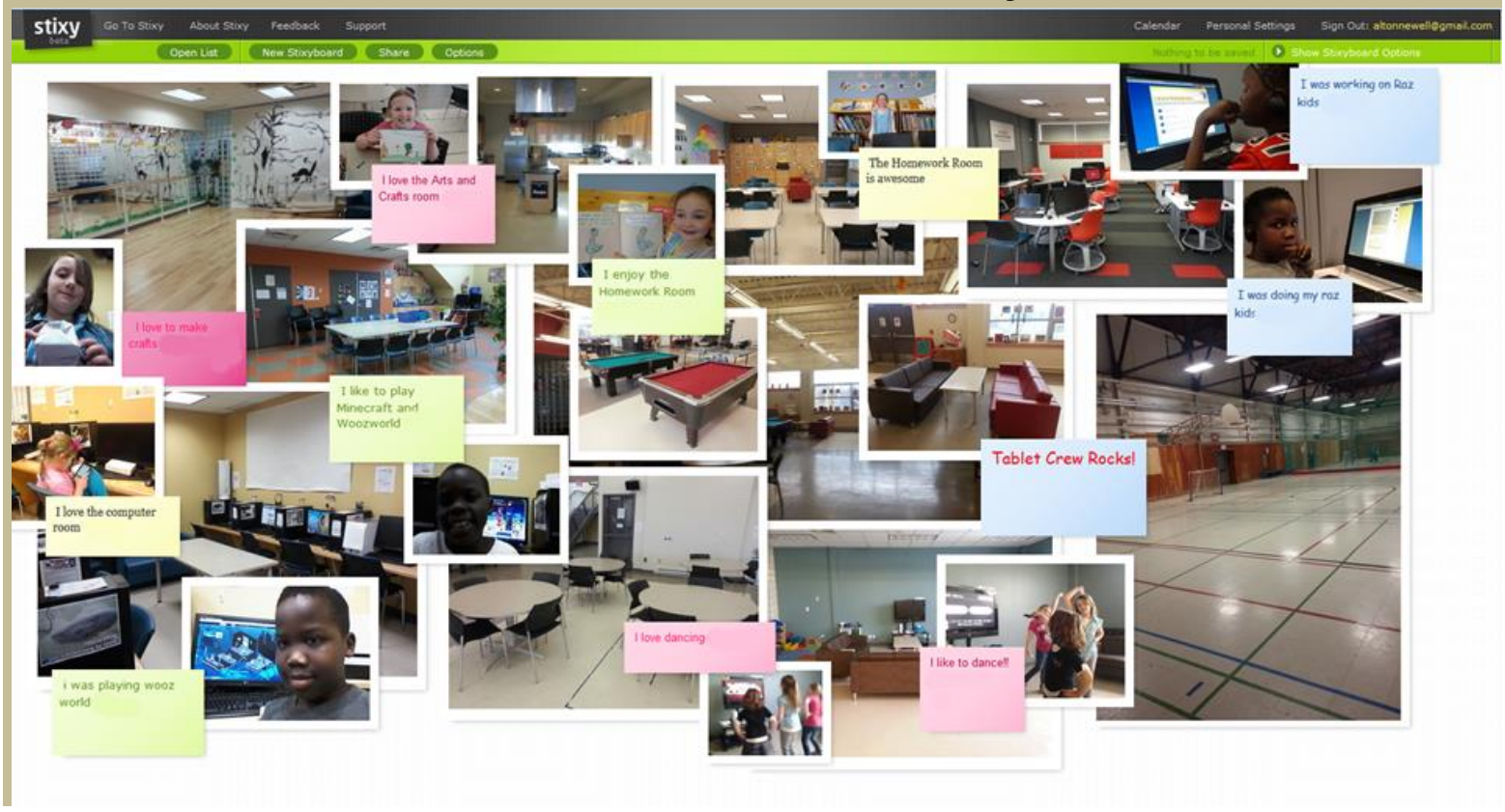
@ B&GC Teacher Observations of Success

Friendship & Socialization

- Weekend play online sparked discussions
- Proximity play on similar games became collaborative play and learning
- Play eventually evolved to problem solving

@ B&GC Culminating Project

Stixty.com Collaboration



Outcomes & Themes

Intergenerational teaching and learning

Outcomes & Themes

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE WITH ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY IN AND OUT OF SCHOOL

Outcomes & Themes

Responsible use & digital citizenship

Outcomes & Themes

Incorporating traditional literacies in the digital space

Outcomes & Themes

Collaborative learning, play and teamwork & Building Friendships

Recommendations for Further Research

1. **Further research exploring digital literacy as a community practice through intentional use of tablets by qualified professionals in a variety of locally-accessible environments.**

Recommendations for Further Research

2. Opportunities for teachers, parents, and community leaders to learn how to use mobile devices intentionally.

Recommendations for Further Research

3. Equitable access for children to mobile technologies and places to use them collaboratively.

Considerations for Community Libraries

Intergenerational programming with tablet computers has benefits – especially in the realm of digital citizenship – for adults and children

Considerations for Community Libraries

EAL students in our study benefitted from the ability to use a tablet alongside a student familiar with English & the device

Considerations for Community Libraries

The growth of digital media has outpaced our ability to provide safe and nurturing environments in the digital spaces our children visit. So we can insert ourselves in existing ones and learn and grow together.

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Access full report:

http://jimmyprattfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Community-outreach-digital-tools-final-copy.pdf