

iPod Project – Year End Summary

The opportunity for students to become teachers and teachers to become learners has been the most significant benefit of being part of the iPod project.

As a teacher I laid the groundwork, set the goals and managed the guidelines. That was the starting point....from there the culture of each member of the classroom community having the ability to share something new has been the catalyst to lots of exciting discoveries. The iPods have the ability of leveling the playing field, students of all ability levels have had the chance to be both teachers and learners.

The access to curriculum materials is great. In our classroom the first thing students do with each opportunity to work with the iPods is read a book from their A-Z library. From there we have gone on to Google Earth to support our Multiculturalism studies, a variety of spelling apps to enhance our spelling program, Math apps that directly support basic fact practice, learning time and money. During this third term students are studying an Endangered Animal of their choosing and using information from the combination of books, iPod apps, and the internet to create a Pictello project that incorporates written text, photos and voice recording.

To culminate the year, we have planned an iPod showcase day for the students to invite their parents in to the classroom and share with them their voice recording from March and July, the iPod Literacy Response Journal which shows double entry written responses to stories from the A-Z library, and their Pictello project on an Endangered Animal.

The iPods have become a tool to use within the curriculum. Time with iPods in the classroom is not spent just on iPods, they are part of working together within the subject areas. They lend themselves to individual “practice” and working together as a group to find information.

It has been a fantastic opportunity and I see many benefits going forward. I feel a loss at not being able to work with them again next year as the learning and growth has been good and I would be able to start so much further ahead.

With that being said, one last additional thought...having both classroom and support teacher experience I see the benefits for the reading fluency in both settings. Given the opportunity as either a classroom teacher or a support teacher to work with the iPods again I would love to see the project reach even further to help support the students who are developing their reading skills and receive LA support. As a support teacher finding materials each day that would engage the students and promote practice reading was always a challenge. The A-Z libraries on the iPods open up the chance for individuals and groups to read and read often. The apps target all kinds of areas of development. The iPod project would give the students who are showing development in their reading daily access to reading materials and voice recordings to improve their fluency.

Thank you for your support of the iPod project and the opportunity to bring it into our classrooms. The students, and the teacher, have greatly enjoyed the experience.

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