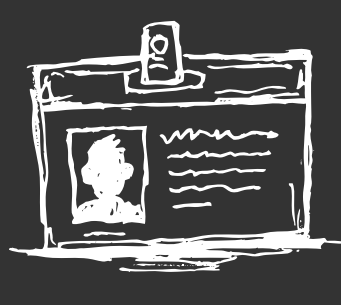


A Day in the Life of a Connected Educator



How might a day in your life as a connected educator unfold? This scenario offers an example.

U.S.A.



tweetstream



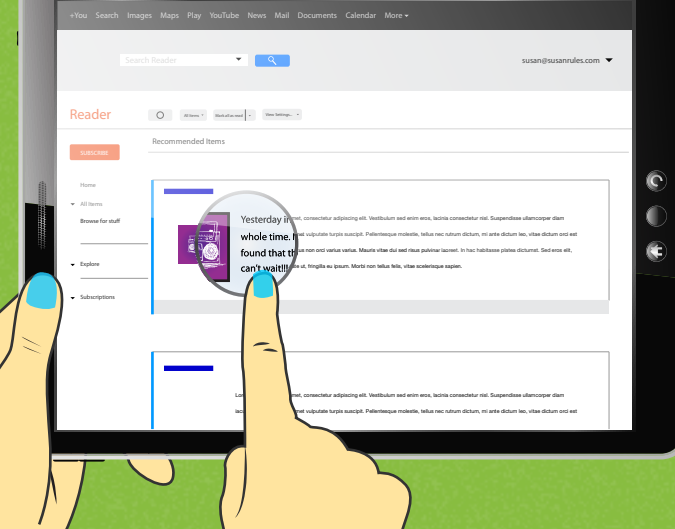
Australia



As the sun rises, Susan, an American elementary school teacher, checks Twitter to connect with Robert, a 4th grade teacher in Australia. They have never met but their classrooms are collaborating on an environmental project. They compare notes and decide the project is ready for phase 2.

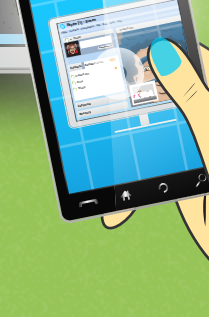


Susan sees a link from someone in her personal learning network on Twitter about a current educational policy debate. She reads the article and retweets the link to her Twitter followers. Then bookmarks it on Diigo, a social bookmarking tool. She notes the comments of others who have read the link before her, and adds some tags to help others find this interesting article.



Next, Susan turns to Google Reader, which manages all her RSS feeds for quick reviewing. She scans new material her students have posted to their blogs, changes they've made to the class wiki, and comments and revisions on the unit she is co-designing with her colleagues.

School is beginning. Susan's 5th grade class is studying Iceland's geology. A member of Susan's personal learning network lives in Iceland and has arranged a live video chat with the class using Skype. During the video session, the teachers and students in both classrooms document the event by snapping photos with their smartphones and making short video reflections to use later on their blogs.



Just before lunch, Susan's students upload images from the video chat to the school Flickr photo-sharing account. While the kids eat lunch, Susan spies a moment of real engagement. She adds a relevant quote as she uploads the picture to Flickr and uses tags to add it to a growing pool of images on education and change.

GET CONNECTED



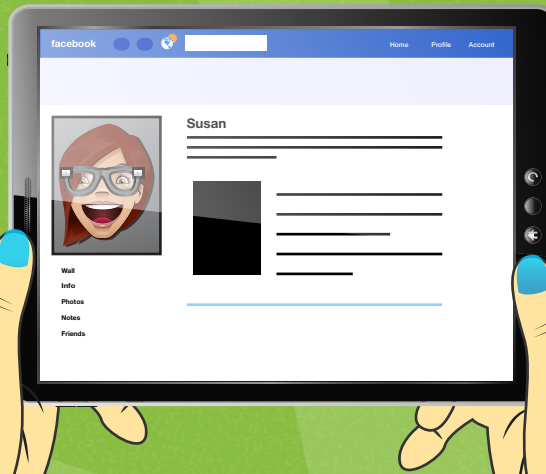
Later in the day, Susan introduces a learning strategy she discovered in one of her global communities of practice online. It plays out exactly as she'd hoped, pulling in contributions from a hard-to-engage student. Susan makes a mental note to send a thank you e-card to the educator in Norway who suggested the idea. She sends a quick direct message via Twitter to her principal, letting her know how successful the event was and inviting her to stop by for a classroom visit.



Norway



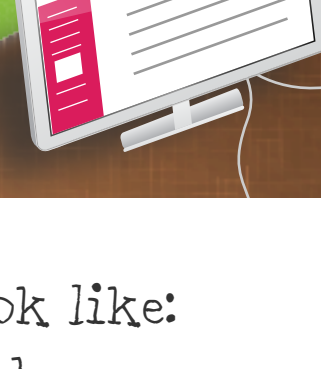
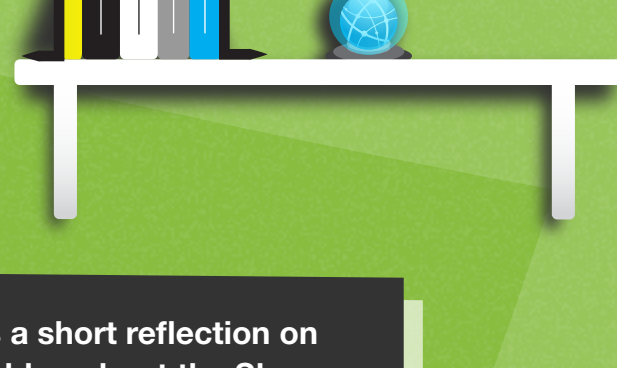
After school, Susan revisits the online community and posts a reflection about using the new strategy, asking for feedback on the remix she made to increase its effectiveness with her class. She cross-posts the reflection on another pedagogy-focused social networking site so others can share in the success. Within minutes, educators from around the world have posted replies and questions.



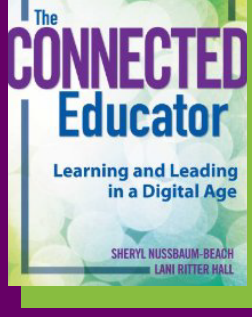
Before turning in for the night, Susan checks her education policy Facebook group. A quick scan compels her to move her own thoughts to a discussion about how to move forward. Next, she links her post about the learning strategy on her own wall and shares a few of the Iceland video chat photos with her Facebook friends.



Susan writes a short reflection on her personal blog about the Skype conference while her favorite TV show starts in the background.



This is what a connected learner's day might look like: coaching, sharing, connecting, collaborating, and leveraging her web of networks to improve personal practice and make schools more effective and exciting places.



Does this sound like your day? Or do you wish your classroom was this connected? Then there's something for you in *The Connected Educator: Learning and Leading in a Digital Age* by Sheryl Nussbaum-Beach and Lani Ritter Hall.

21stcenturycollaborative.com/the-book

Powerful Learning Practice

plpnetwork.com/connected

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