



WoWinSchool: A Hero's Journey Updates and An Invitation to Virtual Blizzcon

Parents,

As you are probably aware, we are nearly nine weeks into our WoWinSchool: A Hero's Journey course. I hope your child is sharing with you some of their experiences in the course, because it is truly one-of-a-kind. Here are just a few of the exciting things that have already happened this year in our course:

- Though we have not discussed it at length with our learners, we are excited to announce that this program has received a sizable grant from the Breneman Jaech Foundation in Washington state. We have some really great things in store for the kids, but want to surprise them! More news to follow...
- As you might imagine, this program is getting some very good attention, because it's very innovative and aims at putting into practice some of the education reform others schools are only talking about. It has been presented at several education conferences already, and more are sure to request it. As always, we want our focus to be on the learners, so we may ask our kids to use/share their work online.
- We are very excited to announce that a third school system has joined this project, Seminole County Schools in Florida. Based on last year's pilot and our plans for the current year, they will be following in our kids' footsteps, along with students from Suffern Middle in New York. Our Grizzlies are blazing a trail!
- An expansion to the *World of Warcraft* game is on the horizon, launching December 7th. This will bring major changes to the virtual world our learners are exploring and will bring exciting opportunities for us to explore literary themes in the game.
- Be sure to ask your child about what they're doing in this course. We want to hold them accountable for their learning in both school and at home. And, of course, you are welcome to visit the class any time you like.
- Don't forget, you can find out all about the project at our online wiki: <http://wowinschool.pbworks.com>.

Lastly, one of our goals in the course is to maintain a flexible learning environment that can respond to changing opportunities for learning. Later this week, Blizzard Entertainment, the creators of *World of Warcraft*, will be holding their annual trade conference, *BlizzCon*, and televising it live over the Internet. We would love for our learners to have the opportunity to view some of the events as they offer insights into the game industry (a possible future job opportunity). If you are willing to allow your child to view some of these events, streamed live into the classroom please sign below, and "thank you," for your support of this program.

Sincerely,

Craig Lawson, Lucas Gillispie, and Edith Skipper

My child may view events from the *BlizzCon* event: _____

