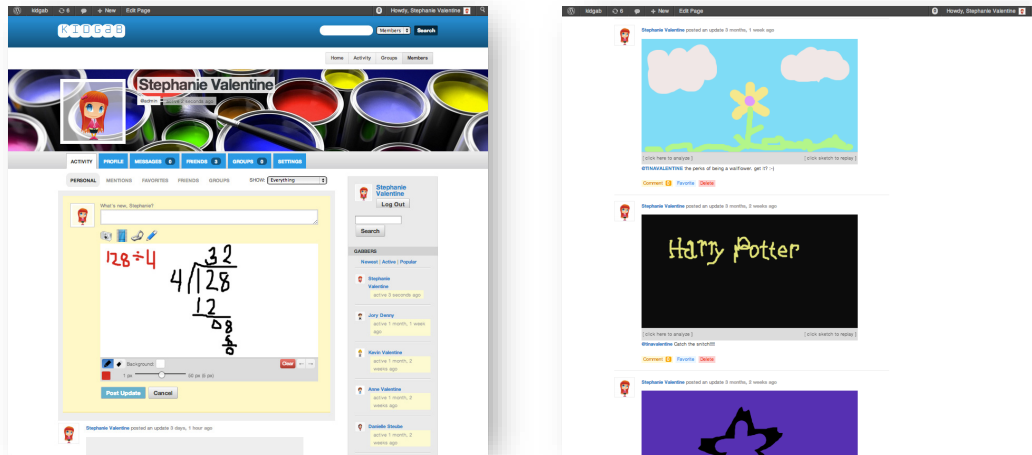


Project KidGab: Using Social Networking to Promote Positive School Climate and Student Engagement for 21st Century Learners in the Primary Grades



About KidGab

- Developed in the Sketch Recognition Lab @ Texas A&M University
- Social Network for use by children (pre-k through grade 6), teachers, & guardians
- Strict privacy measures protect from cyber-threats (i.e. predators, spammers)
- Allows for both sketch-based and textual communication
- Sketch feature creates animation-like playback, not a static image
- Connects students to other students, teachers to students, parents to students, etc.

Expected Benefits of Project KidGab

- Teaches skills in communication, style, and planning
- Allows English-learners to communicate expressively to peers and teachers through universal language of sketching, before they gain full verbal expressiveness
- Early, mentored access to a safe social network teaches good cyber-citizenship
- Connectedness improves school climate

What It Means For Teachers/School Administrators

- Teacher/Administrator training on the KidGab system 1 hour (once)
- Parent/Student training on the KidGab system 1-3 hours (once)
- Weekly Teacher/Administrator monitoring/mentoring commitment ~ 20 minutes/week
- In-class surveys to measure research outcomes (beginning and end of experiment) 3 hours/year

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