

TECH TOOLS FOR TEACHERS

15

If you or someone you know has missed any newsletters, [click here](#) to find them on Kathleen's blog.

Through this newsletter we aim to cater for teachers of all levels and experiences. If you have any ideas on how we can do this better or make improvements to the newsletter, please email us at techtoolsforteachers@gmail.com (or hit the reply button).



This week we review the website [Skype](#).
www.skype.com

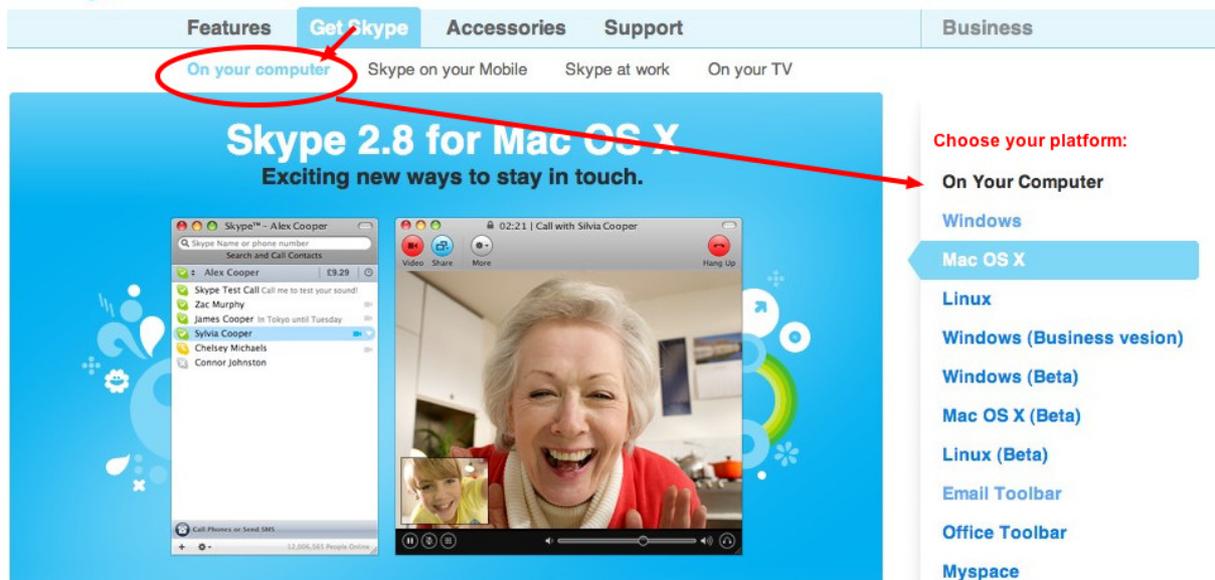
[Skype](#) is a free software application that can allow you to make video and voice calls over the internet. Calls to other skype users are free and there are many extra features that can allow you to collaborate and communicate with other around the world. Other features include: instant messaging, file transfer, conference calls and screen sharing.

We like [Skype](#) because it:

- is free
- allows you to make free audio and video calls computer-computer (note computer-phone calls incur a charge)
- can be used for collaborative learning
- allows you to communicate and learn from others around the world
- is suitable for all year levels
- can be used in all curriculum areas
- can be used on the IWB, student notebooks, iPod Touch or classroom computers
- is simple to use
- is used by many people around the world (ie there are many people you can call!)

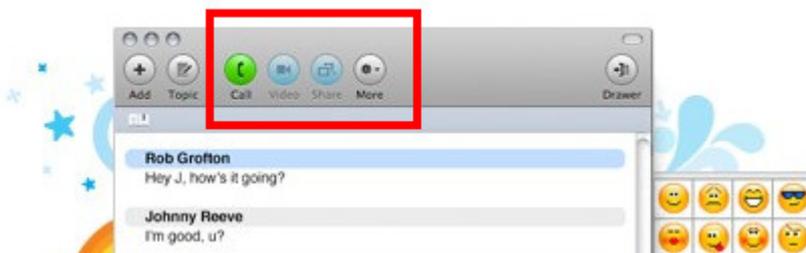
HOW TO...

1. To **download skype go to www.skype.com. Click on the link 'Get Skype' and you can then choose which platform or operating system your computer uses and then click on the download button to install the application onto your computer.**



2. Once you have downloaded the program you will need to create a new account. Your new account will need a valid e-mail address in order to receive your password.

3. You now have a skype account and you are ready to use it in your classroom to contact other classrooms around the world or even call an expert for a question and answer forum. *Check out this link for a list of classes who are interested in skyping other classes* <http://theedublogger.com/want-to-connect-with-other-classrooms/>



USES:

Kathleen's grade two class ([2KM](#)) has used Skype a number of times:

- The students have skyped their blogging buddies in Mrs Yollis' class in the USA numerous times as a way to strengthen their relationship and learn more about the world. Recently, the classes skyped as a way to celebrate the end of the school year for Mrs Yollis' class. As school hours don't match up at this time of the year due to time zones, 2KM came to school an hour early and Mrs Yollis' class stayed back late for a "Skype Show 'n' Tell Breakfast/Pizza Party". Read more about this experience on the 2KM blog <http://2kmblog.globalstudent.org.au/2010/06/08/skype-show-n-tell-breakfast-party/>
- To compliment the "Aboriginal Australia" topic that the students were learning about this term, Kathleen's class skyped with an Aboriginal community school in remote Western Australia. This connection was made when a student in Kathleen's class went on a four wheel driving holiday and visited the Aboriginal school. This skyping experience was an authentic way to bring the topic to life.

- Next term, Kathleen's class will be studying dinosaurs so Kathleen has contacted a dinosaur museum and found a staff member who is going to skype with the class and answer their questions. This will be a great way to bring an expert into the classroom.

To everyone who is preparing for the winter break, happy holidays! Tech Tools for Teachers will resume after the two week school holidays.

Simon and Kathleen
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