***Sitting in Yesterday’s Classrooms***

One of the more uncomfortable truths that teachers need to wrestle with is the reality that despite years of conversations about the role that technology can play in changing learning spaces, today's students still spend the majority of their time sitting in yesterday's classrooms.

While schools and districts continue to make digital tools available to their teachers and students -- either through new investments or policies that allow students to bring their own technology into the classroom -- the content that kids are tackling and the lessons that teachers are delivering often remain the same.  Teachers at Fraser Heights Secondary School in Surrey, BC, will wrestle with that reality in this lunch conversation facilitated by [Bill Ferriter](http://williamferriter.com) -- a full-time classroom teacher and #edtech expert from Raleigh, North Carolina.

***Questions for Reflection***:

1. ***What is your initial reaction to Bill’s argument that today’s students are often stuck sitting in yesterday’s classrooms?*** Do you agree with him? Disagree with him? Does that argument make you angry? What evidence can you provide to support or refute his position? Is there any truth in his argument?
2. ***What is your initial reaction to Bill's argument that it is teachers who are failing when classrooms remain unchanged year-after-year?***  Are teachers responsible for leading the kinds of changes that educational experts like Will Richardson, Dean Shareski and George and Alec Couros advocate for?  When those changes are slow to come, are classroom teachers to blame?  Why and/or why not?
3. ***Can you see evidence of students mastering the kinds of core academic skills and content knowledge that are required by curricula guides in Bill's microlending work?***  Would your students be motivated by opportunities to do this kind of work in the classroom?  Perhaps more importantly, can you imagine new opportunities to give students chances to wrestle with real world problems AND master essential outcomes all at the same time?

***Contact Information:***

If you ever have questions about transforming learning for the iGeneration, feel free to use the contact information below to reach out for advice. Bill is always willing to help.

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| Bill FerriterSixth Grade TeacherSalem Middle School6150 Old Jenks RoadApex, NC 27523wferriter@hotmail.com<http://williamferriter.com> Twitter: @plugusinBlog: http://bit.ly/temperedradical | ***Additional Resources:***Every handout from Bill’s technology book—Teaching the iGeneration—can be downloaded for free by visiting: <http://bit.ly/tighandouts> The materials for today’s session can be accessed by visiting: <http://bit.ly/fraserheightsjan2013> **Bill posts the vast majority of his teaching with technology resources on his professional development wiki – which can be found online here:** <http://digitallyspeaking.pbworks.com> |