

Focusing In:
*Points of View and
Experience
Prototypes*

EduConnect
Presented by: Gerardo Sanz

Introduction

We met Professor Ellis who needs to homeschool his child because of irreconcilable differences with his child's teacher over grading and structure of schoolwork. It would be game changing if we could facilitate productive and responsive conversations between teachers and parents in the elementary school setting.

We met Zilan, a 6th grader, who needs learning to be interactive and fun because of the way she likes to engage with information. It would be game changing if we could make schoolwork more hands-on and active for young children.

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**Additional
Needfinding**

Additional interviews

Brandon Hill - Senior Public Policy

- “Banana project” in 4th grade introduced him to social justice
- We inferred that introducing diverse topics can spark life long interest



Shalini Rao - 5th grade, Cupertino

- Likes science because of the experiments
- The teacher doesn't check what they learn
- She's using Gmail, Edmodo and class website



*“The project made me interested, and in high school I took
action myself.”*

- Brandon

“Watching the reaction made me more curious.”

- Shalini

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Revised Points of View

Revised Points of View

We met Ivan, Zilan, and Brandon, current and former public school students --

We were amazed to find that they all expressed feelings of empowerment and engagement as a result of project-based coursework.

It would be game changing to make project-based work the centerpiece of the modern classroom.

We met Professor Ellis, a professor at Stanford and parent of a homeschooled child and Rachel Baker, former teacher and current professor at UC Irvine --

We were amazed to find how lapses in communication can lead to educational failure.

It would be game changing to facilitate conversations inside and outside the classroom.



How Might
We...

POV to HMW

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How might we incorporate academic curriculum into interactive and collaborative projects?

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How might we use technology to strengthen the student-parent-teacher relationship?

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How might we identify and incorporate a child's interests into coursework to increase ownership and engagement?

*How might we incorporate
academic curriculum into
interactive and
collaborative projects?*

*How might we use technology
to strengthen the student-
parent-teacher relationship?*

brainstorm

*How might we identify and
incorporate a child's interests into
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and engagement?*

Keep in create.space

Project-based Learning

Project-based Learning
- Focus on real-world problems
- Students work in teams
- Emphasis on collaboration and communication
- Learning through experience
- Assessment based on process and product

SPT Communications

SPT Communications
- Share information and ideas
- Listen to others
- Express thoughts and feelings
- Collaborate and work together
- Resolve conflicts

Pinpointing kids' needs

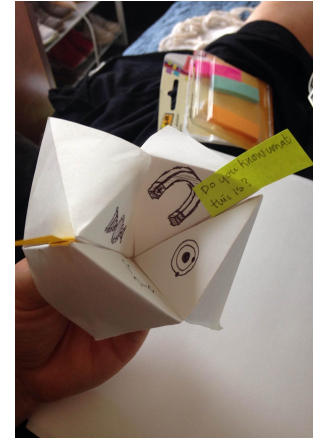
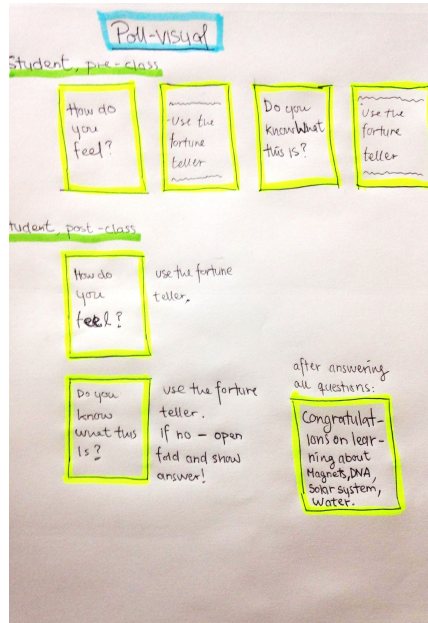
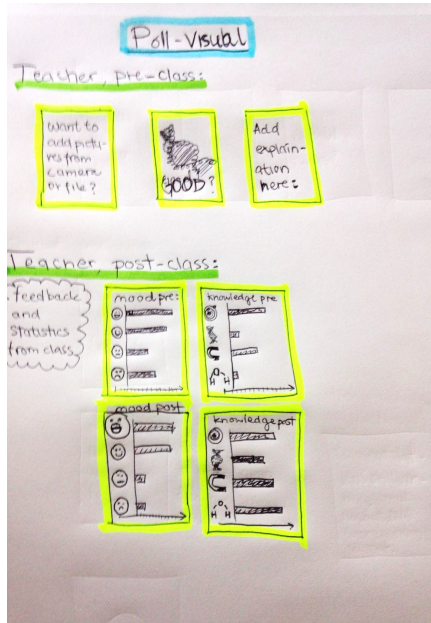
Pinpointing kids' needs
- Observe and listen
- Ask questions
- Identify strengths and interests
- Set individual goals
- Provide support and resources
- Monitor progress and adjust

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Experience Prototypes

We want to pinpoint a child's interests...

Visual approach to in-class polling that provides insights to teachers!

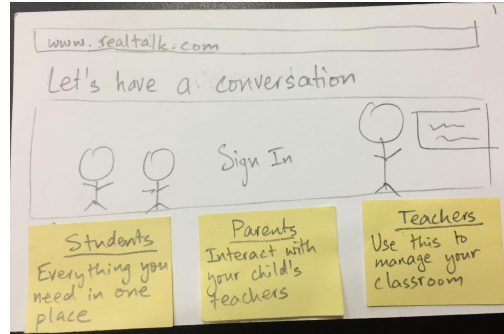


We found...

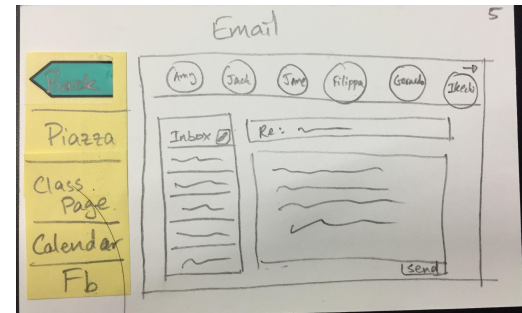
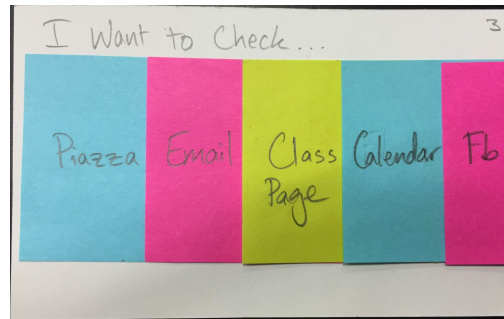
- student wanted to talk more about understanding
- simplicity/visual nature was well received
- relying too much on visuals might leave questions unanswered, or leave too much to interpretation

We want to leverage technology to improve the student-parent-teacher relationship...

Cross Platform interface for parents, students, and teachers to share questions, updates, and relevant documents. We want to “put it all in one place”!



- facebook was a no-no
- having everything in one spot was good

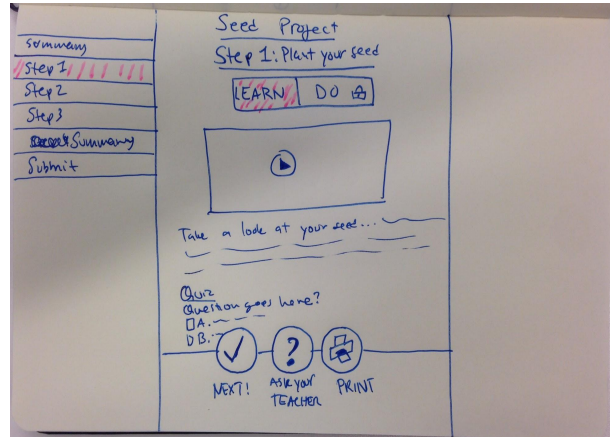
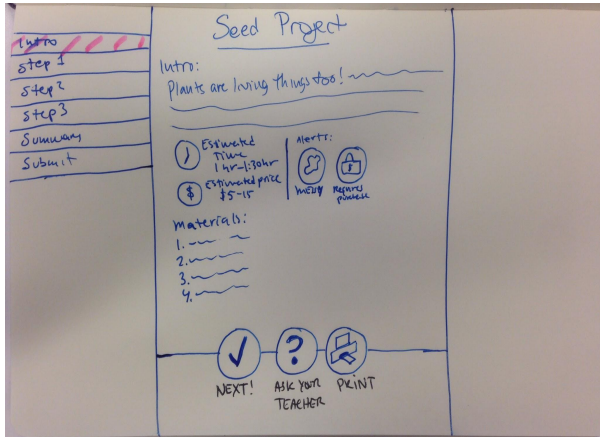


We want to incorporate academic curriculum into interactive and collaborative projects...

Online graphics-based platform for students to work through projects at home.

- we found that parents were particularly concerned about children losing papers on the way home from school
- parents appreciated the opportunity to ask questions directly, as it addressed the problem of not being able to get in touch with teachers

→ performed best in user testing! addressed pain points, and was most interaction driven



Thank you!

Additional HMW's

Teachers and parents:

1. Use the parent's' interest kids school work in a positive way?
2. Use communication between parents and teachers to help teachers develop lesson plans?
3. Make parent-teacher meetings more convenient?
4. Bring the convo to technology they use daily?
5. Make communication more responsive?
6. Make conversation regular, responsive and productive?
7. Make the conversation between parents teachers like if they were friends?
8. Make complaining, loud and annoying parents helpful?
9. Create an environment where teachers don't have to communicate with parents?
10. promote free flow of info between the home and the classroom?
11. Help teachers reach out to students / students reach out to teachers / teachers to parents?
12. Help ease parental stress?
13. Leverage projects to help parents feel more connected?
14. Help resolve conflicts between parents and teachers?

Additional HMW's

Students

1. Find ways to make the other class work just as exciting?
2. introduce kids to a wider range of topics?
3. Make parents and other people in their neighborhood more involved in projects?
4. Empower kids further in their work?
5. Find resources and partners for school so they can do interesting projects?
6. Make other coursework as engaging as projects?
7. Encourage diversity?
8. Integrate kids learning in school with what projects they do outside of school?
9. Make projects like those in higher education?
10. Help students learn more by projects then regular curriculum?
11. Have kids engage with projects outside of class?
12. Incourage teachers to let students know more about a subject outside of class?
13. Increase students interests in school through projects?
14. Increase engagement and empowerment outside of projects?
15. let kids further (?) what they're interested in at home?
16. Make school more like an educational playground?
17. Make projects feel like it's something kids will be willing to do outside of school?

Brainstorm Solutions: Student-Parent-Teacher Communication

1. Online community of SPT
2. Kids can take pics of things and send to teacher to help teacher design lessons
3. Video broadcasts from classroom
4. Friend finder for parents/students to chat or meetup
5. Appointment scheduler
6. Online Q/A for parents to get their questions answered
7. Daily notifications, Twitter style
8. Integrate Piazza, Fb, mail
9. Open source HW
10. Interface for school with not only school info but also teacher bios with ways of messaging teachers
11. App for group chat
12. Parents alert
13. Management app for parent-teacher conferences
14. Platform for parents to see schoolwork in relation to how much their child likes it
15. Could create some sort of social media platform to see comments on child's education
16. Web calls for parents and teachers

Brainstorm Solutions: Project-based Coursework

1. Integrate student self-assessment
2. Make curriculum less strict
3. Further incorporate projects and tutorials into classwork
4. Use the community needs to set up projects
5. Interface for teachers to share project ideas and outlines
6. Developing projects throughout the year for different subjects
7. Interface for students to vote on fav projects
8. Facilitate meetups between students who want to do a project together
9. Have HW be more collaborative
10. Have a lot of how-tos or labs students can follow at home, integrate with one-click purchases
11. App that integrates learning materials with project outlines and specifications
12. Have teachers upload projects for students to work on at home
13. Letting kids know of other activities related to their fav projects
14. App for coming up with extended projects
15. Online tools for project implementation (posterboards, collages, models)

Brainstorm Solutions: Pinpointing Children's Interests

1. Website for teachers to track and share students progress with parents
2. App for teachers to rate interest on topic/project that they can give other teachers
3. Track projects that students like for the teacher's use
4. Suggesting books for children
5. Daily feedback for teachers from students and parents
6. Listing of competitions or programs based on interests
7. Pictures of kids having fun -> recs for teacher regarding HW and projects
8. Find good activities/projects based on interests
9. Suggest at-home activities for different subjects
10. Better way of showing work and progress during project
11. Way of sharing projects
12. Pre class poll
13. Input on academic/learning goals and needs, parents are key here
14. Video game to explore learning topics
15. Easily implementable polls and surveys that provide data and analytics
16. Platform that integrates input and feedback from parents and students
17. Manage info about school and how lesson plans have met student needs
18. Way of saving projects
19. Ability to pin and look at a snapshot of projects
20. Pinterest for kids
21. Personalized recommendations for projects
22. App to let parents know what their kid might be interested in
23. Stumbleupon for kids