I started creating my Professional Learning Network (PLN) before I even knew what one was and cannot imagine a time where I will not have my PLN. I continue to find new resources to add to it and weed out current resources that do not support my learning needs. Here is where my PLN stands now and where I hope to develop it further.

I am on email lists that inform me of new free webinars that are available on several sites including: behaviourneeds.com and pbslearningmedia.org. Not all webinars are about technology tools but when they are I am right there with the live webinar if the times work or reviewing the recorded webinar later. Through free webinars, I have learned about Google products, Class Dojo, Edmodo, and DiscoveryEducation's digital offerings. I attended the Fall VirtCon 2013 conference sponsored by DiscoveryEducation and became a subscriber at Livestream and now receive digest emails when sites I am interested in post online conferences or webinars. I love these resources because I can access them when it is convenient for me and I can share the link with friends who might also benefit from the information in the webinar. Often with webinars, I will start with the live webinar and determine if it has enough of a draw in information for me to revisit the recorded webinar at a later time. The benefit of the knowing the recorded webinar will be available is that I don't have to absorb everything in one sitting and can go back and review what I understood, examine what I didn't quite get, and oftentimes find some nugget that I missed completely the first time through.

I also find lots of information on Pinterest which also allows me to save the link information for accessing later. I am part of the Edmodo community and receive regular updates from Prezi.com of new published presentations which show what can be done.

Another aspect of my Personal Learning Network is the act of sharing. When I find information and share it with others, it reinforces my understanding of the information and also gives me another perception filter to view it through. I am sometimes asked if the new software will do x, y, and z and I am compelled to find a way to have it do x, y, and z! I have introduced my colleagues at the afterschool program to Diigo, Dropbox, Edmodo, Class Dojo (and now Sokikom) and Pinterest. I think the sharing takes the learning to another level - just as we would expect a student who had mastered information to be able to share it so another could learn, we need to share as well.

I have just revisited Diigo and started building a network there. I have joined Edmodo and am working on building a network of resources there as well. I am creating an eportfolio in the form of wikispace pages and have invited several knowledgeable acquaintances to become members in the hopes that they will share feedback that will help me and that they will in turn invite me to pages, sites, and blogs that they have.

I expect that, once I am employed as a regular employee in a school district, will be able to take advantage of Professional Learning Communities which most districts are implementing as well as being able to take part in professional development opportunities offered by the district. As a regular employee, I should also be able to take part in conferences and workshops related to my position and possibly present at workshops myself. Having true peers (people I work with as opposed to people who work with my kids) will be a definite value as I will get to see how they use technology and learn from them or with them.

I haven’t added any of my fellow college colleagues to my network as of yet since this is my first term in the program and am a little overwhelmed at the moment, but I’m sure that some of them will become part of my PLN over time. It might be a good time for me to figure out how Moodle works once the class is over. Will I still have access to all the discussions and resources or will I need to grab all that info now?

I have always been a seeker of knowledge and cannot imagine that changing any time soon, so the informal PLN I have in place will only grow and become more formalized as time goes by.