

s

## Saturday - ASCD Conference:

### **Gen'l Session speaker:**

Mark Cohen & Bijal Damani- **Outstanding Educator of the Year**

Greg Mortenson - **Pennies for Peace**

Promoting community-based education and literacy programs, especially for girls, in remote mountain regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

### **1170T Students as Action Researchers: A New Model for Inquiry**

Wonder. Plan. Seek. Analyze. Defend. These actions define the SHARK Program (Sterling Has Action Research Kids). Students in grades 3, 4, and 5 synthesize data from books, the Web, and interview transcription sources, working on a customized program that guides their inquiry journey.

*The beginning stages of understanding how the Inquiry model can be used through out the curriculum. Important to me since Inquiry Based Learning is being emphasized in today's educational world. As I continue to work in the area of curriculum, I need to be familiar with, and gain a basic understanding of what models best practices is emphasizing.*

### **1218 Response to Intervention: Setting Up and Getting Started**

We learned how a small district in central New Jersey researched, designed, and implemented the Response to Intervention framework. The three tiered model was used for behavior, gifted as well as struggling students.

Referred and suggested websites:

<http://web.me.com/khonnick/settinguprti/welcome.html>

[allkindsofminds.org](http://allkindsofminds.org)

[aimsweb](http://aimsweb.com)

Books: What Works in Classrooms – Marzano

*RtI came into use after I left the school setting. It is a model being used by many of our schools and we have just added a link to our website. Not having the advantage of being in the school setting/classroom setting means I need take advantage of opportunities to be exposed to what is being used. This was one opportunity.*

## Sunday - ASCD Conference

### **Gen'l Session: Frank Davis**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Gen'l Session: Eileen Collins**—the first woman to command a space shuttle mission

Talk about key factors for successful leadership, focusing on dealing with people, dealing with mistakes, safety, and creative management

### **2127T Strategies to Make Academic Vocabulary Fun**

Academic vocabulary connects students from all backgrounds and allows them to be fluent in academic language and background knowledge needed for school success. Participants in this session will discuss terms, play simple games, and engage in academic vocabulary-building activities that both teach and reinforce the terms taught. Participants will leave prepared to use the strategies or teach them to others with the game templates and activity instructions provided in the handout.

#### Activities:

- Free Association
- Word storming
- Think, Pair, Share
- Fayer Model
- Word Splash Elementary
- Shared Writing
- Visual Discrimination Starters
- Great Depression
- Trail of Tears
- Is! Is Not!
- Vocabulary Puzzles
- I have . . . who has?
- Talk A Mile A Minute
- Vocabulary Questions
- Match Game vocabulary
- Flash Vocabulary
- Quiz, quiz Trade

No subscription fee, free content: [www.vocabulary.com](http://www.vocabulary.com)

*This has always been an area of interest to me as I see academic vocabulary as a major stumbling block for student success. At one time, not too many years ago I gave workshops on building academic vocabulary. I was interested in keeping up with the latest strategies. This was great - I enjoyed it and came away with many ideas.*

### **Positive Influences on the Emotional Components of Learning** - Judy Willis & Goldie Hawn

Discussed the benefits of learning "mindfulness" in the classroom, including such techniques as quieting the mind and focusing awareness. Gave examples of how to do that so that students can relax to learn.

*It was interesting to see Goldie Hawn, but she ticked me off early on with a statement concerning teachers' attitudes towards students that struggle "Most teachers don't care!" I did pick up on some ideas of ways to relax students prior to test taking or performances so that they can relax and have access to the information they do know. They spoke of the "freezing" up that some students experience in a school situation. The same activities can be used to diffuse tense*

*situations. In essence it was to get students involved in something that requires concentration, but is non-threatening. Games of observation and distinction; giving objects that can be stretched, pulled and kneaded and having students describe what that object feels like while they are pulling it, etc.*

## **2210 Homework That Works**

Six Steps to Effective Homework

- Designing quality tasks
- Differentiating homework tasks
- Moving from grading to checking - focusing on feedback
- Decriminalizing grading
- Using completion strategies
- Establishing support programs

*Wish I were still in an administrative position to change teachers' attitudes toward and their treatment of homework. The purpose of homework is: Practice processing Pre-learning or checking for understanding, so why do we grade it? Homework that cannot be done without help is NOT good homework. Instead of giving homework grades, every 3 days or so give a quiz over material that was assigned and reviewed the previous days and allow students to use their homework notebooks for assistance. To keep from overloading kids with homework, assign specific days for specific subjects: M & W - Math and Science, T & TH English and Social Studies. Use homework room or assisted homework time after school. Oodles of ideas!*

**Night: Cape Canaveral - Discovery Take-off** - *Can you imagine the thrill of having experienced this? Incredible.*

## **Monday - ASCD Conference**

### **Closing Session: Sir Ken Robinson**

Sir Robinson argues for radical changes in how we educate all students to meet the extraordinary challenges of living and working in the 21st century. It is essential to promote creativity. 98% of Kindergarteners consider themselves creative, less than 2% of adults think they are creative. What happens?

**3240 21st Century Learning: The Differentiators: Cheryl Lemke** A look at how 21st century schools use research, digital innovations, and systems thinking to advance literacy, scientific thinking, critical thinking, self-direction, global awareness, and cultural literacy—adding relevancy and authenticity to academic learning. 100's of learning websites visited as a group and introduced for their emphasis and use.

*This class was overwhelming with the amount of material available on the internet to enrich and assist in student learning in every conceivable area of study. Is this really where education is headed? Incredible!*

### **3342 Imagine Math Beyond Paper and Pencil**

*Shifts in Classroom Environment:*

*Away from the teachers as the sole authority for right answers*

*Toward logic and mathematical evidence as verification*

*Away from merely memorizing procedures*

*Toward mathematical reasoning*

*Away from an emphasis on the mechanistic findings of answers*

*Toward conjecturing, inventing, and problem solving*

*Use multiple representations for mathematical problem solving:*

*Graphs, concrete/pictorial*

*Verbal/write*

*Charts/tables*

*Symbolic*

Night - Universal City - Walkway

Tuesday

Sea World