

ASCD National Conference  
March 12 – 18, 2009  
Conference report by Jerry Scott

Saturday

#1166 Flexible Grouping: It's more than just moving their seats by Carolyn Coil, Pieces of Learning, Marion, IL.

More information and handouts can be found at [www.piecesoflearning.com](http://www.piecesoflearning.com) and [www.differentiatedresources.com](http://www.differentiatedresources.com). Good presentation with handout information and discussion questions such as: What are the learning outcomes, and how can I best group my students in order to accomplish them? The logistics and classroom management for flexible grouping must be carefully planned. Well-functioning groups do not happen automatically. 13 guidelines for managing flexible groups was a part of the handout.

GS 1 ... Opening General Session ... Greg Mortenson ... Promoting Peace One School, One Child at a Time.

Great presentation. Moved the group to put out jars for pennies for peace.

#1202T A Superintendent's journey into the world of Web 2.0 by Dennis Richards, Falmouth Public Schools, MA.

Reviewed his struggle to learn about and use web tools such as Twitter, Ustream, Jing, etc. Very good with lots of sites to explore.

#1308T PE Metrics: Physical Education Assessment to Measure Student Success by Marybell Avery, Lincoln Public Schools, NE.

Went over the National Association for Sports and Physical Education rubrics and National Standards. Told how assessment tasks can be used to evaluate grade-appropriate performance of many critical motor skills and movement patterns. Elementary book is due to be published soon with upper grades to follow.

#1427 A response to intervention continuum of behavior supports by Randy Sprick, Safe and Civil Schools, Eugene, OR.

A super presentation with great organizational models that match student needs to multiple levels of behavior support.

Would make a good speaker for ACE

Sunday

#2119 Informative Assessments: When it's not about a grade by Robin Fogarty and Brian Pete, Robin, Fogarty and Associates, Chicago, IL

Assessment for instruction asks how am I doing rather than how did I do. Three levels of assessment were presented: routine assessment, used all days and woven into the fabric of the classroom; reflective assessments, used many days to foster student reflection and

self-assessment; and rigorous assessments, used some days to provide continual information to students and teachers.

GS2 Second General Session by Col. Eileen Collins, pilot of the last space shuttle. Another great presentation with lots of film clips and photos and a history of her career.

The great thing about this presentation was that we gathered back at the hotel and took the van for a 42 mile 2 hr drive and actually watched the shuttle take off. After supper it was another 2.5 hour drive back. Worth every minute!

#2210 Homework that works by Cathy Vatterott, University of Missouri, St. Louis. Presented 5 aspects of the homework process: creating quality tasks, differentiating homework, decriminalizing grading and late policies, improving homework completion rates, and establishing homework support programs. Her ASCD book will soon come out with a title of “Homework that Works: Equitable Strategies That Support Student Learning.”

Monday

GS3 Third General Session ... Out of Our Minds: Learning to be Creative by Sir Ken Robinson.

Sir Robinson explained why too many are locked into a model of education shaped by the Industrial Revolution and a narrow idea of academic ability. He focused on the questions: “Why is it essential to promote creativity? And Why do so many adults think they’re not creative. What happens to children as they grow up?”

#3267 Beyond Bloom’s: Expanding Thinking for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century by Richard Cash, Minneapolis, MN.

Good handout with information on robust tacit knowledge development in the synthesis of innovative ideas, elaborative questioning, and authentic actions.