

ASCD conference report – March 13-16, 2009

Orlando, Florida – Orange County Convention Center

**Workshops attended by Vivian Fosjord – Ryegate Public School

1. Effectively Integrating Wikis into K-5 Classrooms

Create, collaborate, and communicate like never before with the use of wikis (software that allows users to create and edit Web pages) in your classroom. Come and learn how k-5 teachers integrate wikis as part of the teaching and learning process. Teachers will show how a wiki can be used, how to create and maintain one, and how to use features so that the wiki becomes a place for the entire learning community.

Presenters: River Trails School district 26, Mount Prospect, IL

Comments: This workshop was interesting even though I have some background knowledge with using this venue with my junior high English class. I did learn a few more applications and tools to use in this teaching format. I was interested in how the younger grade levels used this in the classroom and they were somewhat informative on this. They inserted pictures and video clips to their wiki which could be done fairly easily as long as you have prior permission from parents to post a child's art work, 1st name, pictures and writing. For ex. Assign the student to bring or make something that began with the letter A, then the teacher could post a picture of the object and have students comment on it or ask questions. **Students could take digital pictures of objects that begin with a particular letter they are studying and other classmates could comment on this.

2. Opening General Session: Greg Mortenson

Since a 1993 climb on Pakistan's K2, Greg Mortenson has dedicated his life to promoting community-based education and literacy programs, especially for girls, in remote mountain regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Through his unique perspective on the region's culture, history, and geopolitics, Mortenson will share insightful commentary about his extraordinary journey and efforts to promote peace one school-one child- at a time.

Notes: The largest donations come from children as the Pennies for Peace organization is a grassroots organization. Check out PenniesforPeace.org for lesson plans/dvd Three cups of tea title stems from this Pakistan tradition – 1st cup – you are a stranger, 2nd cup – you are a guest and 3rd cup – you become family. If you educate a boy, you educate an individual – If you educate a girl, you educate a community. This also reduces infant mortality, reduces population explosion, and improves the basic qualities of their health and their life itself

The girls/women do not want their babies to die. They want their children to go to school.

They teach 5 languages by 5th grade.

Quotes: Even if the world ends tomorrow, I will plant a seed today. These words make the story that makes wise the fools! The ink of the scholar is more powerful than the sword. (Persian proverb) When it is dark, you can see the stars.

**new book – Stones into Schools

3. Moodle: E-Learning in the 21st Century Classroom

As fundamental changes in society have created new types of learners, a major challenge of educational technology has been to unite teacher and learner from a distance. The demand for virtual learning is increasing, requiring educators to have and use new knowledge and tools. This session will offer a basic understanding of how educators can best provide anywhere-and-anytime for 21st century classrooms. Participants should bring their own laptops to use Moodle, an open-source program, to create an effective online experience.

Presenters: Brain Blaszak and Carmalita Bieniek, Erie 1 Board of Cooperative Educational Services, Western New York Regional Information Center, West Seneca

Comments: This is an open source educational tool for schools to use as a Course Management System (CMS) or also known as a Learning Management System (LMS) or a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). It is a FREE web application that educators can use to create effective online learning sites. (Referenced from this website: <http://www.moodle.org>) This could be extremely useful for many of the ACE member schools. It is password protected and includes the tools needed for schools interested preparing their students for 21st Century learning.

4. The Evidence is In: Arts-Integrated Teaching Affects Student Learning

In today's classrooms, educators increasingly need to teach students with diverse learning styles. In this session, sponsored by the Arts in Education Network, learn how current research on arts-integrated learning, strong professional development programs, and exemplary arts-integrated schools make a compelling case for arts-integrated instruction as the primary strategy for reaching these students.

Presenters: John Ceschini, Arts Education in Maryland Schools Alliance, Baltimore; Amy Duma, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington DC, Fran Meyer, National Dance Association, Fredericksburg, VA; Janet Rubin, Saginaw State University, University Center, MI

Web Resources:

<http://www.aems-edu.org/>

<http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/>

http://www.aep-arts.org/publications/info.htm?publication_id=12

**book titles to use for reference: Critical Links – Third Space –

Notes: The Internet is an artist medium. The Arts transcend barriers. The Arts unfortunately stop in elementary school BUT NOT SPORTS? (The principal creates the chemistry for a school.) Arts Advocacy is local.

**This is vital for ACE member schools to continue to work hard at integrating the arts into every venue of the school curriculum.

5. Second General Session: Elieen Collins

(National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Houston, TX)

Leadership Lessons from Apollo to Discovery

This session will feature discussion about the leadership and personal qualities necessary for success. Eileen Collins will share how her career as an astronaut took shape—from her early years in the U.S. Air Force to becoming the first woman to command a NASA space shuttle mission. She will talk about key factors for successful leadership, focusing on dealing with people, dealing with mistakes, safety, and creative management. Her inspirational story will resonate with participants and show how success results from a team effort.

6. Create a High-Performing School System through Inspiration and Transformation

Imagine having the ability to inspire and transform your professional learning community into one of high performance that achieves excellence and realizes dreams. This session will show you how applying three I's (love, laser-like teaching and learning, and leadership) can mobilize your school system to meet its priorities, attain its mission, and realize its vision.

Presenter: Pablo Munoz, Elizabeth Public Schools, NJ

**book recommendations: I'd like the World to Buy a Coke by Roberto Goizueta
Good to Great (living the 3 circles – our transformation guide)

We cannot do great things, only small things with great love.

Their school created a Pledge of Ethics which became board policy. Everyone stated this after the pledge and the staff had to state it also at all staff meetings.

*How instruction was managed:

1. the Human resources department was elevated in importance.
2. Created a comprehensive plan.
3. Offer professional development days or opportunities
4. Formative and summative associations
5. Comprehensive student evaluation
6. interventions
7. performance matters

We cannot do great things, only small things with great love. Mother Teresa

As you lead be mindful of your goal – Be careful of how you will delegate – How you use revenue to affect the classroom.

7. Becoming Media-Literate

Students live in a media-saturated world where they are immersed in myriad messages that can be challenging to comprehend. Media education is an ideal forum for building and strengthening students critical-thinking skills. This session will provide practical classroom learning experiences that explore key concepts of media literacy with a focus on critical thinking. Participants will first engage in strategies for analyzing various media before applying these skills in media production.

Presenters: Ken Pettigrew, York Region district School Board, Markham, Ontario, Canada

Comments: This was an excellent way to instruct our students how to become critical thinkers and will be a useful tool to teach students how the media is constructed. They will learn to reexamine what the commercial interests goals are to producing commercials, whether it is on the computer, TV or in a magazine article. This resource will be valuable for ACE schools as the recent updates to the state of Montana's Technology and Library Media standards require that we as teachers incorporate these skills into our curriculum lessons. Our students need to be aware that there are NO neutral or value-free media messages. (reference: Becoming Media Literate handout) When we do not think critically, the advertising becomes a media message!

Why teach media? 1. powerful force, 2. Mass media helps shape how our children see themselves & the world
(persuasion/propaganda)

**recommended book: Good to Great

Website resource:

How is this like other coke commercials? How is it unlike? How does this reflect a narrative structure? How are meanings communicated? (use 2009 coke commercial)
<http://www.spike.com/video/coca-cola-classic/3104866>

What is 'real' beauty?

<http://www.campaignforrealbeauty.com/dsef07/t5.aspx?id=7373&filmno=1>

8. Third General Session: Sir Ken Robinson

Education systems worldwide are being reformed, but Sir Ken Robinson – a respected adviser to governments in Europe, Asia and the U.S. – will argue that many countries are pushing reforms in the wrong direction. Drawing from his book, *Out of Our Minds: Learning to Be Creative*, he will explain why too many are locked into a model of education shaped by the Industrial Revolution and narrow idea of academic ability. He will focus on these vital questions: Why is it essential to promote creativity? Why do so many adults think they're not creative? Most children are buzzing with ideas-what happens as they grow up? What should be done? Is everyone creative or just a select few? Can creativity be developed? If so, how? Sir Ken Robinson will argue for radical changes in how we educate students to meet the extraordinary challenges of living and working in the 21st century.

9. Art, Writing, and Technology in Elementary Classrooms

Art, writing and technology rolled into one! This session will show how the presenter's students used the Web to locate a piece of the world they wanted to write and paint about. Some created books; others created PowerPoint presentations in a classroom that provided a safe environment in which students could be motivated risk takers. The

presenter will show how the students did it and some of the projects they created. Participants will go home with lots of ideas!

Presenter: Kathleen Barnett, City of St. Charles School district, MO

Comments:

This was a brief Power Point exercise about this presenters classroom examples of what her students produced using digital picture of their artwork and research. The best offering this workshop had was the file folder given to the participants filled with handouts she produced with lots and lots of resources.(both Internet and word documents) At the end of this presentation, the presenter provided time for the participants to produce their own samples to take home of the featured art lessons in the file folder she provided for us to take home. This will benefit any ACE member school interested in practical application of Art, Language Arts and Technology(mainly Power Point but also included information on Webquests). Art samples presented: Gyotaku – fish print, an envelope book, deck of cards book, collage(eric carle) and sponge painting – camouflaged animals

Websites:

<http://www.actden.com/PP/>

<http://www.artbookscreativity.org/interactive/index.html>

http://www.abcteach.com/directory/shape_books/

10. Connect the Dots: Use the Internet to Help Young Learners Learn

It's "www dot this" and "www dot that" – the Internet provides a wide variety of resources and tools. How does a digital immigrant teacher "connect the dots" and help 4-8 year old digital natives use online resources and tools for learning? This session will focus on free online tools and resources that can help teachers teach young learners to read, write, do math, and think deeply within learning communities both big and small.

Presenter: Gail Lovely, Friendswood, TX

Comments:

A fantastic online resource of the presenters collection of primary websites to use in your classroom. She stated that children under 3rd grade should never need to type in a URL.

Websites:

<http://lovelyresources.googlepages.com/abc123>

<http://www.weebly.com>

<http://www.wetpaint.com/>

<http://www.kerpoof.com>

<http://www.kellyskindergarten.com>

<http://fun4thebrain.com>

<http://literactive.com>

**Available for your PIR or staff resource file:

Audio Lectures (purchased by Vivian Fosjord and Ryegate Public School)

1. 309-1113 – Why All Teachers Must Learn How to Teach Online – Susan Patrick
2. 309-1401 – A Click Away – Cheating 2.0 – Eugenie Segura