

Mastery must be based on a foundation of essential learning driven by the learner, not the curriculum

— *Howard Gardner*

Passionate teachers convey their passion to learners—their students—by acting as partners in learning, *rather than as “experts in the field.”*

— *Seymour Papert*

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Calendar

Sept. 3 Labor of Love, Sherwood Hall, 4:30 pm

Sept. 3 ESL Managed enrollment on main campus closes.

Sept. 7 Labor Day Holiday.

Sept. 8 ACE Program begins.

Sept. 8 Presentation to SUHSD Board about the plans for 2010-2011 schoolyear. What will our “reinvention” look like? ROP also reports to the Board on the same topic.

Sept. 17 Salinas Adult School Leadership Team, 4:00-6:00pm. See description below.

Prof Dev. Day focused on “Re-Invention” and Project-Based Learning

On Tuesday, August 18, over 70 teachers and staff met to review the past year, take stock of where we are and where we are going this next year. The idea that our reduced funding and programs will, of necessity, mean that we will need to stay nimble and continue to re-invent ourselves was underscored by opening remarks by Tim Vanoli, Assistant Superintendent. He acknowledged how much we had already done through the past year to respond to the fiscal challenges, and encouraged us to continue to demonstrate our creativity and resilience through the year.

Lots of statistics and information were given out, and the PowerPoint, the Calendar, the revised Staff Handbook and other pass out are now posted on the school website. The instructional focus for the day was aligned to our Schoolwide Action Plan, which seeks to move us to more “Self-Directed Learning” for our students... We reviewed what “project-based” learning can be and what “experiential learning”, or learning-by-doing, can accomplish. The kind of activity where a student, or group of students, is presented some problem or task, and works to produce something, is the kind of activity that is most effective for adults, especially if there is a perceived relevance to the students’ goals. (Some would posit that this is also the most effective kind of instruction for children... although much of what we think of as formal instruction thinks of the learner as an empty vessel into which we pour information.) Project-based learning can have a strong impact on the students’ self-concept and expedite learning through social interaction. We are naturally inclined to this kind of instruction in adult education and it is our goal for the year to have teachers work with each other even more to increase our success. Another new institution-wide event that was introduced was the creation of an SAS Leadership Team that will meet once a month. The hope is that this team, composed of the management team, reps from SVFT and CSEA, and a classroom teacher from each department will review our work with the Schoolwide Action Plan and continue our effort to build a work environment of distributed leadership and shared decision making. Lofty ambitions perhaps and it’s one thing to write these words in a newsletter, and another to make substantive changes in ways that help teachers and staff, and improve what students experience. Stay tuned.

