



# Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education News and Views



*For one human being to love another; that is perhaps the most difficult of all our tasks, the ultimate, the last test and proof, the work for which all other work is but preparation. - Rainer Maria Rilke*

Vol.4 No. 21

The "Great Lead Forward" Issue

February 28, 2005

## ***Marisela Vega, Adult Ed. Student, Recognized as Student-of-the-Week in front of the Board of Trustees***

This year we were honored to present Marisela Vega to the Board as our student-of-the-week. Her story was covered by both the Pajaronian and the Sentinel. Marisela will go to Sacramento on March 14 to talk to Assemblymen Laird and Salinas, and Senator Maldonado. The following is the speech Marisela gave to the board. Congrats Marisela!

My name is **Marisela Vega**, I am from Michoacan, Mexico, I have been living in Watsonville since 2002. I have 2 children. They are 7 and 4 years old. When I first came to the United States I lived in Santa Cruz for 10 years, then I moved to Watsonville and started school at **Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education**. At the same time I was working as a cook at a Camp Ground in the Santa Cruz Mountains, It was really hard work, because I had to work 10-12 hours 6 days a week. I decided to quit working because I didn't have time to be with my children. They told me, "I want to be an adult so that I can work and help you. And you won't have to work so hard." That statement hurt me so much. I decided to quit working and be a full-time student. I started at the Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education Green Valley campus (old hospital). Later I was transferred to a class at the One Stop, Work Force Santa Cruz - Career Center. I took an English class with Karen Raid and Frank Bardacke at night. I was strongly encouraged and advised to take the GED classes, and I did. I graduated last year and received my certificate last June. After finishing my GED I enrolled in the VESL Office Skills class in the morning and in the Business Computer Skills class in the afternoons. At the same time I was offered a great job at Community Bridges, as a cook for the Child Care Centers. I decided to take it part-time, and quit my morning classes. Three months later I was promoted to be a food Service Manager, but I still continued with the afternoon class until it finished.

Coming to school has really influenced my children, because they see me when I doing my homework, and they say, "I want to do my homework with you." We sit down and do it altogether. I like that! Now I am available to help them when they have a problem with their school work, or at least I know where to look for help.

In the future I would like to be a Computer Technician, That's why I am now taking the Computer Repair class on Saturdays the more advanced Office Skills class at night.

I want to thank Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education, for choosing me as the Student of the Week, also for all the support that you have given me. My children and even my nieces and nephews now say, "Tía, can you help me with my homework?" And I say, "The Adult School is a great place to study. I wasn't scared when I had to quit my morning class for my new promotion because I knew I could just start an afternoon or evening class the very next day. Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education's flexibility gives me the chance to succeed and still work and be a mom.



Marisela receiving award from Trustee Nichols at last Wednesday's Board Meeting

**Summer School  
Dates Announced  
See Page 4!!!**

Successful workshops on how to use our ESL core text were held last week. Cynthia Stark, Assistant Principal reports:

## THE STANDOUT PRESENTATION A SUCCESS

Many of the ESL teachers who attended the presentation on how to use *Stand out* said it was very useful. The *Lesson Planner* is an essential component to fully utilize Stand Out with the activity bank and listening CD. The presenter and author, Staci Sabbagh Johnson said she and her co-author wrote the *Lesson Planner* because they knew many new Adult Ed teachers have not been formally trained in the 6 stages of lesson planning. The *Lesson Planner* and *Standout* show how to focus vocabulary and grammar into a comprehensible and cohesive unit so that a student will be able to do something at the end of each lesson such as fill out a job application.

We had emailed her some issues we would like her to address. In regards to multi-level classes, she suggested teachers use activities in the Activity Bank of a higher book for higher level students in a multi-level book. She said the works particularly well with Standout 1 and 2 because the themes are very similar in both books. She had some good suggestions about how to get students to speak English in groups by appointing an English Monitor whose task was to make sure everyone spoke English. She would emphasize this by asking the monitors in each group to say what percentage the group spoke English and then wrote it beside the group's number on the board. Then she encouraged each group to up that percentage in the next activity.

She addressed the issue that some teachers had that the book jumps into activities assuming the students already have that language. She said that the teacher should look at the green chalk boards at the beginning of each lesson and teach that vocabulary using pictures, realia, or things in the rooms. This is also the agenda that should be written on the board. This is very important to do for the presentation part of the lesson.

Please let Amy or Cynthia know what you need to facilitate your use of all the components of Standout. They can make sure you have CD players if you don't have a computer to play the CD. It is also possible to get locked file cabinets for teachers in outlying sites. They also have suggestions on books that could be used for the presentation pictures. Also write about your successes with Standout and other lessons and put them in News and Views!

### Professional Development on the Move:

This spring we have teachers and staff going to other adult schools to see what our peers are doing. Trips are planned to Concord, Martinez, MAEP and Fresno adult schools. Additionally, a number of our staff are going on WASC Visitations; Kim Iwasko, Butt Guthrie. AV Coyle and Bob Harper at going to a correctional programs, employment preparation programs and adult schools. Additionally, our group of Master's students, "cohort two" as we are calling them, are going to a hands-on data TopsPro training in April, Cynthia is going to Family Literacy Conference in April, several teachers are going to CATESOL in March, Cary Kesisler, Bob, John Basor are going to CCAE in May, and Debbie Lerma and Marina Candor are going to data training in Sacramento in May.

# **'WALK ABOUTS' AROUND THE SCHOOL: ESL Classes Cynthia Stark, Assistant Principal**

**Bob, Nancy and I are very interested in how and what our students are learning. We will be visiting your classes to see the students in action. This allows the students to demonstrate what they are learning and show off a little. It also helps us to understand what the levels of students are in the classes so that we can facilitate movement when students are disproportionately distributed. We want them to feel comfortable with us walking into the classes. Do not let us interrupt your class. Just continue teaching.**

**Even though we feel it is crucial that we get into the classrooms more often, these "Walk Abouts" will happen when we can fit them in. Therefore, they will be unannounced. We will come in for a short time. We look forward to visiting your classes and seeing how students are doing at our school.**

**These visits will not be for evaluative purposes. Those are long overdue for some of our teachers and we do want to pursue those as well. When a teacher is going to be evaluated, they will be notified of the process ahead of time and given an opportunity to discuss the objectives of their lessons and the strategies they will use to obtain them as well as a follow-up discussion. The evaluative process can be a great opportunity for teachers to discuss their instructional philosophy and strategies.**

*News from School Council:  
by Bob*

**CELL Phones:**

Several good discussions were had at the last school council. There was a proposal on the table to make the school policy about cell phones clear, in effect to ask that no cell phones be allowed to be "on" during classtime. Some members felt that it should remain an individual teacher's decision about classroom policy. This was the consensus of the council. Still, there is language in our "Student Conduct" about not disrupting other students and maintaining an environment conducive to learning. I note that many students and teachers both have complained about cell phones going off. It is my opinion that cell phones, if on at all, should be set to "vibe" and if a call needs to be taken, leave the classroom and talk in ways that do not disturb other learners.

**PARTIES:**

There was a discussion about whether the number of parties that some classes have should be limited. Some teachers find it difficult to continue teaching if there is noise and revelry next door. What is a party, and what is a learning activity, is often a grey area. Consensus was that if there is an activity with food or music, teachers absolutely need to be responsible to clean up the rooms afterwards, and noise should be kept to a level that does not disturb your neighbor.

See what fun School Councils are? Come next time, March 16, 4:00 pm, Porter.



# WAAE Calendar

Adult Ed. Student of the Month - Marisela Vega  
Board of Trustees Meeting, Wednesday, Feb. 23

March 1, All request for materials, books and equipment must be submitted.  
(in order to close books for fiscal year)

**Statewide Adult Education Week. March 7-11**  
**(did you notice our banner across Main St.?)**

Community Advisory Council. March 9, 10:00-noon. Green Valley  
This meeting will feature a report on our ESL Program

## **Adult Ed. Postive Program Report**

Board of Trustees

We hope that interested students and teachers  
will attend this boar meeting,  
we will review with the Board of Trustees  
what has been happening  
in our school.

March 9, 7:00pm. G.V.

Student Councils

Porter Day - Tuesday, March 15, 12:00

Porter Evening - Tuesday, March 15, 9:00

Green Valley Day - Wednesday, March 16, 12:00

Green Valley Night - Wednesday, March 16, 9:00

School Council

Wednesday, March 16, 4:00-6:00pm, Porter

**Come to  
this!!  
Celebrate  
Adult Ed.!!**

## **Summer School Dates: June 13 - July 27, 2005**

The last School Council reviewed current attendance data and projected what it might mean for us financially if did not run summer scholl until July, as we did last year. There was unanimous agreement among those at the council to run a traditional, seven week summer school, beginning one week after Spring Semester ends on June 3. Teachers will be asked within the next two months to declare their availability for summer assignments.