



Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education News and Views



The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn. -Alvin Toffler

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The "California Adult Ed. Week" Issue

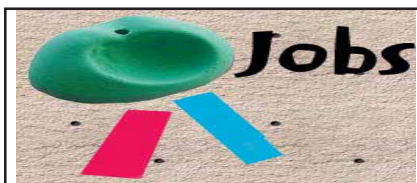
March 7, 2005



California Adult Education Week March 7- 11

Adult Education: A Family Affair

This week, March 7 to 11, adult schools all over California are celebrating Statewide Adult Education Week. Almost two million adult learners are served every year in public adult schools, with the largest number in literacy and English as a Second Language programs. Next year public adult education will celebrate its 150th Anniversary. In 1856 at Old St. Mary's Church in San Francisco the city began classes in English for the many new adult immigrants coming into California. Today, some of the fastest growing programs in adult ed. are for parents, especially Family Literacy programs which bring reading and a love for learning into the homes from which our elementary and secondary students come. The link between literacy in the home and children's achievement in school is well documented by research. Statewide this year adult schools are showcasing programs for parents and families, hence the yearlong theme, "Adult Education: A Family Affair." See pages 3-4 in this issue for more perspectives on this crucial service to our communities that adult education provides so well. This week in our school we are reaching out to our community in two ways. First, on Wednesday morning, we have invited some of our friends from the community to our second Community Advisory Council (we have three of these meetings a year). They will hear about all the interesting new growth in the ESL program that constitutes 62% of our school. That evening we will present a Positive Program Report to the PVUSD Board of Trustees about our growth, triumphs, and challenges in the last few years.



One Part-time Parent Education instructor position in the: Together in the Park Program

Together in the Park program is a parent education program for parents to experience activities with their young children (ages 0-5) and gain new information on child development and community resources at local community parks and schools
REQUIREMENTS (Credentials, Experience, etc.)Valid California teaching credential and/or five years of preschool and parent education experience.
Contact Natalie Carranco for application or speak with Debbie Craig, Parent Education Chair.

Learner Persistence #1

Increases in the last 4 years

2000-2001

Enrollments: 7,775

Average hours: 56.25

2001-2002

Enrollments: 8,279

Average hours: 59.90

2002-2003

Enrollments: 8,706

Average hours: 60.82

2003-2004

Enrollments: 7,983

Average hours: 67.27

Adult Education Week March 7-11

Theme: "Literacy: A Family Affair"

FAMILY LITERACY BACKGROUND INFO

National Literacy Survey

- 21-23% of American adults demonstrated skills in the lowest of the 5 assessment levels.
- 90 million scored in the lowest two levels.
- Those aged 21-25 scored poorer than 21-25 year olds in the 1985 NAEP study.
- Nearly one-half of adults in the lowest literacy level live in poverty.
- One study concluded that more than 10 million Americans lack the language and literacy skills of competent fourth grade students.
- Literacy levels of children are strongly linked to their parents' levels.
- The greatest predictor of a child's future academic success is the literacy level of the child's mother.

Five sociodemographic risk factors relating to the family are examined in the study of what has an impact on students dropping out of high school:

- Mother has less than a high school education.
- Family is below the official poverty line.
- Mother speaks a language other than English as her primary language.
- Mother was unmarried at the time of the child's birth.
- Only one parent is present in the home.

Statistics about parents and children

- Nearly 13 million children live in poverty, more than 2 million more than a decade ago.
- At least one of six children has no health care at all.
- At least 100,000 children are homeless in America on any given night.
- Each year 500,000 young people drop out of school.
- Dropouts are 3.5 times more likely than high school graduates to be arrested; 6 times more likely to become unwed parents.



Reading Together at El Jardin Parent Coop

Family Literacy goals:

- To help parents become economically self-sufficient
- To improve basic literacy skills of parents, other significant adults, and children
- To increase parents involvement in their children's education
- To enhance children's development, school readiness, and school success
- To enhance parenting (and/or caregiving) skills
- To enhance parent (and/or other significant adult) and child relationships
- To enhance the educational level of parents or provide English language instruction.
- To help parents gain the motivation, skills, and knowledge needed to become employed or pursue further education or training.
- To enhance the parenting skills of adult participants.
- To enable parents to become familiar with and comfortable in school settings.
- To increase the developmental skills of preschool children and to better prepare them for academic and social success in school.
- To enhance the interaction(s) between parents and children through planned, regular joint activities.

The most effective family literacy programs incorporate four critical components:

Literacy instruction and language acquisition for adults.

Literacy instruction and language acquisition for children.

Parent time to teach parents how to advance their child's educational development.

Parent and Child Together time (PACT) to facilitate parents' interaction with their children as their child's first teacher.



Adult Ed. CBET Class Working in Kindergraten



WAAE Calendar

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 Celebrate
Adult Ed.!!*

We hope that interested students and teachers
will attend this board 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



Ten Year Anniversary Celebration Saturday Citizenship Program

Saturday, March 19, 11:30-1:00, Porter Building
Come eat and celebrate the ten year anniversary of this special service
(started through a collaboration with our Teamsters Local)

Student Sports Saturday, March 19

March Madness Basketball Fever

Spring Vacation, Friday, March 24 - April 1

Summer School Dates: June 13 - July 27, 2005