

Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education News and Views



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The Memory Issue

May 26, 2006



To All Our Instructors:

Happy Bulgarian Teachers' Day!!

Congratulations to all our hard-working, dedicated instructors who have made this year so successful. We'll celebrate YOUR day on Wednesday, May 31.



Congratulations to Tammy McCroskey and Charmaine Ryan who were "inducted" into permanent tenured status at the PVUSD Reception, May 16.

Coaches' Corner

Greetings, Teachers!

In this column of Coaches' Corner, we've finally gotten around to writing up our wonderful Teacher Shares from our March and April PDRT meetings. These are great ideas if you're looking for fresh, new activities to try as the year (and your energy) draws to an end. All of our teachers' ideas are so valuable, and we are often told that this is teachers' favorite part of the PDRTs.

Bill Jamieson (Green Valley BL2/BH) – Diseños

Bill shared an activity he uses when teaching about the house and furniture. Students draw each room in their house with furnishings labeled. Each room goes on a full-sized piece of paper. When the students finish all rooms, they tape their pages together to have a diseño (or design) of their house. Bill says that diseños were used in Mexico on the old ranchos as documents to show property lines and ownership of land. Use these diseños as a starting point for student conversations about rooms and furniture. For example, "How many chairs do you have in your house?" or "Where are the windows?" **Students love to mix art and language acquisition!**

Mary Paulson (Green Valley IL) – Hurry Back to Dictation!

Our students love dictation! We might not like it. We might not agree with it. But, there is no way around it. Mary has taken advantage of their desire for dictation by using it as a way to get those long break-takers back into class. Mary says that she was inspired by Teresita Marcisello who uses dictation at the beginning of class to get her students to class on time. Mary uses dictation after break and says her students run back from break (or don't take one at all) so that they don't miss any of the dictation. Plus, says Mary, "Anything can be dictation!" Mary pulls dictation off of handouts or other work completed at the beginning of class or as a warm-up for something that they will learn after the break! **So simple and so effective!**

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Position Title: CBET Teacher Coach (Note: Looking for Two Coaches)
Hours: Five hours per week

**Application due
Friday, June 16**

Summary of Position:

1. Create a positive and supportive atmosphere for teachers at Watsonville Aptos Adult Education. Acknowledge the good things teachers are doing and build upon it.
2. Give teachers an approachable, helpful person to approach with questions and needs.
3. Help the teachers understand and implement the competencies selected as the Professional development Theme for 06/07.
 - Using assessment data to inform instruction;
 - Organizing instruction around competencies such as those in CASAS, CBET, EL Civics, and others selected by students
 - Measuring student achievement of these competencies and informing them of their progress.
4. Create opportunities for teachers to share expertise at Professional Development Release Time (PDRT) meetings and to observe each other.
5. Take monthly needs assessment from teachers and work to meet their needs providing lesson plans, answering questions, offering resources, informing them of where and how to get supplies.
6. Structure, facilitate, and substitute for teacher collaboration.
7. Help explain and clarify ESL procedures and testing (CASAS, EL Civics, paperwork, etc.)
8. Make rounds to outlying sites and check in with teachers, bring resources, etc.

Salary Placement: Adult Education salary schedule (hourly rate \$26.62-\$31.94)

Skills or Abilities:

- Experienced adult English as a Second Language instructor
- Knowledge of California model standards and 31 instructor performance competencies
- Knowledge of CASAS competencies assessment and WAAE paperwork and school procedures
- A large repertoire of instructional strategies
- Good communication skills
- Collaborative work style
- Strong organizational skills
- A commitment to social equity
- An appreciation of cultural and individual diversity
- Ability to work a flexible schedule, including one evening per week

Minimum Qualifications: Possession of a valid California teaching credential authorizing instruction for adults; experience teaching English as a Second Language; and knowledge and awareness of parent education; family literacy, and the public elementary and secondary school system.

Letter of Interest and/or Resume to **Natalie Carranco Call 831 786=2160 or email natalie_carranco@pvusd.net**

Coaches' Corner with Molly and C.J.

Marta shared her students' love of conversations around current events – especially the new propositions regarding immigration. Marta structures these discussions by first having students brainstorm what they know about the topic vs. what they still want to know. Then, grouped by level, students look at copies of the newspaper. BL1/2 students find words and topics and use the pictures to make sense of them. BH students come up with sentences about the topic. IL/IH students write questions. You can use these questions for discussion starters or, Marta says, you can make groups with one student from each level and use the information and questions they have culled to guide the discussion. **An important and timely project!**

Marilyn Hyde (Green Valley BL2/BH + VESL) – ESL Library Club

Marilyn introduced the new ESL Library Club to all of our teachers at the PDRTs. The ESL Library Club was an idea Marilyn had at the beginning of the school year to encourage our students to use the public library. She has been working with the library to make this idea really happen...and now it's happening! Just as kids have a library club where they get prizes during the summer for the number of books they read, now our ESL students will have the same opportunity. A special shelf will be set aside just for our students with books, magazines, newspapers, videos, textbooks, etc. especially chosen for their needs and interests. As they use the library, students will sign in a log found on the ESL shelf. At the end of the club, students will be awarded based on what they have done. The first-ever ESL Library Club will run June 5th through July 7th (between spring and summer classes) at both the Freedom and Downtown locations. What teachers do to support the ESL Library Club? 1. Let students know about the ESL Library Club and encourage them to go to the library. 2. Take your students to the library (Cathy Jo and Molly will be happy to lead your students on an interactive library tour – just let us know!). 3. If you have any ideas of books or resources that our students might enjoy, let Marilyn know so that she can pass along requests to the library staff (marilyn_hyde@pvusd.net). 4. If you have a display board (from or similar to those made for the celebration) pass those along to Marilyn also so that we can have some good WAAE publicity at our local libraries.

Thanks to Marilyn for this great idea and for all of her hard work in making it a reality. We'll have more on the ESL Library Club coming up in a future Coaches' Corner.

Don't forget! The ESL Awards Ceremony is coming up on June 1st, Thursday, 6-8pm (8-9:30pm is the reception/party) at the Mello Center, and teachers will be asked to give an attendance award for the student with the most hours in class. You will also have your students vote on a Star Student. This is always difficult because with all your wonderful students, it is hard to settle on just one. Dottie shared how she helps guide her students to choose a "star student". First she has the class brainstorm the attributes of a Star Teacher. Students were good at coming up with a list of all the qualities of a strong teacher. After discussing the list, Dottie then asked them to brainstorm, in groups, qualities of a Star Student. From all of their ideas, they narrowed it down to a list that her class agreed to use to determine the Star Student. Amazingly, she said, the first item on the list for both teacher and student was the same – coming to class EVERY DAY! Dottie will now revisit the idea of Star Student several times a week until it is time to vote. **With all of this instruction and guidance, we're sure her class will have no problem choosing a Star Student. (Plus, it sounds like they learned a lot about being a successful student in the process!)**

Will Hendricks (Green Valley BL1) – Do you Have a Fork?

Will, the king of cards, shared his most recent creation – cards with table settings. He made a set of cards with a picture of a table setting – plate, glass, napkin, etc. On each card he blacks out one or more item. Then, students have discussions about which items they have and which items they need. If you've never seen them, Will's cards are really great, and he's great about sharing them with us. If you'd like a copy of the original so you can make your own set, contact Molly or Will (william_hendricks@pvusd.net). **Thanks, Will!**

Cathy Jo Diaz (Porter Mixed Level) – Student Opportunities

Cathy Jo finally had the chance to do a teacher share this month, and she explained how she informs students about all the different classes and opportunities (Distance Learning, VESL, Friday and Saturday Computer classes, GED and high school diploma classes, etc) available at Watsonville-Aptos Adult Education. Cathy Jo admits that she sometimes nags students to take more than one class because it's the best thing for them. And, she says, they always thank her afterwards. Cathy Jo begins by handing out an ESL class schedule to her students and students use it to ask questions of each other ("What time is the Friday Computer Class?" Or "Where is the VESL Office Skills class") She encourages all students who have been in school in Mexico more than 10 years to get their GED in Spanish. And, she has a form that she uses to track each student in her class and of which opportunities each is taking advantage. She asks students to take new students up to the Distance Learning office and get them set-up with an appointment. For most, this small push is all they need. **For copies of any of WAAE info or Cathy Jo's forms, e-mail her at cathyjo_diaz@pvusd.net.**

Bill Dove (Radcliffe Mixed Level) – Cups o' Chocolate

Bill believes in inspiration by chocolate (and we agree!!!) Bill provided a very informative and popular Teacher Share for PM teachers. Bill brought a stack of Dixie cups with one letter written on each. Bill uses this to teach his adult school (and preschool) students phonics. Students choose a cup from the table, say the letter and the sound that makes, and they win the contents (aka M&M's) of that cup. Different cups have different numbers of candies and some don't have any (sob!). **Judging by the reaction of our teachers, we're confident students will love this game too!**

Chris "Zorro" Zimmerman (Green Valley BL1) – Gotta Love those Tests!

Chris' students love tests! So, in addition to the required CASAS, EL Civics, and end of the year testing, Chris also gives his students a mid-term, a final, and several other tests throughout the semester. He says these tests correspond exactly to what his students have been learning so it is easier for he and his students to see how they are progressing. Chris lets his students know in advance when the tests will be and even gives them a copy of the test to look at before the day of the test. After all, the goal is to learn, and if the students take home the test and learn it prior to the test date, Chris is happy that they have learned what he is teaching.

These tests have helped with persistence in his class, he says, and class is always packed on the night of the test. Plus, some students who are not able to attend the night of the test, ask him for the test when they return. Students tell us that they want to be evaluated and know how they are progressing, and Chris is definitely providing that for his students. **¡Viva Zorro!**



WAAE Calendar



*Memorial Day
Monday, May 29*

*Bubble Parties Continue
(See ESL Correspondence Binders and Bulletin Boards)*

EL Civics Testing Continues

*El Jardin Bilingual Coop - 2nd Annual Graduation!!
Tuesday, May 30, 5:00pm*

***Bulgarian Teachers' Day, May 31
Congratulations to all our teachers!!!***

*ESL Awards Ceremony
Thursday, June 1, 6:00pm, although the ceremony
starts when everybody gets there, Mello Center*



*Payroll Timesheets due to Marjorie
June 1*

*WAAE Secondary Graduation Ceremony
Friday, June 2, 7:00pm, Mello Center*

*Last School Council of Year
Wednesday, June 7, 4-6pm, Green Valley*

*WAAE All-School Dance
Thursday, June 15, 6:00-9:30, WHS Cafeteria*

*CBET Coaches' Applications Due
Friday, June 16*

Update Forms Due the Last Day You Teach

*Summer School Begins
Wednesday, July 5*