



# Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education News and Views

*Through others, we become ourselves.*

*L. S. Vygotsky*



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The Wonder Issue

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## Spring Semester Schedule Almost Finalized *Assignment Letters Being Sent Out*

In adult education class schedules are always in flux as attendance and community needs change. This flexibility is our strength. It also means that long-term planning, especially for new teachers, is sometimes difficult. By the first week of December most of the department chairs will have made tentative, final, almost certain decisions about what classes we will run in January, 2006. As you know, our practice in recent years has been for departments, led by the elected department chairs, to suggest what classes will be offered to our community. Although the administration formally makes the assignments, we've experienced great benefit in having these decisions made in participation with the chairs.

Most teachers will be receiving assignment letters for the Spring Semester in the next few days. There is always language in the letters about the assignments being tentative depending on patterns of attendance.; this caveat is more important than ever, given our reduced funding and lowered attendance levels. As the last bit of attendance was counted in October, we ran that month just a little above last year! So let's think positively, and work hard as a team to build programs that will attract and retain students. Remember our professional development theme for this year is "Persistence." Any ideas you have about outreach and publicity are very welcome! We are planning four television commercials and lots of print advertising to open the new semester. We are also looking for people on staff who have experience with video production to help with the commercials.

Our largest attendance month of the year is always March. We will be adding classes through Jan. and Feb. Please confirm with the department chairs about your interest and available in accepting more assigned instructional hours. Everything else being equal, these additional assignments are made based on seniority.

### *PVFT and District Hold Meetings on Collaborative Leadership*

On pages 2-3 in this issue you will find the lists of beliefs, principles and behaviors that our local teachers' union and our district administrative leadership have agreed upon. As K-12 schools face possible restructuring as a result of No Child Left Behind, the national union, AFT, has worked on research models of increased collaborations to raise student achievement. Angelyn Redstone will share more of what this might mean for us in a coming issue of News and Views.

### *Safety Curriculum - from Cathy Jo Diaz*

I have created materials to teach students the the "12 Points of Night Car Safety." You can see on the 3rd page there are some extra clip art pictures to use in case we do not like some of them on pages one and two. Would you please review and give me your feedback? The 12 points came from the district Maintenance and Operations office. Contact me for digital copies of these handouts.

**All Faculty and Staff  
Holiday Potluck  
Friday, December 16, 5:00-7:00, Green Valley**



## *Behaviors*

1. We will address questions and concerns in a timely manner. (We will respond to questions and concerns.)
2. We will offer constructive criticism privately. We will praise publicly.
3. We will not blame.
4. We will communicate honestly.
5. We will verify information before passing it on.
6. We will actively listen to ensure there is understanding.
7. We will consider all ideas.
8. We will presume positive intent.
9. We will create a safe environment so we can speak our minds.
10. We are all responsible for promoting positive behaviors.
11. We will be flexible, willing to compromise.
12. We will defer judgments until clarification has occurred.
13. We will honor outcomes and agreements.
14. We will praise and motivate students.
15. We will treat (& acknowledge) everyone equally.
16. We will respect different communication styles.
17. We won't "stir the pot".
18. We will praise and motivate students.
19. We will be patient with each other.
20. We will keep confidential information confidential.
21. We will clarify the origin of mandates.

## *Beliefs*

1. We believe we have a responsibility to work together to ensure every student's achievement.
2. We believe every individual is responsible for the success of each student.
3. We believe PVUSD is a positive place to work and learn, and we are committed to making it a great place to work & learn.
4. We believe equal is not equitable.
5. We believe every individual in our school community deserves dignity & respect.
6. We believe in the enduring value of public education and the people who make it happen and are committed to its growth and prosperity.

## *Guiding Principles*

1. All district facilities will be welcoming & customer (client) oriented.
2. Schools will foster learning communities where everyone is a learner and a leader.
3. Our decisions will be based on student needs.
4. We will consider rigor to be a crucial element in our curriculum.
5. All students will have access to the programs they need.
6. We will dedicate ourselves to prepare each student to function in a democratic society
7. We will be role models of responsible citizens in the American democracy.
8. We are they.

### *Thoughts from Angelyn Redstone*

KINDNESS, KIND, KINDLE, KIN.....

Kindness - kind behavior or a kind action

Kind - helpful, friendly, and caring toward other people

Kindle - to warm or to start burning, as in, to kindle a relationship

Kin - related to another person in a particular way...familial, shared ideas, ideals, dreams.....

These words/concepts have been dancing through my consciousness recently, asking for attention and contemplation. Currently I am actively involved in projects addressing school improvement and strategic planning for WAAE, our school. Much has been said regarding communication break-throughs and break-downs among our staff; both classified and certificated personnel. I assert that an organization is as strong as its communication. And I ask that you take a moment to consider these words. Thank-you.

# WAAE Calendar - December, 2005



*ESL Awards Planning Ceremony*  
Tuesday, November 29, Porter, 4:00-5:30



*ESL Leadership Meeting*  
Wed., November 30, 4:00-5:30, Porter

## **All School Holiday Dance**

*Thursday, Dec. 1, 7:00pm - 9:00pm - Watsonville High School Cafeteria*

*CBET Meeting*  
Monday, Dec. 5, 4:00-5:30, Green Valley, Rm. 6

*Payroll Sheets Must be Turned in (earlier than usual)*  
Monday, Dec. 5

## **ESL Awards Ceremonies (Day and Night)**

*Tuesday, Dec. 13, 11:00am and 7:00pm*

*School Council*  
Wednesday, December 14, 4:00-6:00, Porter

*Student Updates, and*  
*Student Satisfaction Surveys for All Programs Due*  
Friday, December 16

## **All Faculty and Staff Holiday Potluck**

*Friday, December 16, 5:00-7:00, Green Valley*

*Parent Outreach Network*  
Monday, December 19, 1:00 - 3:00, Green Valley

*Spring Semester Begins*  
Tuesday, January 3, 2006

