



Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education News and Views

*If we want a beloved community, we must stand for justice,
have recognition for difference without attaching difference to privilege.*

- bel hooks



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"The Cycle of Inquiry" Issue

Feb. 9, 2007

Focus on Learning(FOL)

We have embarked on the next step of our Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education **Focus on Learning (FOL)** journey. This process aims to assist the school in evaluating its mission and instructional program following the guidelines of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). It's a voluntary process whereby a school conducts a self study which then serves as a basis for a team of visiting educators to make commendations and recommendations after visiting the school. Five years ago, in the spring of 2002, we completed this same phase of our ongoing process of self study and school improvement with the publication of WAAE's accreditation report. After taking a good look at our community and how we were meeting its needs, we identified our strengths and areas for improvement and formulated 7 action plans that have served to guide our school improvement for the last 5 years. Our task now is to review how we've responded to the community needs we identified 5 years ago and how we've implemented our action plans. Led by the work of the School Council, we have engaged in a cyclical process, with recurring times of reflection, action, planning and evaluation. Now it's time again for a more intense look at where we are in preparation for the arrival of a visiting committee in the spring of 2008. This group of educators will reflect with us and help us to evaluate our current strengths and areas of need.

As we move through the process you will be hearing certain words and phrases that may be unfamiliar. So that we will have a shared understanding, here is a short glossary of terms that we'll be using to identify various processes and groups. We'll update this glossary from time to time as we take the next steps. - *Ann Veronica Coyle*

FOL Glossary of terms #1:

FOL: Focus on Learning, an ongoing process of school self study, formulation of action plans, implementation and evaluation.

WASC: Western Association of Schools and Colleges, one of six regional associations that accredit public and private schools, colleges, and universities in the United States.

Home Groups - Department or program groups which meet together to consider our instructional program and give input to the Focus Groups (see next definition). Home groups (all WAAE departments, Student Councils and Community Advisory Council) will meet for the 1st time in this process during the week of February 13 - 16, 2007, and every Home Group will appoint one member to each Focus Group.

Focus Groups - Groups devoted to 4 areas of study, as identified by the FOL process: Organization for Student Learning, Curriculum and Instruction, Support for Student Personal and Academic Growth, Resource Management and Development. Each Focus group is composed of representatives of all Home Groups. Focus Groups will meet during the week of February 26 - March 2, 2007.

Focus on Learning Leadership Group - The School Council, comprised of elected department chairs, appointed CSEA and PVFT representatives, office managers, program representatives, student advisors, a school safety representative and school administrators. This group is charged with the ongoing school improvement process throughout the entire year, every year.



WAAE Calendar

Spring Semester Dates:

Jan. 8 - June 15, 2007

Mon., Feb. 12, School Holiday - no school

**Wed., Feb. 14, School Council, 4:00-6:00, Porter
More Focus on Learning planning - home group discussion.
Timeline for spring elections for department chairs.**

Mon., Feb. 19, School Holiday - no school

Tues., Feb. 20, Lifelong Learning Homegroup Meeting, 4:00-6:00, GV

**Tues. , Feb. 20, Student Councils at Porter
Wed., Feb 21, Student Councils at Green Valley**

**Bay Section CCAE Conference
Saturday, March 3**

Fremont Adult School

**We will pay for the first ten CCAE Members who contact
Cynthia or CCAE Chapter President, Kim Iwasko**

Mon., March 12

Adult Education Week, CCAE State Leg Day, Sacramento

**Tues. , March 20, Student Councils at Porter
Wed., March 21, Student Councils at Green Valley**

**Spring Break (no classes)
April 6-15**

**Grand Opening, El Instituto de Lenguaje y Cultura
The project appears to be back on track,
though now the "opening" may be after Spring Break**

SAVE THE DATE!!

Saturday, May 12

CCAЕ Central Coast Conference

We host at the "Instituto!!"



As the WAAE World Turns:

... the first six months of this year's attendance is running slightly above last year, which was our largest year on record... many classes are already very full, and we are beginning to hold waiting lists for ESL for the first time in many years. In both ESL and the Learning Center we are beginning to have a calendar of "managed enrollment" which will ask students to come to an orientation before beginning classes. We hope that "waiting list" will actually mean that students are scheduled to have an orientation before beginning class. *Look for more details on waiting lists, managed enrollments, and orientation...*