



Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education News and Views

Adult education will become an agency of progress if its short-term goal of self-improvement can be made compatible with a long-term, experimental but resolute policy of changing the social order. Eduard Lindeman, *The Meaning of Adult Education* (1926).



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The Focus on Students Issue

March 5, 2007

Eliza Collazo, “Student of the Week”



Eliza Collazo was recognized as an outstanding adult learner and was eloquent and poised as she addresses the board at the board meeting last week. Although the Board agenda always says “Student of the Week”, for us it is our snigle opportunity to present one of our outstanding students to our Board of Trustees. We have established the tradition of presenting our “student of the week” as close to the second week of March as possible, in our effort to be promote adult education during the California Adult Education Week. And what a great representative of adult education Eliza is! Over the years she has returned to us for ESL, office skills, GED, and now is in the parent CBET/Even Start class at Freedom Elementary. She is natural leader in her classes, recently led a study group in the Community Reads campaign, and has suggested that she go out to the community door-to-door to recruit students to adult ed. Above you see her whole family supporting her, and it is clear when listening to her how strongly she feels about helping her children achieve. Also above you see present and past teachers of Eliza, Carol Sendell and Jane Reyes, Mike Perez, Even Start Coordinator, and Sandra Nichols, our ever-supportive friend on the Board.

Focus on Learning

After the Home Groups of two weeks ago, the four Focus Groups met last week, and apparently productive conversations were help in all four. All Home Groups were represented *except students and community reps*. The next step is that each Focus Group will report its dicussion at next weeks School Council. Although initially the back and flow of information in these groups may seem complex, it seems to me the process is moving forward well. The **ALL SCHOOL MEETING on FRIDAY, JUNE 8**, will be an important point where a lot of initial findings will be presented.

Student Councils

I was having a conversation with a teacher the other day about student councils. We were recruiting representatives from the class, and at one point in the conversation the teacher said, “oh, I never knew that the same students should come every month.” It led me to think about what our common understanding of student councils are; what function do they play in our school. It’s my assumption that we all agree that they are a forum to give and receive information, and that teachers give students time to talk to the whole class when they return. Some of the conversations at student council are about small annoyances, upcoming events, and suggestions about how we can improve the schoool. In this “self-study” period, the conversations in student council are extremely important, they are a critical piece of our self-study. Our four student councils recently were great. We shared with all four our “table four of student acheivement” (same data that we shared at the last school council meeting) and the resulting conversations were right on target. How can we organize our school so students persist, and take that second CASAS test, so we can better measure student achievement? This is the question that student council reps will take back to classes, and will return on the March meetings to discuss. In addition to ESL (from five sites!), we had ABE/ASE, CTE, Citizenship, and parenting students represented. It was some of the best conversation in the student councils in the last six years.



WAAE Calendar

Spring Semester Dates:

Jan. 8 - June 15, 2007

Mon., March 12

**Adult Education Week, CCAE State Leg Day, Sacramento
Kim, Nat and students, Marisela Vega and Pia Bayuga
will represent us in Sacramento!!!**

Wed., March 14

School Council

Agenda:

**Focus Group Reports
Election plans for department chairs
(submit topics to your dept. chair)**

Student Councils (see page 1)

**(if possible, encourage the same students to attend every meeting,
give students time and support to report to the whole class,
and help us figure out how to expand the councils to more
than ESL from the the two main sites.)**

March 20 (Porter), March 21 (GV)

**Agenda: How can we find out what students need
from the school in order to persist?**

April 17 (Porter), April 18 (GV)

Agenda: Questionnaires?

May 22 (Porter), May 23 (GV)

Agenda: Representation in Focus Groups and All School meeting

March 25-30

Home Groups Meet

Spring Break (no classes)

April 6-15

Adult Education Graduation!!

Friday. June 1, 7-00 p.m.

ALL SCHOOL MEETING - PAID!!

Please save the date and make every effort to attend.

Friday, June 8, 3:30pm - 5:30pm.