

Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education News and Views



We seek to find connections between what we are learning and our life experiences; we are willing to question the assumptions that undergird our own ways of being and acting; we openly explore alternative ways of thinking and doing; and we open ourselves to new information and new ways of being in the world.

- Jack Mezirow, *Transformational Adult Education*



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The "I'll never find another ewe" Issue

April 1, 2007

Harper Arrested at Mexicali Border!!

Student Council Reflections

In some respects it's stupid and condescending to say, but in recent school council meetings I've been struck at how focused and sophisticated the conversations have been. Students want to be a part of decisions about the school, and about what's happening in classes. They have great ideas about what affects persistence, and they are asking for feedback about their own learning. They have looked at our Table Four chart of testing and "completion rates" and understand the seriousness. They ask, "why don't we receive the results of the tests we take?" It's a good question...

U.S. Border agents arrested Watsonville-Aptos Adult Education director Bob Harper on Friday as he apparently was trying to cross the border into Mexico with contraband copies of the NCLB legislation. Apparently Harper had arranged to sell the papers to the Oaxacan Teachers' Union in exchange for a palapa south of Puerto Escondido. OK, April Fools. What is not an April Fools joke is the news that I have accepted a position as Principal of Pacific Grove Adult School beginning July 1. I know many of you have already heard the rumor, so the purpose of this announcement is to be clear about some of the elements of my choice. First, I was NOT pink-slipped or forced out because my politics are too progressive or I dress funny and smell like trees. That's crazy talk. On the contrary, the district is, and has continued to be, appreciative and supportive of the work we've been doing in adult education. In turn I am truly, truly grateful to PVUSD for hiring me, encouraging me, supporting me, and giving us full permission to fly. The supes, from John Casey, to Terry, to Mary Ann Mays, have been fair, helpful, and given me nothing but approval and support. We've got three months now to continue some important work, and it is a great time for summaries, reflections, strategic repositioning and planning for the future. We are in a critical stage of our WASC Focus on Learning self-study. Our community advisory council, student councils, and School Council are all fully functioning and will continue to have a strong and defining impact on what our school is and will be. We are electing a new School Council this month, and this is a time of re-gauging directions for the next two years, and for new leadership to emerge. So, we've got a lot to do, and in the next three months, you'll hear me say over and over how much I value the students, staff, and teachers of this school.



WAAE Calendar

Spring Semester Dates:

Jan. 8 - June 15, 2007

Student Councils

(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.)

April 17 (Porter), April 18 (GV)

Agenda: Review drafts for schoolwide questionnaires

May 22 (Porter), May 23 (GV)

Agenda: Representation in Focus Groups and All School meeting

March 30 - Notice of Intent to run for Department Chairs due to Natalie.

Spring Break (no classes)

April 6-15

Department Chair Elections

April 16-20

**Community Advisory Council Meeting
In the Institute of Language and Culture!**

May 16, 10:00-noon

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.

GRAND OPENING - COMMUNITY CELEBRATION!!

The Institute of Language and Culture

Friday, June 29

Save the Date!

Summer School (Tentative)

Thursday, July 5 - Saturday, August 4.