



Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education News and Views

Through others, we become ourselves.

L. S. Vygotsky



Vol.5 No.6

The "Labor Long in Fields of Plenty" Issue

Sept. 1, 2005

Adult Ed. Historical Perspective

"I Don't Get Paid to Do That."

Teachers in adult education don't get paid enough. I certainly believe that. I think teachers in general don't get paid enough, although I had an interesting conversation recently with an old "leftist" friend, a commercial chemist now, about how teachers are not underpaid when compared to beginning chemists. I am not sure about that; I am sure that adult ed. teachers, many of whom are part time, don't make anywhere near what K-12 teachers make, and certainly not what community college teachers make. Adult education as a system, since Proposition 13 in 1978, has been losing ground. While at one time we got the same funding per instructional hour that K-12 got, now we get a little more than a third. Community colleges also have considerably more resources, with building funds, special operational funds, and a much higher rate of funding for instruction.

Long ago most adult schools determined not to have a prep. time, and instead put as much money as possible on the hourly rate salary schedule. Hence we have a top hourly rate of over \$32 an hour and don't pay for teachers to fill out attendance or other required student records. In recent years, and in our "Focus Groups" in June, I heard teachers expressing dissatisfaction with this. I often have pointed out that high school teachers have to do attendance, progress reports, parent conferences, correct papers, grades, credit slips... all done as a part of the regular day. We don't. Our attendance is the sole mechanism to claim funding from the state. Our "TopsPro" is mandated by the federal government (and a response to several reports in the last decade that claimed public adult education made no difference to our students' lives). Our doing these reports are crucial for our continued existence. But I wonder if teachers would be happier if they received less per hour and had a prep pay instead? How should we apply a COLA? Of course, this is negotiable. But I would welcome more of your ideas about this.

National Assessment of Adult Literacy

This fall there will see the release of the results of an exhaustive survey about adult literacy in the US. The early word is that this will mirror a survey in the early 90's that marked a huge number of adults as functionally pre-literate. This will an excellent opportunity to promote the importance of what we do. Stay tuned.

Parking

Parking in all the downtown area is going to be affected by construction projects. The city has kept us informed of the timeline and developments of the construction project. They are aware loss of parking will have an impact on our program. They are subsidizing half the cost of parking permits that will allow students to park in the structure on West Beach (across from the One Stop). This is one long block from Porter.

Parking Permits for Sale in the Porter Office:

The price will be \$5.00 for September, and \$15.00 for each quarter (three months) thereafter, beginning in Oct.



WAAE Calendar - Fall, 2005

Bob Will Be Gone Until Sept. 9

August 31 - ESL Leadership Meeting, 4:00-5:30, Porter

Sept. 2 - Watsonville Literacy Committee

Sept. 5 - Labor Day Holiday

Sept. 8 - Payroll Due Date

Sept. 13 - Student Councils at Porter, Noon and 9:00pm

Sept. 14 - Student Councils at GV, Noon and 8:30pm

Sept. 21 - School Council, GV, 4-6pm, Unaudited budget

October 1 - ESL Symposium, Cal State Monterey Bay

September Birthdays

September 14 Christian Fine
September 17 Marta Bechhoefer
Ursula Malynn
Marcia Poms
September 18 Elizabeth Cunningham
September 22 Kathleen Miedecke
September 30 Carol Sendell



Reading for Labor Day?

If you are interested at all in the general theme of what is happening in education in our country, I encourage you to get a copy of the September issue of Harper's Monthly (no relation.... I wish). There is an article by education writer and social activist Jonathan Kozol, "Still Separate, Still Unequal: America's Educational Apartheid." It is full of chilling statistics and descriptions of the widening gap between our country's educational haves and have nots.