



Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education News and Views

Through others, we become ourselves.

L. S. Vygotsky



Vol. 5 No. 9

The Native Peoples Day Issue

Oct. 10, 2005

Can We Talk?



*From our instructor
Lynn Simons, who
is living in Sweden
for a few years.*

*Hi Cynthia and Bob and
greetings to all from Sweden!*

I read News & Views on-line and think it's great that you are encouraging more "communicative interactive practice" (CIP), which is, of course, what our ESL students want and what keeps them coming back. Teachers are not always aware of how much time they spend on CIP, and it can be easy to slip into habits of too much reading (*cont. p.3*)

Second Opportunity for Students (SOS) - SB65 "Educational Clinic"

15-19 year old students who have been out of school for a period of time need to receive services and support to get back in school, and make progress toward their goals. That is the goal of our SOS program.

This past year two things have happened to markedly increase the success of the SOS program: first, Cabrillo College Watsonville agreed to host the program in their building, and second, we found a dedicated teacher/Director, Charmaine Ryan, who has great passion and skill at working with these young learners.



The Second Opportunity for Students program gives students the opportunity to earn high school credits to return to a comprehensive or alternative high school program; prepare for the GED, college or training program; or earn their high school diploma through the Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education program. The instructor works in partnership with each student and his/her family for greater successful outcomes. Job and life skills, computer literacy and vocational training are some other areas that are covered in the classes.

Congratulations to 2005 GED graduate **Blanca Tzitziki Hernandez**, who was honored with 13 other

women and a group of Renaissance High School young women at the annual YWCA Perky Hyde *Women of Achievement* celebration. Perky was the mother of our very own Marilyn Hyde, who represented her family at the event, enjoying its 5th year in honor of Perky. Blanca was honored for her life-long involvement in the community, working with others to help to eliminate racism and empower women. Starting in middle school, Blanca has been active the DARE program, the Watsonville Brown Berets, the White Hawk Aztec Dancers, the Watsonville High School Sociedad Cultural Bilingue, Canta Sin Verguenza, and the MATA (Mexican Americans Taking Action) Club. In addition to passing the GED exams in 2005, Blanca completed the WAAE Pharmacy Tech program, received her state license, and was recognized at graduation as the outstanding Pharmacy Tech student of the year. She took her national Pharmacy Tech examination in September of this year, and looks forward to studying to be a pharmacist. She works full time as Pharmacy Technician In addition to her busy professional, activist and academic life, Blanca is a single mother who fosters her young son's artistic talents by sending him to Watsonville Charter School of the Arts. Blanca exemplifies by her life her commitment to education, culture and activism as vehicles for achieving peace, eliminating racism and empowering women.



SOS Students Report

Veronica (not pictured) - "The SOS Program has helped me in the sense that I'm going to school more frequently. I'm getting all my credits. I have learned how to fill out an application the right way, how to make phone calls to parents and know what to say. I have also learned office skills. This program has made me feel like an important person. I also have had a great experience being the teacher's assistant. And I was part of an interview panel, so that was helpful because, now I know how to ask questions for an interview."



Myra - "The SOS program has helped me get more focused into my school work and wanting to actually finish my education and move on forward."



Marco - "SOS has helped me a lot in practicing my skills getting along with people."



Nayeli - "The SOS program has helped me a lot, because I have been doing all my homework and it feels good..."

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Ismael - "The SOS program has helped me in a lot of ways like being respectful to others and knowing how to behave in front of others and showing respect to my peers."



Andreina - "The SOS program has helped me a lot because I'm learning new stuff every day, because before I didn't know almost anything."



Joel - "The SOS program helps me by helping me to get all my credits and get all my work done."

Can We Talk?

(cont, from p.1) much reading and too many written grammar exercises. Teachers may be explaining English to students instead of using English with students. New teachers might not know many of the CIP techniques; some experienced teachers might need to refresh. It's easy to forget the ESL teacher's credo: Speak and listen first; read and write later.

I got to thinking about a self-awareness exercise which would help teachers realize how much time is spent per class on various CIP teaching techniques during a week's time. The self-awareness sheet would have a list of techniques and a place to indicate how much time was spent on any one technique for a particular class period. The self-awareness sheet would be used by the teacher not by the administration. It would not only help the teacher to plan better lessons, but would make the teacher aware of what techniques he/she knows how to teach.

At site meetings teachers could ask questions about unknown techniques and/or see short, ten-minute, pre-arranged demos by teachersmaybe one demo per site meeting. Sometimes this is fun in a language foreign to the teachers, if possible. I have been taught a bit of Japanese with the Silent Way and a bit of French using TPR. Also, videos exist of teachers demonstrating CIP techniques, or some of our own teachers might agree to be taped demonstrating a CIP technique. Hey Bob, aren't there some old ones of you around when you were about 30?

*Have a good school year everyone;
I will see you in August 2006.*

Lynn Simons

Langendorf

When we purchased the Langendorf Building from the city two years ago (with funds given to us by the district to compensate adult ed. for losing the Radcliff campus), we knew that there would be considerable work to be done on the building. The initial plans submitted for approval have been partially rejected, asking for strengthened walls, among other things. The plans for the project have been help up as the architect reviews all these new requirements, but now it looks like the project will go "out to bid" this fall, and construction will start by January. Our projected opening is now January, 2007. Good news is that we are already beginning to pay off the COP that helps to pay for this; bad news is we really need the increased attendance we project this building will attract.

Persistence #4 (Managed enrollment, orientation)

Update from Elizabeth, Kim, Cathy Jo and Kim:

The ESL Orientation Class finished in early September after a three-week duration. Approximately 50 ESL students participated in the orientation pilot project. The majority of the students were BL1 & 2, with a small percentage of BL2- Int. Low. The ESL orientation students were motivated and enthusiastic during the orientation. The students learned about classes and programs offered, their teachers, the staff, long and short term goal setting, and the importance of CASAS pre and post testing.

So many teachers are to be thanked for supporting the ESL Orientation pilot project and others for participating in the development of the curriculum. Upon completion of the post CASAS testing and data collection, the information will be posted in our own News & Views.



WAAE Calendar - Fall, 2005

October 10, Green Valley Student Councils

October 11, Porter Evening Student Council, 9:00 pm

October 11, Porter Evening Site Meeting, 9:00 pm

October 12, Community Advisory Council, 10:30-noon, GV

This is a "tri-annual" meeting of friends and partners from our local community who help us review our programs and give us advice on community needs. This meeting will feature a report on our Second Opportunity Student (SOS) program that Charmaine Ryan is running at Cabrillo Watsonville. SOS is serving 25-30 "recent leavers" from local high schools.

October 19, School Council, 4:00-6:00, Porter

October 28, Salinas Adult School

"Enhancing Learner Persistence"

el·lip·sis

n. pl. el·lip·ses (-s z)

The omission of a word or phrase necessary for a complete syntactical construction but not necessary for understanding.

... our thoughts and love go out to Raye Kooker whose husband Dave passed away last Thursday...

flowers have been sent to Raye in the name of the school (if anyone wishes to contribute to help, contact Debbie Lerma)... Raye's students wrote her letters last Friday ... did you know that Debbie Lerma got her credential and is teaching in the Lifelong Learning program.... I will be curious to know if Debbie gets her "bubbles" done on time... at the ACSA adult education conference last week the "150 Adult Students Succeed" program was given prominence and of the 120 students chosen so far, our school has been honored with FIVE of our alumni honored, including our own John Basor ... Kim Iwasko has begun a program at the One Stop where her students in office careers are acting as receptionists ... not only is this a great experience for her students, but it also saves our school some rent for our space in the One Stop ... did you know our program pays for instructional space in five locations?... have you seen the fine art in our display case at the Green Valley entrance? The Lifelong Learning students had a reception to "open the exhibit" last week ... **Benefits: One of instructors mentioned she didn't understand our school's policy and practice with benefits... there is information in the Staff Handbook, but short version: our school is perhaps the only adult school in the state that offers full medical benefits for teachers who teach more than 18 hours a week... the benefits begin 30 days after you have begun that assignment, and you must apply for them with the office manager.... talk to Natalie or your PVFT rep. for more info.**