



# Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education News and Views

*Through others, we become ourselves.*  
L. S. Vygotsky



Vol. 6 No. 9

The November Surprise Issue

Nov. 13, 2006

## Spring Semester Dates: Jan. 8 - June 15, 2007

Yes, it's true, the "start date" for the Spring semester that you've seen in News and Views is the date when some classes may start, but the great majority of classes will follow the dates of the spring semester that were approved by School Council last summer, is on the WAAE calendar posted on the website, and *is printed in huge, unmistakable letters above.*

The brochure for the Spring semester will be printed in a few weeks, and any changes in class assignments will be determined by the department chair and the administration within the next few weeks. The most notable change in Spring will be the finish of construction for the new building. We hope to have a grand opening for the public by the State Adult Education Week, March 12-15. This means classes will probably be in the building a few weeks before then. Stay tuned for more exciting information about the center, what will be there, and what we still need (see fundraising info. below).

Also this Spring will see increased attention and activity around our self-study process. Six years ago we created seven action plans for our school improvement, two years ago we did a thorough review of progress made, and now the cycle begins again. When you hear about home groups, focus groups, student goals, and action plans, this is all part of Western Association of Schools and Colleges study process called Focus on Learning. Its intent is to help us focus on our successes, and where we need to improve. The process is meant to be inclusive: students, community members, teachers and staff all have a voice. See more info about the Focus on Learning process in the School Council report on page 2.

### *Fundraising Campaign: Holiday Festival*

*Save December 16 for a fundraising event*

*As we've mentioned frequently in our site meetings, our funding is limited enough that we are not going to be able to do all the things we want to in the new building. Desks, chairs, computers, babysitting materials, student lounge furniture are all needed. We've begun several fundraising efforts. If you want to help, we need volunteers to serve on committees for a Holiday Festival, planned for Saturday, December 16. Let Natalie know if you can help. We'll talk more to student councils Nov. 27.28 about it.*

# Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education School Council

## 11/8/06

**Present:** Teresita Marchisello, Edie Trotno, Lynn Simons, Cary Keisler, Debbie Craig, Bob Harper, Cynthia Stark, Jack Carroll, Eloisa Sanchez, Natalie Carranco, Marina Candor, Magdalena Maciel, Ann Veronica Coyle

**Birds Eye Foods Layoff process:** Jack reported results from a survey of a small sampling of the estimated 500 employees about to be laid off from Birds Eye (see attached report, #1). Given the longevity of these employees at one company, they are reliable workers. Many seem to be in shock and denial, and their stress is compounded by slowness and lack of clarity in answers to many of the "what next?" questions and by new and sometimes conflicting information. An example is the varying answers to questions about how taking classes might affect one's unemployment benefits. About 45% report less than an 8<sup>th</sup> grade education and about 73% requested the survey in Spanish. WAAE's response will include a new VESL Food Service class, and possibly others. We will collaborate with El Pájaro Community Development Corporation in offering a Small Business class, and we have the software for a Spanish language bookkeeping class. We need a teacher. Jack continues to meet with the groups addressing the needs of the soon-to-be unemployed workers, the next meeting to be held on November 13 for various training institutions.

**Spring schedule, brochure deadline, new classes, new ideas, teaching assignments:** Eloisa brought it to our attention that the deadline for the brochure has passed (November 6) and that she has not yet heard from some departments. She requests an immediate response from those who still have information for her. Eloisa stressed that it is important for all teachers to submit their information through the department chairs, not directly to her. New offerings for the Spring semester include:

CTE - Green Gardner, Customer Service, Food Service, Computer Assembly & Repair, Excel  
Community Ed - Self Esteem (Spanish) taught by Javier Fernandez  
Parent Ed- Ohlone School has requested a Together in the Park class  
Learning Center- College Ready/Job Ready classes, academic language for success in college will be added the existing lab hours  
ESL- increasing partnership with Learning Center;  
getting ready for move to new building

**Focus on Learning Update:** AV and Bob presented a variety of tasks that we will complete in the next 18 months (see attached, #2). The leadership team for the process will be the School Council expanded with membership of students and community, and we set February 2007 as our goal for an initial draft of the student and community profile, written by Bob. Bob also will address data collection.

We indicated initial interest in the 4 Focus Groups:

<b>Organization for Student Learning</b>	<b>Curriculum and Instruction</b>	<b>Student Support</b>	<b>Resource Management</b>
Jack	Teresita	Edie	Lynn
Debbie	Cynthia	Marina	Cary
		Eloisa	Natalie
		Magdalena	

We now need to hear from **Charmaine, Amy, José Humberto and Jane**. Department chairs will report back at the December meeting of the School Council with suggestions from their departments of what we want to find out through surveys of our students and the community. See attached form, #3, for reporting department responses.

*Focus on Learning*

Members received copies of WAAE's 2002 Student Goals, the 5 Expected Outcomes (also called Parameters) of the Self Study, and an introduction to the Focus on Learning process (distributed at meeting and placed in boxes of those who were absent).

**Report from the Community Advisory Council:** The Community Advisory Council, at its November 1 meeting, made a list of suggestions for how WAAE can recruit more students for the Learning Center (see attached \$4). Bob agreed at the Advisory Council meeting that we would make a written response, and all are asked to digest the suggestions, especially Learning Center people, and respond to Bob.

**Fundraising campaign - brainstorm and concrete plans** - Natalie is heading up a group to plan for a Holiday Festival, to be held on December 16, as a fundraiser for equipping the new building. After much discussion about dates and events, including the ESL recognition ceremony and dance schedule for December 14, it was recommended that the Festival and Dance be held on December 16 and the recognition ceremony on the 14<sup>th</sup> as planned. The Festival will include arts and crafts, food, games, face painting, Santa Claus, perhaps a big item drawing...the works. Then we may host a band concert in March, featuring know bands such as Santana, Los Lobos or Backyard Blues.

**Data projects, Table 4, Cabrillo data match, CASAS testing practice in ESL and LC:** Cynthia reported that we have met with CDE Adult Ed administrators and have been designated a program improvement adult school as we are below the state average of completers and slightly below average in our benchmarks. In response, we have increased the number of CASAS Pretests given, and now our task is to get those Posttests in and to show benchmarks.

We are tracking student leavers through a data match, identifying ESL students who have exited WAAE and enrolled at Cabrillo. We have identified only about 3% of our ESL leavers so far who have entered Cabrillo and of these we have found that more ESL than VESL students have moved on to community college. Our goal is to track both ESL and ABE/ASE students through the EDD in order to determine whether they show an increase in earning power as a result of attendance at WAAE.

**Schoolwide Safety Survey, Emergency planning and school safety**

**reps:** By tomorrow all staff will receive safety surveys developed by the County Office of Education. These surveys will be due next week. Magdalena is our interim safety representative to the district and WAAE School Council, and Natalie will make recommendations for permanent rep(s) at the next School Council meeting.

**Changes to registration forms:** Natalie reported that the registration forms are undergoing additional changes, including a required hold harmless statement for student participation in class activities. The print is getting smaller and smaller! She also reported that information on the registration forms often is incomplete, and that we NEED the full and correct data. Date entry clerical staff will request full and correct info from the teachers (via Department Chairs) when the forms are not complete/correct.

**Plans for Thanksgiving and Winter breaks:** Classes will meet on Wednesday morning, November 22, but not on the evening of that day before Thanksgiving. Both the Learning Center and Parent Ed, however, reported that they referred to the calendar posted on the WAAE website and already have made plans and have announced to students that they will not meet at all on November 22. Parent Ed also established their entire 2006-07 calendar based on the one posted on the website, which indicates different holidays than the dates posted in News and Views and listed on the School Council agenda. For both the LC and Parent Ed this also affects Winter Break. We need to identify the operative calendar and be sure that it is the one on the website.

**Next meeting:**

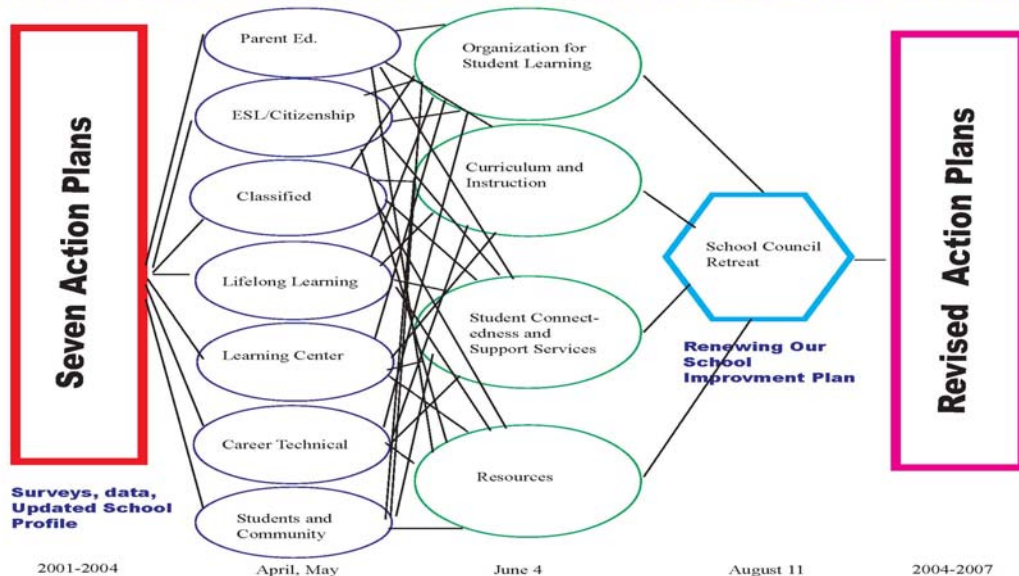
**Wednesday, December 13, 2006**

**4:00 – 6:00 p.m.**

**Prayer**

*Focus on Learning*

**Focus on Learning - Spring, 2005 - Watsonville-Aptos Adult Education**



Where we were two years ago....

## Creating a Better Financial Future Student Presentations

Morning students at the Porter Building enjoyed 2 informative presentations on financial education given by Sandra Vega, Community Outreach Coordinator for the Santa Cruz Community Credit Union. Participation and enthusiasm were high, especially as Sandra addressed the topic of loans, credit and interest, and students had many questions,



Their attention was focused as Sandra outlined 5 simple ways to improve credit, and both students and teachers commented that it was one off the most useful and interesting presentations they had heard. Daisy, Irma and Maribel from Kathleen Miedecke's ABE class made a group response:

"This was great information! It was perfect because it was bilingual, nice and clear. We learned how to manage our money. You don't need to know a lot of math. Just spend your money wisely. Don't buy what you don't need. Don't be tricked by sales. You buy something you don't really need and then you're stuck.

"Sandra was really interesting because I don't have credit established. I learned why it's important in the US, and how to start establishing credit, especially by using a safe secured credit card... I found out that you CAN work to improve your credit."

And a word of advice from the students: "Go get a back account. Don't put your money in the house, under a mattress, in a cookie jar!"

Students found the worksheets (in English and Spanish) useful, and one class used them for follow-up lessons in applying what participants had learned. The worksheets will be available for teachers and students in advance of the class for future presentations, and would be a great preparation and/or follow-up.

We plan to offer these presentations for Green Valley morning and evening students and Porter evening students in several weeks, in 2 one-hour sessions: Session 1 - Values and Goals, Savings; Session 2 - Loans, Credit and Interest. Presentations for beginning level students will be done primarily in Spanish, and for more advanced English speakers bilingually. You will be contacted soon about dates and location of other presentations.



# WAAE Calendar

## Our FOUR Student Councils, Morning and Evening

Please encourage your class to have representation.

Agenda will include plans for the holiday festival.

GV: Nov. 27, Porter: Nov. 28

## Thanksgiving Holidays Nov. 23 and 24

(if you are planning on not-holding class on Wednesday, Nov. 22, you MUST clear it with your department chair.

## December 6: December payroll due to Marjorie.

## Cal-Pro Professional Development Events

Wednesday, December 13, **Cooperative Learning IV, "Lesson Planning"**,

at Monterey Adult School, 1:00-5:00pm

Friday, December 1, **Algebra Instructional Strategies**

at Santa Cruz Adult School, 1:00-4:00pm

## PVUSD Board of Trustees Meeting Wednesday, Dec. 6

Our site block grant, and the naming of the new building will be presented

## School Council

Dec. 13, 4:00-6:00, Porter

## ESL Recognition Ceremony

Thursday, Dec. 14, 7:00pm

## WAAE Holiday Festival - fundraising event

Saturday, December 16

## Winter Break, Dec. 18 - Jan. 8

Any Lifelong Learning teachers who want to teach during these down weeks

MUST coordinate with your chair, Jane Reyes



## *As the WAAE World Turns:*

... recent meetings with our friends at Cabrillo about matching our student records with theirs give me two two ideas, first, we need to do a better job of getting accurate information about our students into our system, and two, we need to think about what is the next step for our students... are we providing opportunities for our students to do goal setting, and giving them the information they want to make decisions about their next steps... also remember that handling the CASAS tests in responsible ways, helping get test packets back to Marina and the assessment center quickly... especially this year we need to capture more pre-tests... all students who enter ESL, ABE, ASE and Citizenship should be given a CASAS test soon after registration and you can help by increasing contact with Marina about this... we need to do this testing, and use the test results to provide more focused instruction, BUT we should never let the need to test alter our traditional flexibility in giving the student what she wants, at her level, and at her pace... finding the teachable moment with total respect for our students' unique needs and desires ... that's adult ed.