

January 29, 2012

Allen Young, principal of MET Sacramento, and several students graced the news this week in an article highlighting the new MET Sacramento Building. The link is listed in the news section below.



## Fabulous February

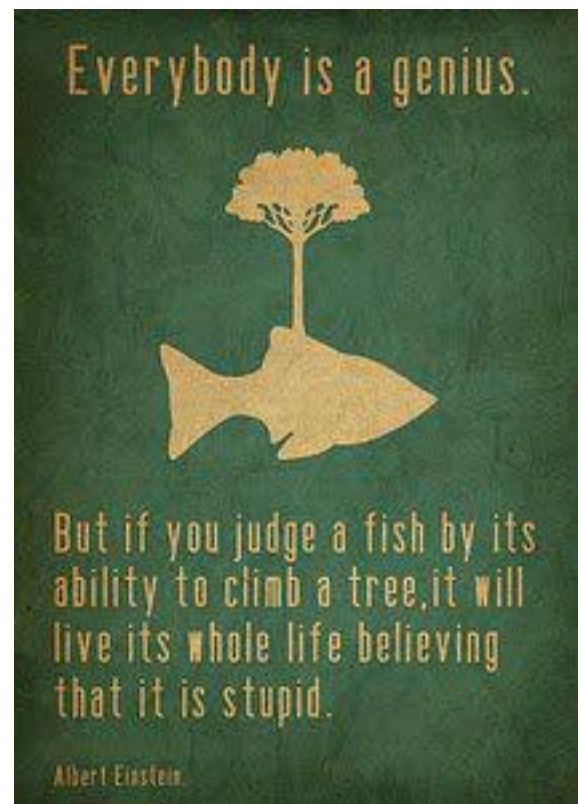
We are just over a week away from our annual principal conference in San Diego! Look for some news to come this week - a special website has been created for attendees, as well as for those of you who can't make it! That way, everyone can be engaged in the conversation.

In the news this week:

- Great article on the Met Sacramento's recent "green" renovation and showcasing their attention to this amazing learning environment. Congrats Allen and all the staff in Sacramento! <http://www.newsreview.com/sacramento/meet-the-greenest-high-school/content?oid=4979492>
- BPL's Met Providence student Frank Santilli is featured in the Johnston Insider for combining his passions for learning and civic engagement. Great job Frank! <http://www.johnstoninsider.com/stories/12.2011/1221/Met%20School%20senior%20Frank%20Santilli%20to%20create%20M.A.D.D.html>
- Don't miss the monthly LTI call - next Friday! All are welcome. See details on page 3, below Elliot's TGIF!

Keep sending pictures and news and we will share with the network!

Have a great week!



A good reminder from Mr. Einstein! How are we individualizing for our students? How are we helping them realize and recognize their own genius through their interests and passions?

# Co-Corner: D to the E

## From Doc

Last Friday I went to visit Southern New Hampshire University where the President is a friend. We have a College Unbound Program there (which I mentioned in my last TGIF) and I met with each student. It was beautiful. All the students (one from Providence Met, Bronx Guild, Connecticut BP school and one from Year Up in Providence) showed the beginnings of transforming themselves. Each student loved College Unbound. They talked about their friends dropping out of College but not them. They talked about faculty really caring, their internships, their projects. It was exciting to see CU someplace else, like it was when I visited New Orleans. Jamie Scurry has coached the faculty into really understanding the philosophy and practice and pulling CU off on a college campus (all the students got \$40,000 full rides and will graduate in 3 years).



SNHU has recently developed an online program where they made 74 million dollars last year. I met the leader, saw the 200-worker organization.

Although the program has many traditional pieces to it, they do it so well that people from everywhere are signing up- 90 a day. This is the future of k-12 and college. My conversations with The President were, how do you do "our kind of learning" and support it online...no answer yet.

Great reads in Education Life/NY Times last week.

An article, The Sharper Mind, that shows how more education helps keep the mind and body young. A college degree in midlife seems to slow the brains aging process by up to a decade. Great news for our adult learners.

A 3rd article by Lauren Summers, past President of Harvard, What You Really Need to Know, College Education defines what secondary schools teach...the problem? College education hasn't changed to keep up with the changing the world.

As Derek Box, a former Harvard President is quoted, "the difficulty of reforming a college curriculum is like trying to move a cemetery."

Summer goes on, suppose the system is drastically altered, what should Universities teach?  
 Education will be less about impacting information and more about processing and use of information  
 More collaboration between students  
 Technology- lots of great materials available  
 Active learning in classrooms  
 Analysis of data

Sounds a bit like what we have been doing for 16 years.

Monday we had 2 visitors who started a virtual high school but they believe in our type of education. We are looking at what tools can make us better advisors and staff. We are also looking at ways to do high school differently for kids who have dropped out.

The woman who visited has been a trainer for online teachers. We asked about the skills needed to be an effective teacher online. Curious enough, the role of an online teacher is much closer to an advisor role than a traditional teacher.

Online teachers must be great facilitators, risk takers and be clear on their questioning. Using tools to help students go deeper- maybe a real plus for advisors. We don't have to do all the work- everything is out there already.

Peace,

Dennis

## From Elliot

Over the years some projects lay dormant, or at least my role in them, and then there is a flurry of activity. This is true of what happened with Math Hoops this week. First, at the Design, Make, Play Conference, I sat next to the lead program officer at Time-Warner. She was very interested in scaling math and science initiatives. When I mentioned Math Hoops to her, she got quite excited. I'm following up with her this next week. Then at MUSE, two parents who have an e-book company were talking to me, and I brought up Math Hoops. They became interested in making it into an app or taking it online. They are reviewing the game this week.



Another awakening happened for me at the O'Farrell School. Seventeen years ago, when Dennis and I were at the Annenberg Institute, we had a satellite TV program called the Educator's Guild. One of the programs we did was from O'Farrell Middle School, a

Coalition School, and the second charter school in San Diego. O'Farrell was started over 20 years ago by a good friend, Bob Stein. This past Monday I went back to O'Farrell to meet with their third principal about starting the BPL O'Farrell charter high school. It was a good feeling to be in a place I haven't been for so long and still see good things happening for students. O'Farrell did what charters were supposed to do, and that's have innovative programs.

On Wednesday, Frank did three talks to parents and staff at MUSE about his work on the co-evolution of the hand and brain and listening to children. As usual people in the audience immediately identified with what Frank was saying about their own hands and what was happening to them in their lives. One parent was a designer. She stopped working on her computer because there was something missing in her life, so she took up weaving. She wondered why this happened and now had some answers. Frank's talk was also helpful for parents to understand just how important handwork and the arts are to who we are. When young children use their hands to get better at something, good things start to happen.

There is a great deal of handwork at MUSE, and consequently, parents need to get re-educated about how we learn with our hands. Frank's take provided answers to so many questions about their program.

After Frank left me, he headed off to FTA where he brought along his buddy George from the LA Music Center. Then he went off to an evening of Digital Storytelling. At this meeting, Frank was going to slip these folks some Big Picture material. It turns out that students from Highline had a film featured in the Digital Storytelling

presentation. You might think this is sheer coincidence, but I don't anymore. We've reached some kind of critical mass where we are making lots more news and our degrees of separation are getting fewer and fewer. We're going from the "I know a guy state" to the "I know a BPL guy Nation."

"There is movement and there is purpose in their movement even when there seems like there is no purpose in their movement."

My time at MUSE is sometimes spent just observing what young children are doing and how they move around MUSE. It is a beautiful setting that produces challenges and builds competence. When you watch children walking in an outdoor space and going about their business by carrying out their responsibilities, walking to and from activities, and just playing around, they seem to have purpose and motivation in their steps. It's interesting how this environment impacts behavior.

In a little over a week the principal's retreat is here. I'm looking forward to seeing so many of us assembled. This year we have extended the invite to people beyond our network. This gives us a new slant on the program that appeals to a greater audience seeking a network. There will be about 75 people in attendance. I'm preparing a few surprises.

Next week, I'll be at Flabob Airport videotaping for a NextGen proposal and the rest of the week I'll be back San Diego.

Enjoy the weekend!

## LTIC Connection Monthly Call

Dear Happy LTICs (and anyone else interested!),

Our next call is scheduled for this Friday February 3rd at 1pm EST.

Conference Dial-in Number: (610) 214-0000

Participant Access Code: 639166#

We are a little concerned about the low attendance on calls thus far this year. We want to make sure that these calls are a good use of everyone's time and that they are important to the the network. With that in mind, we're going to use the February 3rd call as a indicator of whether or not these calls are useful. So it's extra important that you attend the call on Feb 3rd. If you are unable to attend, please send someone else from your school who may benefit from participating.

It's crazy to think that we've been doing these calls for 3 years now. While a lot has changed in our personal and professional lives, it's amazing that this is one of the few constants. We don't want to see this die, we need your help to keep it alive.

Love,  
Dana and Patrick