

# BIG PICTURE LEARNING

# NETWORK NEWS

November 6, 2011

Two students and a staff member posing while flexing in the new fitness center, with Delaware Senator Carper during a recent visit to Positive Outcomes Charter School.



## November is here!

Check out all the great news this week - our students and staff are doing amazing work!

In the news this week:

- Students from the Met Providence featured on NBC10.com as part of the ACE Program which was a follow-up to the story on the Today Show's Education Nation. Great job! <http://video.turnto10.com/v/47560282/ace-program.htm?q=Ace+mentor>
- Principals' Center Collaborative and its students featured in the NY TIMES about their internship "starting a newsroom and producing hard-copy journalism from a youth perspective." Take a look! [http://www.nytimes.com/2011/09/30/us/san-francisco-teenagers-on-county-probation-learn-to-create-a-newspaper.html?\\_r=2&scp=1&sq=an+unusual+group+of+student+journalists+steps+up&st=cse](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/09/30/us/san-francisco-teenagers-on-county-probation-learn-to-create-a-newspaper.html?_r=2&scp=1&sq=an+unusual+group+of+student+journalists+steps+up&st=cse)
- Terra Nova High School is a feature video story on Fox12 Oregon showcasing real world learning "in the fields." Take a look! <http://www.kptv.com/video?clipId=6406816&topVideoCatNo=214253&autoStart=true>

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

Have a great week!

## Mark your calendar!

Principal Retreat in  
Sunny San Diego California!  
February 8-10, 2012  
More details will be coming soon - but  
hold the date!



# Co-Corner: D to the E

## From Doc

### College Unbound:

Twenty-five adult learners' midterm exhibitions—really conversations where they can show what they are learning and answer questions about their growth. The adults were nervous, and it was very cute. Our Met staff who are in the College are doing well. Each have exciting projects that will help the school or will broaden themselves. The students at the Met are developing our HR program and creating satellite advisories, and other students are creating programs for people leaving jail to a student creating new ways to use and hold data (His boss loves it because it will allow the business to expand.) One of our students has been head of communication for Occupy Providence—talk about real work! Yea! As one student said, “I am working hard because I am interested in it.” That is what Big Picture is about—Real



### \$5000-a-year College:

Intriguing to design a high touch/high tech college for \$5000 a year. I try to understand when do people need to be supported? How do you build a system where they can be supported when needed? How do you set up a cohort of support groups so you don't have to do all of the supporting?

For a few of our adult students, life can get in the way: stress, loss of a job, car break downs, etc. It is clear if we hadn't been there to cheer them on and to support and be accommodating, they would be gone. The college world must understand that online learning courses with no support is far from the answer.

It is what we must figure out in the high school also. An advisor once told me she knew when to get in long supportive therapeutic conversations and when not to because the problem will be gone by tomorrow. That is an important diagnostic skill that all advisors need.

### Entrepreneurs:

In a discussion with business people about the opening of the new entrepreneurship center, it was emphasized that every student should be an entrepreneur. This means to me being able to look at things differently, to take advantage of opportunities, and to make things happen. Look around us—in school, business, non-profits—the entrepreneurs are the people getting things done.

“Director of First Impressions” is the sign on the front desk for a major business in Rhode Island.

### Elliot's Birthday:

Elliot is hitting the big 60 this week. Happy Birthday, Elliot! I knew you when you were 20 years old—it has been a great ride.

### Coalition of Essential Schools (CES):

The Coalition of Essential Schools Conference, Fall Forum, will be held at the Met in Providence this year from November 10-12. Seven hundred people signed up from around the country to attend which is great. My school in New Hampshire was the first school selected by Ted Sizer's Coalition around 1986 or so. The CES Common Principles (<http://www.essentialschools.org/items/4>) are good. We at Big Picture took them to another level. Since it is at the Met I get to open the conference which is good for the Met and BP—a chance to spread the word.

Peace,

Dennis

## From Elliot

Last week when I was at MUSE, a seven year-old girl came over all excited to show me the latest plaything at the school. An old water tower was converted into play area. The inside was refinished with a tall pole going the height of the tower from the middle and fitted with a ladder that led to the top of the pole making a firehouse pole. She looked at me laughing and said, “You gotta slide down.” What else could I do? I climbed the ladder and took a short jump to the pole, and off I went. Little did she know how many times I thought about doing just that but never had the opportunity. It took me 60 years and an invite from a seven year-old to make me take the leap and the slide down my first fire pole.



Right now, I'm in The Netherlands with a team of two students from Newark, Carlos, Eunice, and Tim. There are many great things about traveling together away from the place you know people. Over an extended stay like this, it becomes more than a visit. You get to know the people who are doing BP in the schools their way. Eunice and Tim had to do 2-day workshops with people from The Netherlands. Although they are principals of BPL schools, they had never worked together. Because they had common experiences of being in our schools and living the practice and the language, they were immediately able to organize, play off, and riff. This is like jazz musicians from anywhere walking into a club and with little preparation and getting the tempo, tone, and volume sync up. I love how that happens to our group. It is a qualitative measure of our success at spreading the design to anywhere. It is true here, in the United States, and in Australia.

The work in Europe is developing in very organic ways. Three people from Ireland I met over five years ago came to the Dutch conference. They started a youth development organization called The Base and are now ready to implement BPL as a school design inside of a youth development organization that serves 10 -25 year olds. There are real pluses and minuses to developing work over time. We all want things to happen immediately because they need to. At the same time, I feel so good when connections occur that you have left and thought were gone.

While I was away, our Board Chair Ron Wolk prepared assignments for the newly established

## LTI Update

### Thinking about LTI Data

Every school collects data for LTIs a little differently, so we thought it would be great to share our list of data points as well as some strategies for collecting LTI Data.

#### *Data Points*

- # of or % of LTIs per grade example: 60% of 9th Graders have an LTI
- # of or % per advisory example: 85% percent of Carlos' advisory has an LTI
- Increase or decrease in LTIs over time (weekly or monthly) example: The number of students with LTIs in Kari's advisory has improved by 30% (4 students) in the last month
- Comparison over years example: Last year at this time, 67% of students in our school had an LTI, this year 85% students have an LTI.
- Highlights example: Top 5 LTI Fields at Newark Big Picture are Arts (35% of students), Healthcare (25%) Auto mechanics (10%), Law (10%) and Childcare 8%

#### Ways to Collect Data

- Site visit schedules-- when advisors submit site visit schedules for the week, have them include a roster of their students with an update on where each student is placed on the document.
- Charts-- Have your advisors draw a poster up in their classroom that lists all the students in their advisory. Using post-it notes or some other editable format, have each student put their site next to their name as they secure a LTI. The poster is great because it gives a visual representation for guests to see when they visit the advisories. It's also a quick and easy way to do data collection-- just walk through the school once a week and write down numbers.

finance, organization, and marketing committees of our board. They are getting more involved in our daily work. Also, Ron composed a letter to the Gates Foundation requesting the continuation of funding based on our results.

Next week, I'll be at MUSE for a ribbon cutting. I'm always at ribbon cuttings on my birthday. Then, off to a fundraiser for BPCA in the Sequoia School District where I'll also meet up with Dennis' nephew Keith.

Enjoy the weekend!

- Advisor One-on-Ones-- LTICs or School Leaders can meet with each advisor once a week (or every other week) to see how things are going with LTIs. Ask Advisors to bring their current LTI numbers to the meeting.
- Email Submission-- If you write a Sunday Special or some other weekly newsletter to your advisors, ask your advisors to submit their updated LTI numbers to you each week by email in the newsletter. This strategy is best in schools that have consistent functioning internet!
- Collect numbers at staff meetings--There are pros and cons of doing data collection in a public forum. Things can get a little competitive which may motivate some advisors but make others defensive. If you're worried that public submission may make advisors uncomfortable, you may want them to fill out a form that they can hand in during weekly staff meetings rather than announce their numbers publicly. Another note: make sure you're giving your LTIC a 5-10 minutes at each week's staff meeting to go over any relevant LTI info. It's a great way way to show that LTIs are an integral part of your school.

If you're school is doing something creative to collect or share LTI data, please share it with us: Dana.d.luria@gmail.com and Patrick.pehughes13@gmail.com.

Join the LTIC monthly call.  
Next call is November 18th  
1pm EASTERN Standard Time  
Conference Dial-in Number: (610) 214-0000  
Participant Access Code: 639166#

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual SENIOR THESIS PROJECT CONFERENCE



**Above left:** Corinne Clapper's STP is Environmental Outreach and Activism including a recent trip to Macedonia to teach Elementary School Students about recycling. **Above Right:** Joe Duffy's STP is studying the environmental effects on Mountain Biking Trails.

## CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

The conference will aim to support the development of strategies for student-engaged formative assessment in relation to Senior Thesis Projects. The conference is designed primarily for Big Picture senior Advisors, Big Picture school leaders, and Big Picture senior students, and is also open to anyone interested in this aspect of our work. A second conference designed primarily for rising senior advisors and students (current 11th grade advisors and students) will be held in the spring.

## *Creating Excellent Work through Student Engaged Assessment*

### **Conference Dates:**

12/1/2011 & 12/2/2011

### **Facilitated by:**

Michael Soguero and Dan Condon of Eagle Rock School and Professional Development Center

### **Hosted by:**

The Paul W. Crowley East Bay Campus of the Met School and Big Picture South Burlington

### **Location:**

East Bay Campus of the Met School, Newport, Rhode Island

### **Accommodations:**

Best Western Mainstay  
151 Admiral Kalbfus Road  
Newport, Rhode Island 02840  
(401) 849-9880

*\*Please indicate that you are with the East Bay Met School Conference and you will receive a reduced rate.*

*Conference Registration Fee is \$15*

**Please Contact Mary Vieira with questions and to register at [mvieira@metmail.org](mailto:mvieira@metmail.org)**

**The registration deadline is November 18, 2011**