

December 11, 2011



Project ACCEPT elementary students in Tulsa proudly wearing their new BPL inspired t-shirts!

Thankful for a fabulous Network!

We are so thankful to have the opportunity to work with such amazing educators in the Big Picture Learning network! This will be the last Network News until January - have a wonderful restful winter break!

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

In the news this week:

- BPL Co-Founder Elliot Washor to be featured panelist on December Education Webinar - Monday, December 12th at 1:30 EST. <http://www.bigpicture.org/2011/11/bpl-co-founder-elliott-washor-to-be-featured-panelist-on-december-education-webinar/>
- Congratulations to Marggines and Music One (MET Providence), winners of FOUR RI PEG awards for excellence in public access broadcasting. Marggines won for the music video that she wrote and produced. You can watch her video here: <http://youtu.be/z0xmLOMbGtg>
- Javier Guzman, Principal of New Village Charter High School describes the use of transcendental meditation in his school at the David Lynch Foundation Gala. It is a powerful and uplifting clip that you will enjoy viewing! <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ru89P8vJchU>

Mark your calendar!

Principal Retreat in Sunny San Diego California! February 8-10, 2012
Information was sent to principals last week. If you know someone who may want to attend, send Kari a note (kthierer@bigpicturelearning.org) and she'll send an invite! Hope to see everyone there!

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

Have a great week!

Co-Corner: D to the E

From Doc

From the book, **F in Exams, The Very Best Totally Wrong Answers**



Physics- Many people don't like eating radiation-treated food. How could a food scientist prove that radiation-treated food is safe? Answer: By eating some

What is a partnership? A ship that takes two people to drive

What is meant by "forgetting"? I can't remember

What did Mohamed Ghandi and Genghis Cohen have in common? Unusual names

Sane in an Insane World

Charlie Plant and I represented BP and The Met at a partnership recruitment meeting with Harvard's doctorate program in leadership. Sounds good, huh? If Charlie and I felt sane, we felt we were in an insane environment. Practically everyone was brought up, in their professional lives, on tests and testing as the goal of education. Close that gap- nothing else matters. It through me for a loop for a minute but Charlie and I escaped to the streets with Andrew Frishman former Met and Met Sacramento Staff member, to feel sane again. If you are sane and hang in insane environments you are looked at as insane. Sanity is contextual.

The Cult of Done Manifesto

Written in 20 minutes because they only had 20 minutes to get it done.

There are three states of being: not knowing, action and completion.

Accept that every thing is a draft. It helps get it done.

There is no editing stage.

Pretending you know what you're doing is almost the same as knowing what you are doing , so just accept that you know what you're doing even if you don't and do it.

Banish procrastination.

If you wait more than a week to get an idea done, abandon it. The point of being done is not to finish but to get other things done. Once you're done you can throw it away.

Laugh at perfection. It's boring and keeps you from being done. People without dirty hands are wrong.

Doing something makes you right. Failure counts as done, so do mistakes. Destruction is a variant of done.

If you have an idea and publish it on the internet, that counts as a ghost of done.

Done is the engine of more.

E-Center

Its open- the building was done through the last money left in the 1994 bond issue- spent before the state took the money.

It is an incredible building. The post and beam makes it look so much more like an office than a school- as it was supposed to be.

We called in 10 local entrepreneurs to brainstorm and partner with us. May 10th will be an official opening bringing in lots of business people to The Met.

Entrepreneur is a sexy word these days. We will try to take advantage of the new building.

Jodie and Bill have done great work over the past years. It is time to help other Big Picture schools and others to start their own. A group from Westport, CT is already planning to come. Time to set up a business helping others become entrepreneurial.

Again, we never waiver from our mission/vision and that is helping our students transform themselves through an interest or passion. Every year we see it happen at The E Center. In the Boston Globe this week they quote our junior, Anthony DeFelipo, " everybody has a spark inside of them that's just waiting to be lit. They just have to find something they're good at and they love. Entrepreneurship was my spark."

College

Coming to the end of the semester- 35 exhibitions to see- oh my. I'm off to New Orleans to see our adult college students there.

Peace,

Dennis

From Elliot

"Work consists of whatever a body is obliged to do. Play consists of whatever a body is not obliged to do." Mark Twain



Hawkman

Am I a happy guy or what? I'm so happy in this photo that I'm starting to look like this young Harris Hawk. This bird has just turned another chapter in her life. In July while my



falconer friend Javier was on training maneuvers with her, she took off and didn't come back. A week before Thanksgiving, he spotted her flying around in a canyon about 9 miles from where he last saw her and lured her back with a dead pigeon. She survived because she is not a pet but like all hawks a wild

bird. When you stare at them, they stare right back at you. Falconers have a relationship, not a friendship with their bird. They both are with one another because they gain something from hunting together.

Right now, I'm reading *A History of the World In 100 Objects* by Neil MacGregor, Director of the British Museum. Before the book came out MacGregor produced it as a BBC4 radio show. The idea was to get listeners to use their imagination to visualize the objects. Considering that 95 percent of human history was never written down by the people who lived it, objects become even more valuable to give us an indication of how we developed and how we are connected. This is quite an extraordinary book for many reasons. It challenges lots of assumptions about other cultures and the western viewpoint of dominance in history. Also, MacGregor is a champion of making and how language arises. Here's a quote:

"Recently, scientists have looked at what happens neurologically when a stone tool is being made. They have used modern hospital scanners to see which bits of the brain are activated as knappers work their stone. Surprisingly, the areas of the modern brain that you use when you're making a handaxe overlap considerably with those you use when you speak. It now seems likely that if you can shape a stone you can shape a sentence.

The follow-up meeting in NYC with i-Zone 360 group from last week's visit to the Met turned out well. Charlie and I met with a smaller part of the team and we all got clearer and clearer on what our potential roles could be as a thought partner, designer and support for schools coaches. We'll know more in a few weeks.

After my meeting with the i-zone people, I spent a few hours a up at the Fannie Lou Hammer school with Jeff Palladino and Nancy Mann. This school is one of the sole survivors of the small school initiative that began 17 years ago. It is still thriving. As part of the visit, I got to go to two great internship sites Rock the Boat and Iridescent. Both had students from the Guild there as well.



A few weeks back [Ren'e Morel, Master Restorer of Rare Violins, Died at 79](#)

"Mr. Morel has been widely described as among the finest violin restorers - perhaps the very finest - of his day, a calling that requires in equal measure the skills of diagnostician, acoustician and microsurgeon."

How did he know when an instrument was in tune? He got goosebumps.

Next week, I'm in DC to do a webinar on Expanded Learning Opportunities put on by the Alliance for Excellent Education. Then back to the west coast where I'll meet with Sir Ken Robinson for lunch and then head off to MUSE.

Enjoy the weekend