



Happy Holidays



December/2009

Marzano is Coming!

Save the date

January 14

Santa Clara

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Professional
Judgment

Bob Blackney argues that

The Curriculum Feed

Dear Scott,

Season's Greeting to California educators!

Be on the look for registration information for our next professional development event that will be co-sponsored with CUE Inc. The workshop, featuring **Robert Marzano**, is scheduled for **January 14th at the Santa Clara County Office of Education** from 3-5 p.m. Registration information will be posted on our website at www.cascd.org and the CUE website at www.cue.org. Robert Marzano will be speaking about his research on the use of interactive white boards and other technology tools in the classroom.

Please take a few minutes to respond to the proposed CASCD bylaw amendments before January 15th at <http://www.cascd.org/information/bylaws.php>.

On behalf of the CASCD Leadership Council, I wish everyone a joyous holiday season.

[Mike Hendricks](#)
CASCD President

Race to the Top in California

The [RttT competition](#) is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. On November 19, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell joined Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to urge the California

professional judgment is the best approach to mitigating problems associated with technology. [Read his post](#) on the [TICAL](#) blog, TBLOGICAL

Arne Duncan on fixing American Schools

Learn what US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan had to say to education leaders say at the Wallace Foundation ([click for video](#)).

Getting Teachers to use Tech

Tech & Learning suggest three powerful ways to get teacher to begin incorporating technology into their practice.

1. Install a digital projector.
2. Show them how a document camera works.
3. Build vision for how to create a more authentic audience for student work.

The three most important factors:
Training
Training
Training

What Works Clearinghouse

New from the WWC, [Structuring Out-of-School Time to Improve Academic Achievement](#). Join an interactive [Webinar by REL Midwest](#).

State Assembly to accelerate their work on Race to the Top bills in order to ensure California's eligibility to compete for these federal funds.

"Developing California's Race to the Top application is challenging us all to think hard and think differently about how we can close the achievement gap and improve achievement for all students," [O'Connell said](#).

The [Governor stated](#), "We will focus on the bottom 5 percent of our consistently low-performing schools. We will allow parents more freedom so they can move the kids from a low-performing school if they're not happy to another school or to another district. We will also reinforce a school district's authority to reward the teachers. There are a lot of great teachers around and if they consistently show that they are great and they improve the test scores of the kids they should get rewards for that. We will repeal California's charter school cap. We will increase the accountability by linking student achievement and teacher performance, which is very important."

Follow the movement of RttT on the CDE website ([click here](#)).

Bylaw Changes ... your VOTE requested!

[California ASCD](#), a non-profit organization, operates under the provision of established bylaws. In June 2009, the [Leadership Council](#) undertook work to modernize the bylaws. A draft was completed in October. Accordingly, any bylaw changes must be voted upon by the current membership.



An executive summary is on our Website ([click here](#)).

Please review the [current](#) and [proposed](#) bylaw documents and cast your vote by January 15, 2010 ([click here to vote](#)).

Educators debate value of play in early-childhood education

With increasing pressure on early-childhood education programs to promote math and literacy skills, educators are debating the value of play in preschool and early elementary grades. "Play is problem-solving," said one Virginia educator. "It's really critical life skills." While some studies show that students who attended play-based preschool programs develop better socially and emotionally later in life, time for play is increasingly being pushed aside for more instruction aimed at achieving higher test scores ([Washington Post 11/21](#)).

Curriculum Snack

The answer to low achievement and misbehavior might just be a good night's sleep. Enjoy a snack from the December issue of [Educational Leadership](#). Read the article titled:

[Sleep: the E-ZZZ Intervention](#).



New Charter gives Students Fresh Start

A new independent-study charter school in California's San Diego County is using personalized instruction to offer a fresh academic start for its students, many of whom are working to support families or have dropped out of more

traditional schools. Much of the instruction at the charter school is one-on-one or in classes of up to 10 students. Without the extracurricular frills offered at conventional schools, a business-like atmosphere sets the stage for students to take their education more seriously ([San Diego Union-Tribune 11/19](#)).

Wikipedia Founder turns to Education Videos Larry Sanger, who helped create Wikipedia and has since left the organization, says the new site, www.watchknow.org, will allow students and teachers to sort through a library of online videos by content, and pick out what they need. Topics range from math and science to history. The site is meant to house and organize videos that are free and available online, yet which most people don't know how to find.

Educate to Innovate President Obama recently launched an "Educate to Innovate" campaign to improve the participation and performance of America's students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). This campaign will include efforts not only from the Federal Government but also from leading companies, foundations, non-profits, and science and engineering societies to work with young people across America to excel in science and math ([learn more](#)).

California Curriculum Nibbles

- A revised Matrix of all California assessments can be found at the CDE ([click here](#)).
- Join **Marzano in Santa Clara on January 14**. Listen to Robert Marzano talk about Critical Transformations ([click here](#)).
- Follow the latest news on California's effort to **Race to the Top** ([click here](#)).
- [WestEd free webinars](#) this month: Dec 2 ([Making Math Accessible for ELL](#)) Dec 8 ([What happens to dropouts who return to school?](#)).
- Donuts for Dads brings male role models to LA USD ([LA Times 11/18](#)).
- At-risk Fremont high school students prepare for the Law ([San Francisco Chronicle 11/16](#)).
- Enrollment down at traditional schools, up at charter schools ([LA Times 11/5](#)).
- [Kate Kinsella on Literacy & Learning](#) online video from Taking Center Stage - Act II.
- Charter school proposes Arabic-language immersion program ([San Jose Mercury 11/3](#)).
- School Leadership Crisis brewing in California ([Education Week 11/4](#)).
- Struggling Pasadena high school sees notable turnaround ([LA Times 11/1](#)).
- Multiple Pathways in California: An Emerging Option for HS Reform ([EdSource November](#)).
- Need a flu shot? Enter your zip code into the Google flu-shot map and find the nearest clinic for regular flu or N1H1 shots ([click here](#)).



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