



Curriculum Feed

February 2011

California ASCD
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Dear Scott,

[California ASCD](#) just finished a round of successful Mike Schmoker workshops with 165 educators learning about key essentials for classroom practices. Watch our [Feed](#) for details on future workshops.

With the addition of an [Executive Director](#), we've updated our bylaws. If you are a CASCD member, please [review the bylaw changes](#) and [vote your position by February 18](#). If you are not a member, you are missing out on a range of benefits that includes discounts at future CASCD workshops. I encourage you to [join today!](#)

This month's Curriculum Feed issue includes education headlines from around California as well as challenging articles that address the call for rigorous science instruction and "teaching screenagers".

It's not too late to register for the [International ASCD Conference](#) in San Francisco, March 26-28. The largest educator conferences in the county.

Finally, as March fast approaches, it will be extremely important for educators to get to local legislators to be sure that the Governor's proposed extension of taxes makes it to a June special election. The loss of that revenue will be devastating to public schools in the years to come.

On behalf of the CASCD Leadership Council, I wish everyone a great month of February.

[Mike Hendricks](#), California ASCD President

MEMBERS ONLY - Bylaw Vote Requested

The [Leadership Council](#) of California ASCD is proposing an update to our bylaws that support the changes recommended by ASCD Affiliate Task Force Study. Please take a moment to review the bylaw changes ([click here](#) - changes are in **green**).



Thank you ...
California ASCD Leadership Council

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Pearson announced a significant
update to PowerTeacher™

Mobile, the free app that allows teachers to monitor student
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Pearson, the global leader in education technology and services,
PowerTeacher Mobile 1.1 features the enhancements that teachers
have most requested and is designed to make grading on-the-go
easier than ever before ... [complete details](#).

Teaching the iGeneration



DIGITAL SNACK

In the February 2011 issue of
[Educational Leadership](#), Larry Rosen
challenges us, "Our children and youth
are immersed in technologies that give
them opportunities no previous
generation has enjoyed. How will
schools respond?"

Watch typical teens or preteens at
home, and you will see them constantly
switching between their laptop, cell
phone, television, MP3 player, and video
game console with apparent ease. In

school, we require them to multitask by
listening to the teacher, completing worksheets, writing with pen and
paper, or engaging in other solitary activities.

Of course, using technology to enhance education doesn't mean
that we should move classes totally online. Students need face-to-
face social interaction, especially in the primary and middle school
grades. It doesn't mean that teachers should simply assign work on
computers and let students find their own way. It doesn't mean
providing technology in the classroom for technology's sake.
Nor should teachers feel responsible for finding educational
technologies to use in their classrooms. Teachers are required to
teach specific content. The point is not to "teach with technology"
but to use technology to convey content more powerfully and
efficiently ... [full article](#).

Too Dumb for Complex Tasks?

CURRICULUM SNACK

In the February 2011 issue of [Educational Leadership](#), Professor
[Mark Bauerlein](#) challenges educators to re-think the glamor of
multitasking. "Students used to multitasking and hopping from link to
link will have difficulty tackling complex texts-and college-level
reading."

Back in September 2008, some 3 million people in the United States
became college freshmen-the largest cohort ever. But the weeks
before school started brought a setback. The students took a
placement test, and many found that they probably wouldn't be able

ASCD International Conference in San Francisco



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world. **March 26-28.**

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Governor Brown State of the State

"My intention is to make
California again a leader in
job creation, renewable
energy and state of the art
efficiency, innovation of all
kinds and a solid primary and
secondary education."
[Complete Address](#)

Tax Extensions prop K-12
Schools ... [OC Register](#)

Local leaders pledge support

calculus or freshman composition course, chances are they would fail. They had graduated from high school, but they didn't have the knowledge and skills to tackle readings, tests, and papers at the next level. So the college assigned these freshmen to a remedial unit in math, reading, or writing-a precollege course for no credit that aimed to send them into spring semester ready to earn grades of C or higher. That's the fate of 43 percent of students at two-year public colleges and 29 percent of students at four-year public colleges (Strong American Schools, 2008; U.S. Department of Education, 2003) ... [complete article](#).

NAEP Science Results Spur Science Education

Ability to Innovate and Compete Globally Linked to US Science Knowledge

The [2009 NAEP science results](#) are based on a new assessment framework that assesses students' knowledge on physical, life, and earth/space sciences.

The recent results reveal that fewer than half of the students at the 4th, 8th and 12th grade level are proficient in science. Equally alarming is that very few students - no more than one or two percent - performed at the advanced level.

"*Science drives innovation, which in turn drives the economy,*" said Stephen Pruitt, Vice President for Content, Research and Development. "*Science is at the heart of the United States' ability to compete and lead, which of course means that all students - whether they become technicians in a lab, PhD researchers or simply consumers - must all have a solid K-12 science education.*"

The National Research Council (NRC) is taking the first important step in improving science education by drafting a conceptual science framework. A draft framework was released for public comment last summer and the final framework is expected to be released this spring ... [details](#).

Recommended Reads



Mike Schmoker's newest book suggests Madeline Hunter was right! Schmoker, nationally renowned education researcher, says that Hunter's "*basic model is the key to ensuring all students learn the most*

worthy content and intellectual skills." In [Focus: Elevating the Essentials to Radically Improve Student Learning](#), Schmoker clearly frames a handful of instructional essentials that can close the achievement gap in five years or less.

Recommend a good read to your colleagues ... [click here](#).

Obama on Education

The 2011 State of the Union address put education front-and-center on the national agenda. "*This is our generation's Sputnik moment.*" ... [Ed Week](#).

Read [Dr. Gene Carter's response](#) to Obama's speech in light of ASCD's [Whole Child Initiative](#).

Google now searches by Reading Level

Google search engine now reports page results by reading levels. Click the "Advanced Tab" in a Google Search; then select the reading level.

Top 10 FREE Sites for Images & Clip Art

Pictures are worth 1,000 words. David Kapuler from Tech & Learning offers 10 links to grab FREE images: [Pics4Learning](#) - Very popular site to find free, safe-to-use images for teachers and students.

[Cyclo.ps](#) - Search engine that searches the most popular free image engines around and provides one-stop shopping.

[School Clip Art](#) - Great site for free school clip art.

[Ookaboo](#) - Creative commons (free) site for finding great images for class work.

[Picsearch](#) - Excellent image search engine, if used with a district's filtering solution.

[Veezzle](#) - Wonderful free stock photo search engine.

[Google Swirl](#) - Innovative way to search for images and see their relationships with each other (use with Google Safe Search enabled).

[Free Photo Bank](#) - Easy way to find creative common images.

[Open Clip Art](#) - Great way to find free clip art.

[Find Icons](#) - Nice site for free icons.



Promoting exemplary practices that ensure all learners reach their fullest potential.

Curriculum Nibbles from California

- **Tom Torlakson** is sworn in as California's Chief Superintendent ... [CDE Press](#)
- **Schools of the Future**, a speech by Superintendent Torlakson ... [CDE Press](#)
- Palo Alto pushes **GATE kids in regular math** classrooms ... [SJ Mercury News](#)
- Learn how mentoring helps **retain California science teachers** ... [EdWeek Teacher](#)
Learn how Manzanita Elementary narrows achievement gap ... [Oakland Tribune](#)
- LA Archdiocese adopts **200-day calendar** for elementary ... [LA Times](#)
- International **science scores released**; California trails ... [Daily News](#)
- Torlekson addresses **dropout crisis** ... [Ventura Star](#)
- 2010 Elections bring **new faces to CDE** ... [California Watch](#)
- **Education funding** in California; get the latest update from [ACSA](#)
- Bay Area promotes **parents as key education partners** ... [Silicon Valley Ed Foundation](#)
- Vista USD merges magnet schools to **expand IB** program ... [North County Times](#)
- March Forum on The **Future for Public Education** in California ... [EdSource](#)
- California judge **limits teacher seniority** in LA teacher layoff ... [LA Times](#)

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