



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



Curriculum Feed January 2011

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Dear Scott,

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Happy New Year to California educators! Now's the time to register for our January workshops with [Mike Schmoker](#). He will present a **two-part session**. The first begins with an encounter with what Jim Collins calls the "*brutal facts about those practices which educators know are important, but which have yet to occur in classrooms.*" The second part moves to an **interactive workshop**. Participants will learn about the simple elements most essential to substantive, measurable improvement. **Bonus:** [Mike's newest book](#) will be on sale. [Click here for Workshop register!](#)



Schmoker Workshop

From Brutal Facts to Best Schools

January 27
Southern CA - Rosemead
University of the West
1409 N. Walnut Grove Ave

January 28
Central CA - Tulare
Tulare County Office of
Education, ERS Building -
Elderwood Room
7000 Doe Ave

[Register Today!](#)

Also plan to attend the International ASCD Conference in San Francisco in March. It's the largest educator conferences in the county ([details](#)).

On behalf of the CASCD Leadership Council, I wish everyone a very successful and productive 2011.

[Mike Hendricks](#)
CASCD President.

Membership Special

Join [CASCD](#) and [CUE](#) for one low price ... [click for details](#).

CURRICULUM SNACK - Merit Pay Misfires



The current issue of [Educational Leadership](#) includes an article by Al Ramirez on the caution policy makers should take when linking pay for performance. Ramirez states, "Merit pay- the newly rediscovered answer to what ails

U.S. public education- will come and go like so many previous "good ideas" that tinker with the system. If we're lucky, it will only delay genuine progress. If we're not, it will do real harm and set the system back."

Like most fads, merit pay is based on shaky theories and false assumptions. Ramirez goes on to list a few, then details the main concerns and offers policy makers some sage advice ... [read more](#).

Project-Based Learning for the New Year!

Project-Based Learning is a growing approach in schools seeking to engage students in rigorous, thought-provoking work. Grant Zimmerman, Senior Education Consultant with [Knowledge Network Solutions](#) Leaders in Technology Integration in Schools, shares seven fantastic website that open wide the door of project-based learning ... [complete article](#).

RECOMMENDED READS



Researcher, writer, lecturer, and former high school teacher Alfie Kohn has penned a number of books calling for the humanity inside the work of teaching and warning policy makers about the ill effects of a system built on testing. In his earlier

work, [The Schools our Children Deserve](#), Kohn states, "*our public education system is killing our kids' ability and interest in learning. In fact, just stroll into the school of your choice and you'd be hard-pressed to find a classroom that doesn't look, sound, smell, and feel exactly like the one where you spent so many of your uninspired days. But hey, that's the way the mavens of The Old School, aka The Back-to-Basics Movement, like it. It was bad enough for them, it's bad enough for their kids.*"

Drawing upon hundreds of sources - scientific studies, scholarly articles and books - Kohn skillfully exposes the real status quo in American education and proposes a way out of the darkness.

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

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FREE Webinars

Jan 4 - 2:00 PM | ASCD
[Leading and Managing a Differentiated Classroom](#)

Jan 12 - 10:30 AM | WestEd
[Accommodating Students with Disabilities](#)

Jan 19 - 10:30 AM | WestEd
[Programs & Practices for Effective Sheltered Content Instruction](#)

Jan 27 - 2:00 PM | TICAL
[Responding to the Leadership Challenge](#)

Job Posting

[Concordia University Irvine](#) seeking: **Director of Special Education**
Program starts in 2011
Send cover letter, resume to:
karen.strubbe@cui.edu

ASCD
International
Conference
in San Francisco



Largest ed. conf. in the world.
March 26-28
Early Bird Special before

Jan 8

[Register Now!](#)

DIGITAL SNACK - Robot Teachers with a Human Face



After years of hype, robot teachers have finally rolled into the classrooms. The Daegu Office of Education introduced 29 robot teachers for English classes in 21 elementary schools - one of the largest rollouts in the world - and the bots strutted their stuff at a demonstration at Hakjung Elementary School yesterday, with about 150 government officials coming to get a look at the technology employed.

The 1-meter (3.28 feet) egg-shaped robot, named "Engkey" (an abbreviation of English key), spoke, asked questions and conversed in English with students, and even entertained the crowd by dancing to music. Within each robot is a real human teacher controlling the machine by remote from the Philippines. The teachers in the Philippines have cameras to record their faces - which show up on a flat panel screen that forms the robo-teacher's face - and they can also see the Korean students through a camera installed in the robot. Basically, the robot is a rolling Internet link between students and teacher, although the human teacher can also command the robot to make human gestures with its arms and wheels ... [complete story](#).

Creativity Matters

[Sue Shellenbarger](#), of the **Wall Street Journal** compiles a strong case for the importance of an education that fosters student creativity. When asked to design a board game to play with a friend, one student froze. "I can't think of anything." He asked if he could make a worksheet instead. Shellenbarger points to a recent study by Kyung Hee Kim of William and Mary College who finds that creativity test scores have fallen steadily from 1990 to 2008 ... [full article](#).

National Board Certified Teachers



On 15 December 2010, the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) released the names of 342 California teachers who achieved National Board Certification this year. National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT) status was granted to 30 teachers in

the certification area of mathematics and 23 in science. National Board Certification is a voluntary assessment program designed to recognize outstanding teachers, reward them, and increase their skills. While California sets basic teaching requirements, NBCTs have successfully demonstrated advanced teaching knowledge, skills, and practices. The certification process typically takes between one and three years to complete with a portfolio of student work samples, assignments, videotapes.

California's newly certified teachers bring the statewide total of NBCTs to 4,913 or about 2 percent of the state's teaching force. Nationwide, there are 91,000 NBCTs or about 3 percent of the nation's teaching force.

Visit [NBPTS](#) for information about the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and a listing of National Certified teachers in your area. California support for NBPTS ... [click here](#).

CURRICULUM NIBBLES

- San Diego schools highlight **7 innovative ideas** that are paying off ([Voice of SD](#))

- Microsoft **Voucher Funds resurface in California** @ \$5.31 per student ([CDE Website](#))
- 2011 **Calendar of Events** for California Department of Education ([CDE Website](#))
- 342 new National Certified Board California teachers ([NBPTS Calif support](#))
- **Quality teaching in California** can often get overlooked ([LA Times](#))
- EdSource postulates "**Challenging Times**" for California Schools ([EdSource](#))
- Lodi USD **shifts approach** to their Independent Study program ([Lodi News](#))
- How will **Obama's education agenda** fare under a new Congress ([NY Times](#))

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