



The Curriculum Feed ... January 2010

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

Dear Cathy,

Happy New Year to California educators!

There's still time to register for our upcoming professional development event that is co-sponsored with California CUE. The event, 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 <http://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 time to read all the informative articles in this month's Curriculum Feed. This month's issue has educational articles from ASCD and newspapers from around California. The Curriculum Feed also has information on Race to the Top and the California budget situation.

On behalf of the CASCD Leadership Council, I wish everyone a very successful and productive 2010.

Mike Hendricks
CASCD President

Marzano in California

Advancing Student Achievement Through Technology with Bob Marzano.

CUE & CASCD
Professional Seminar

January 14, 2010
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Successful Teaching in the Age of Accountability

Teaching in today's classroom is different. Teachers have to help their students come out as winners in a test-pressured environment. Examine the new book by education expert W. James Popham who presents a practical framework for teaching in the accountability age. [Read a sample chapter.](#)

Igniting a Passion for Reading

A newly released book by award-winning author Steven L. Layne provides classroom-based solutions to engage kids in all grades. When teaching reading, American classrooms often focus exclusively on skills instruction. But how can you teach the "how" without the "why?" Layne shows teachers how to develop readers who are not only motivated to read great books, but also love reading in its own right. The new book is packed with practical ways to engage and inspire readers from kindergarten through high school. [Browse the entire book online.](#)

Training Career-Track Students

A new master's degree program at California's Teachers College of San Joaquin - operated by and located in a county education office - trains teachers to work with students in career-focused education programs. "The scope of our work is around creating real teachers who are able to connect real life to high school rather than just having a teacher who is an academic expert or an expert in the career/technical side." ([The Record - Stockton 12/29](#))

Hands on Curriculum Engages Students

At [DaVinci High School in Hawthorne](#) students engage in project-based learning, hands-on activities and cooperative group work to learn high-level physics principles. Check out the four-foot tall roller coaster constructed entirely out of paper. Students report a high level of enthusiasm about their learning. ([LA Times 12/29](#))

Music Makes Math

Educators in a California district are using a program that promotes music instruction as a way to help elementary-school students learn math. Created by the MIND Research Institute, the program features music lessons that help develop critical-thinking and reasoning skills thought to be essential for success in math. "Music is closely tied to how they're going to do in math," one teacher said. ([San Diego Union-Tribune 12/19](#)).



Curriculum Snack

Helping Self-Harming Students

Student self-harming is one of the most perplexing and challenging behaviors that administrators, teachers, nurses, and counseling staff encounter in their schools. Approximately 14 to 17 percent of children up to age 18 have deliberately cut, scratched, pinched, burned, or bruised themselves at least once (Whitlock, 2009), with 5 to 8 percent of adolescents actively engaging in this behavior (J. Whitlock, personal communication, September 27, 2009). [Read full article in ASCD Educational Leadership Dec/Jan issue.](#)

Moderinzing Education in Napa

Barry Schuler, the former CEO of America Online, has been working for the past 10 years to improve and modernize education in Napa, Calif., and the results have spread to 40 schools nationwide. At a private elementary school Schuler helped found, students learn through collaboration and a project-based curriculum. Those philosophies are also in effect in the Napa Valley district's New Technology High School, with which Schuler is involved, and he is pushing for officials to adopt the high school's curriculum districtwide. [Napa Valley Register 12/28.](#)

California Curriculum Nibbles

- Congratulations to **Sandy Clifton** for her election to ASCD's Leadership Council Board of Directors.
- WestEd FREE Webinar **January 13**, "Educating Overage and Undercredited Youth: Continuatino High Schools." [Click here to registrar.](#)
- From the [Center on Innovation and Improvement](#), the new latest document on [Improving Low Performing Schools](#) was released with findings from 6 states including California.
- Race to the TOP in California. [Click here](#) to see which **districts** have signed on.
- New survey on teacher's attitudes toward social networking in schools. [click here.](#)
- Get the latest on budget news ... Budget Perspectives 2010 workshops. [click here.](#)
- How effective are the UC Prep online courses? [click here](#)
- Find supplemental information and valuable resources for the CAHSEE. [click here.](#)
- Grant funds available for after school programs (ASES). Application deadline is January 29. [click here for grant details](#) | [click here for California After School Network.](#)



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