

Curriculum *re*View

CIA Director - Dr. Joe Pierce

Dear PC Colleagues

I have the pleasure of visiting with a variety of educators from all levels and from across our district on an ongoing basis.

The level of expertise and professionalism of our faculty and staff is astonishing! Many teachers are involved in valuable collaboration meetings each week and engage in professional reflection related to how to improve their practice-- and at the same time reach every student and ensure high quality learning for all.

As our district staff continues to hone their craft and develop effective collaboration skills during weekly PLC meetings, I feel certain that many will have the opportunity to further develop their own leadership skills among their peers. To some, this role is a natural one that they put on with ease. For others, this role is not as natural and may be a less comfortable fit. Regardless of the category in which you might find yourself, teachers working closely with other teachers is a concept whose time has come-- and is long past due. Breaking the isolation of teachers who have traditionally been teaching in their individual classrooms with minimal professional dialog with other professionals is a thing of the past!

So, how does a teacher maneuver the subtle dynamics of leadership among fellow colleagues? Here are some helpful tips that I recently found: (continued pg. 2)

Ann Bradshaw, - Staff Development

Putnam City Dedicated to New Teacher Training

Putnam City Schools' New Teacher Academy, August 3-5, 2009 is a training opportunity provided to all first-year teachers in our district. Two training days are designed for all new teachers to the district. One additional day, Steppin' Into My Teacher Shoes, is provided for entry-year teachers only. Breakfast and lunch are provided each day along with a small stipend.

Steppin' Into My Teacher Shoes

Steppin' Into My Teacher Shoes is a training day provided to all entry-year teachers in Putnam City schools. Trainers are Putnam City master teachers who have a passion for guiding new teachers.

Training is provided for all grade levels at the elementary and by middle school/high school grouping at the secondary. Special Education also provides specialized training during this day. This training is held in an actual classroom set up for learning.

Elementary

Elementary teachers have two days of training with our district curriculum specialists. Curriculum maps, testing information, resources and model lessons are covered. Workshops include all content areas and grade levels.

Secondary

Secondary teachers have one day of training with district curriculum specialists. Curriculum maps, testing information, item specifications and resources are covered. Day two includes instructional strategies and how to incorporate these strategies into your daily lessons. These workshops are content specific.

Special Education

Elementary and secondary special education teachers are trained on Response to Intervention (RTI) and teacher roles, portfolio and modified assessments, and IEP writing.

Technology

Teachers are trained using the programs available to Putnam City Schools. Powerschool, Gradebook, attendance, E-mail, and online report card use are taught in one session. Use of specific technology available to PC teachers is taught in the second session.

English Language Learners (ELL)

Trainers provide multiple strategies for working with the ELL student. Marzano's Classroom Instruction That Works with ELL is the text. (continued pg. 2)

Practical Spanish for Teachers

If you are interested in a crash course in Spanish, Practical Spanish for Teachers is for you. Please log on to .PC to register. The class will be held from June 8th through 12th at the PC Center in Conference Room A from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. This is a limited learning opportunity for 15 teachers. You will receive 15 professional development points for your attendance. No stipend will be paid. Please plan to attend all five days.

The course is designed with your needs in mind. The knowledge you will acquire from this crash course will help you communicate with your newcomers and their parents. In addition to instruction, you will be provided with essential tools to construct your own knowledge long after the week is over. The purpose of this course is to teach you how to read, speak, and write basic Spanish. In short, it is a survival Spanish course for teachers.

Jean Laine' is the instructor

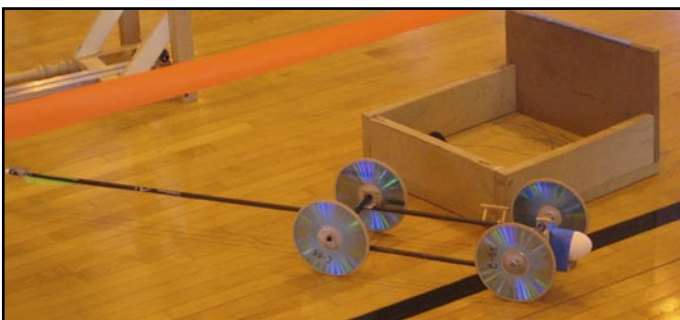
Science - Bob Melton

Schools Win State Science Olympiad

The fifth annual Oklahoma Science Olympiad Tournament was held on April 11th at Putnam City High School. The Division C (grades 9-12) winner was the Putnam City North Olympiad team coached by Celeste Taylor. The Division B (grades 6-8) winner was the Mayfield Middle School team coached by Vanessa Berry.

The tournament consisted of 30 separate events set up and judged by a dedicated team of staff from Putnam City Schools. Judges and helpers included: Jeff Hart, Cindy Watson and her husband Jamie Watson, from Hefner MS; Celeste Taylor, from PC North; Lesa Rohrer, Jody Bowie, Amy Tankersley, Amber Reed, and Steve Stark from Putnam City High School; Fern Melton from Western Oaks Middle School; and Bob Melton from Putnam City Schools Administration.

Both teams qualified to represent Oklahoma in the National Science Olympiad Tournament in Augusta, Georgia in late May.



New Teacher (continued)

Children Of Poverty

This training provides insight on teaching all students to succeed. Ruby Payne's work is referenced.

Joe Pierce (continued)

In the February Educational Leadership article, Washington State University/ Vancouver professor Jason Margolis writes about the "subtle dynamics"



involved in teacher leaders working successfully to change instructional practices in their schools. Teachers learn best, he says, when they are actively involved, are in a comfortable environment, see theoretical material grounded in classroom examples, and the teacher leader understands that they might feel overworked, overwhelmed, and underappreciated. Margolis suggests that teacher leaders:

- Use humor. This reduces tension, alters the power dynamics, and produces a more relaxed atmosphere for adult learning.
- Work with teachers in all content areas. Don't limit yourself to your own subject area (e.g., literacy); find ways of applying insights across content areas.
- Be brief. Limit direct instruction to 5-15 minutes and then give colleagues a chance to practice techniques, observe others practicing, and debrief.
- Stress easy implementation. Key phrases include: "Takes no prep time", "Actually helps us to go faster", "Adaptable", "Flexible."
- Build on teachers' existing work. Start by asking teachers to share approaches they are using, validate their work, and then ask them to consider how the new ideas might complement what they're doing.
- Model continual learning. Admit the struggles you've had implementing these ideas with students – while showing a hunger for new approaches to address classroom challenges.
- Include samples of student work. You'll be more successful if you show work your own students have produced.
- Don't talk too much; shift the focus to participants.
- Don't focus solely on your own classroom; help teachers find connections to their own classrooms.
- Don't lecture and then ask, "Any questions?" This is usually greeted by silence.
- Don't overload teachers with too many strategies.

Article summarized by Kim Marshall, www.marshallmemo.com "How Teachers Lead Teachers" by Jason Margolis in *Educational Leadership*, February 2009 (Vol. 66, #5, online only); Margolis is at Margolis@vancouver.wsu.edu; article available at:

http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational_leadership/feb09/vol66/num05/How_Teachers_Lead_Teachers.aspx

Announcing Exhibits in Oklahoma!

Open Now -

Another Hot Oklahoma Night! A Rock and Roll Exhibit 2009 - Oklahoma History Center

This exhibit will amaze even the most knowledgeable music aficionado, and the opening festivities will be the largest most fun packed event since the opening of the History Center. There will be 14 different bands on three stages playing from 11-5. Bands featured include: Oh Johnny! Girls, Camille Harp, Unmarked Cars, and Crocodile. Family friendly activities include Guitar Hero, Tie dye booth, rock star makeovers, and costume contest for your favorite era in Rock and Roll history. There will also be a stage set up like a concert venue for photo opportunities. ALL EVENTS ARE FREE! For more information see www.anotherhotoklahomanight.org

Deadly Medicine - Science Museum Oklahoma - From 1933 to 1945, Nazi Germany carried out a campaign to “cleanse” German society of individuals viewed as biological threats to the nation’s “health.” Enlisting the help of physicians and medically trained geneticists, psychiatrists, and anthropologists, the Nazis implemented racial health policies based on the ideals of eugenics that began with the mass sterilization of “genetically diseased” persons and ended with the near annihilation of European Jewry. This landmark exhibition will challenge visitors to connect the past to the present, and, as a result, to become more responsible and responsive human beings. On exhibit now through July 5, 2009.

For additional information on Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race visit the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum at <http://www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/online/deadlymedicine/>

May is:

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month: Congress passed a joint resolution in 1978 to commemorate Asian American Heritage Week during the first week of May. This date was chosen because two important anniversaries occurred during this time: the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants in America on May 7, 1843 and completion of the transcontinental railroad (by many Chinese laborers) on May 10, 1869. Congress later voted to expand it to a month long celebration. Many festivals are planned around the country.

Older Americans Month was established in 1963 by John F. Kennedy. When this was established only 17 million Americans reached their 65th birthday and about a third of older Americans lived in poverty and there were few programs to meet their needs. By 2030, one in every five Americans will be 65 or older. Many illnesses and disabilities are preventable. Nearly 40% of deaths in America can be attributed to poor health habits. Nearly 20% of Americans age 55 and older experience depression and anxiety disorders. Studies have shown that engaging in social activities within the community can greatly improve mental health.

Cinco de Mayo - commemorates the Mexican Army’s unlikely defeat of French forces at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862, under the leadership of Mexican General Ignacio Zaragoza Seguín. The battle was significant for two reasons: While outnumbered almost two-to-one the Mexicans defeated a much better-equipped French Army that had known no defeat for almost 50 years. This was also the last time that an army from another continent invaded the Americas. Although not a federal holiday in Mexico, the date is observed in the United States as a celebration of Mexican heritage and pride.

May 10 - The “Golden Spike” was the “Last Spike” driven by Leland Stanford to join the rails of the First Transcontinental Railroad across the U.S. connecting the Central Pacific and Union Pacific Railroads on May 10, 1869 at Promontory Summit, Utah.

Bike to Work Day - The third Friday of May promoting the bicycle as an option for commuting to work.

Memorial Day - last Monday of May, formerly known as Decoration Day, it commemorates U.S. men and women who died while in military service to their country. First enacted to honor Union soldiers of the American Civil War, it is celebrated near the day of reunification after the Civil War, it was expanded after WWI to include American casualties of any war or military action.

Secondary Language Arts - Elizabeth Bailey

Ending the School Year on a High Note: Some Tips from ReadWriteThink.org

Reading Today’s April issue offers some engaging lessons and activities from ReadWriteThink.org including these:

- “Building Classroom Community through the Exploration of Acrostic Poetry”—Students brainstorm positive character traits about one of their classmates using an online thesaurus and compose an acrostic poem using an online tool.
- “Giving Voice to Students Through ‘This I Believe’ Podcasts”—Students write and record their own essays using the National Public Radio format. They can post their podcast on a class blog.
- These lessons and more are available at www.readwritethink.org/lessons/index.asp
- There’s also a Learning Beyond the Classroom section, which includes at-home activities for students of all ages. Go to www.readwritethink.org/beyondtheclassroom/summer where you’ll find a printable flier that you can send home with your students.
- Also, check out the ReadWriteThink.org May calendar for activities related to Get Caught Reading Month at www.readwritethink.org/calendar

Superintendent's Arts Awards of Excellence Awards Ceremony

The State Superintendent's Arts Awards of Excellence 19th Annual Awards Ceremony took place April 27th, 2009 in Guthrie, Oklahoma inside the Scottish Rites Temple. Over 420 attended the event that recognized 111 students statewide, a board, and administrators. Special guests outstanding in their chosen arts disciplines or in support of high quality arts education in their school, district, community or state were also honored. State Superintendent Sandy Garrett, the Oklahoma Masonic Fraternity and the Oklahoma Alliance for Arts Education hosted the event. A reception preceded the awards ceremony. Student winners performed and exhibited artwork. The Oklahoma Alliance an affiliate of the Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network presented medallions to each of the students honored. The ceremony this year was conducted by Anne Guevara, current Chair of the Oklahoma Alliance for Arts Education, Anne is also the Putnam City District Orchestra Chair and teacher at Putnam City West High School.

The district has been proud to be honored in every category in previous years under the categories of outstanding board, administrators and educators in addition to student awards.

The students recognized this year were Kelsey Fisher, Putnam City North and Dexter Settles, Putnam City West in Drama; Katie Bowles, Putnam City West and Levi Dobrinski, Putnam City North in Orchestra; Victoria Korreect, Putnam City West and Jaclyn Owens, Putnam City North in Visual Art.

The awards given are the result of a juried application process that takes into consideration all aspects of the applicant's life at all levels under the arts, leadership skills, academics, school and community involvements and personal testimonies.

The student recipients honored along with their teachers and supporters help assure that solid, secure arts education programs develop and flourish in all Oklahoma Public Schools.



Pictured at the State Superintendent's Arts Awards of Excellence are (left to right) Levi Dobrinski (PCN), Dexter Settles (PCW), Victoria Korreect (PCW), and Kelsey Fisher, (PCN)

Secondary Math - Tammy Gambrell

Math Opportunities

Here are some summer secondary math opportunities. If you are interested in attending any of these or have any questions please contact Tammy Gambrell tgambrell@putnamcityschools or 495-5200 ext 1289

June 3 - Benchmark Revisions 6th, 7th, 8th, Alg 1, Alg 2, and Geometry

June 5 - ACT Standards Alignment for Transitions

June 15 - 19 — Algebra I teacher workshop - OC grant

June 17 - Regional conference with the State Dept of Ed - held in Putnam City

July 31 - Workshop for Algebra I teachers with Francis Tuttle

CareerTech- Melinda Porterfield

Career Tech Grants

Putnam City Career Tech Programs have applied for grants through the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education. The grants are available for Career Tech Programs located in Comprehensive High Schools and Middle Schools.

The funds are intended to be used for technology to enhance our programs. Priority will be given to the use of funds to support the implementation/enhancement of Career Clusters, Pathways, and Career Majors.

The deadline was May 1st and teachers will be notified by June 1, 2009 if they receive the grant. An anticipated \$1,300,000 in **state lottery funds** will be available for the grants.



Upcoming Inservice

Looking for an Inservice to attend? Here is a list of some of the opportunities in the next few weeks:

Keep track of your professional development points with a new form added to the Professional Development Learning Community. Just download and save to your desktop and add workshops as you go.

Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities

Dr. Ruby Payne
June 10, 2009 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Meridian Convention Center
Oklahoma City, OK
\$100 per CCOSA Member including lunch
www.ccosa.org to register

CCOSA Summer Conference
June 11 and 12, 2009
Meridian Convention Center
Oklahoma City, OK
\$65.00 per CCOSA member including lunch
www.ccosa.org to register

Practical Spanish for Teachers
June 8-12
Putnam City Administration

Sign up on .PC

PASS it on!

2009 State Superintendent's Regional Curriculum Conference featuring presentations from members of the Oklahoma Master Teachers Project.

All Curriculum Areas

All Grade Levels

Wednesday, June 17
Somewhere

Registration information go to www.sde.state.ok.us

Summer Personal Finance Academy

The Oklahoma Council on Economic Education will hold its 2nd annual Summer Personal Finance Academy June 15-26 at UCO in Edmond. The Academy will provide participants with free curricula, materials, and tools to teach the Personal Finance Literacy standards. <http://www.ocee-ok.org/09%20Personal%20Finance%20Academy.pdf>

Language Arts Curriculum Update Meetings

May 4—MS English Vertical Team Leaders (3:15) and HS English Department Chairs (4:15) meeting at Los Amigos.

May 6—Eighth Grade English Curriculum Update, 3:15-5:15, Central Conference Room, Administration Building

May 27—MS and HS College Readiness Meeting to discuss and align PASS and the ACT College Readiness Standards for 6th grade through 12th grade. More details to follow.

Department Chair and Vertical Team Leader Meetings

Middle School: May 4, Hefner Middle School, 3:15 PM

High School: May 11, Putnam City High School, 4:30 PM

Elementary School: No meetings in May

District Staff Development Committee Officers for 2009-2010 Named

Chair - Vivian Rice

Co-Chair - Renita White

Secretary - Christine Clay

Oklahoma PASSages Master Teachers Project

PASS it on!

2009
State Superintendent's
Regional Curriculum
Conferences

Sandy Garrett State Superintendent of Public Instruction Oklahoma State Department of Education Office of Standards and Curriculum (405) 521-3361 Registration information: www.sde.state.ok.us	Tuesday, JUNE 16 Lawton McAlester
	Wednesday, JUNE 17 Oklahoma City Tulsa
	Thursday, JUNE 18 Grove Woodward



AP* and Pre-AP* Summer Institute
June 22- 26, July 6-10, July 13-17, July 20-24, 2009
Register NOW, tuition is waived for Oklahoma teachers
go to <http://www.utulsa.edu/ap-tulsa/>

Application Due
May 15, 2009!

East Asia Seminar for Educators

Oklahoma Institute for
Teaching East Asia

亚洲教育

FREE and open to in-service or pre-service Oklahoma educators!

Name: _____

School: _____

Email Address (required): _____

Contact phone: _____

Grade level you teach: _____

Subject(s) you teach: _____

Please review the list of sessions below and mark an "x" next to each you plan to attend. All sessions will be held on the OU-Tulsa Schusterman Center Campus in room LC 145, 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. MWF June 3-29.

June 3 _____
The Origin of writing and art in China: The Shang Dynasty
(Appropriate for History and Art teachers)

June 5 _____
Why the Great Wall and Terra Cotta Soldiers?: The Qin Dynasty
(Appropriate for History and Art teachers)

June 8 _____
The Convergence of Literature and History in early China: History through Lyric Poetry
(Appropriate for History and Literature teachers)

June 10 _____
Art, History, and Philosophy of the Imperial Age: Poetry, landscape painting, and gardens (Appropriate for History, Literature, and Theory of Knowledge teachers)

June 12 _____
Current China Issues: 1. What do Asian philosophies have to do with Modern China? 2. Overview of Modern China and the politics of East Asia. 3. Communication styles in China: the why behind the how.
(Appropriate for all teachers.)

June 15 _____
Current China Issues: 1. One Child Policy. 2. China's education system. 3. Beyond the Olympics; the effects on Beijing, environmental and social.
(Appropriate for all teachers.)

June 17 _____
A Case Study of Heian Japan through Art: Japan's Four Great Emaki* (narrative scrolls)
(Appropriate for History, Literature, and Art teachers.)

June 19 _____
A Case Study of Medieval Japan

through Art: Samurai Life in Medieval Japan*

A Case Study of Tokugawa Japan through Art: Views of a Society in Transformation
(Appropriate for History, Art, and Sociology teachers)
*from *Imaging Japanese History*.

June 24 _____
Lost Names: Japanese hegemony in Korea
(Appropriate for History and Literature teachers)

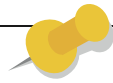
June 26 _____
Red Scarf Girl: Revolution in China
(Appropriate for History and Literature teachers)

June 29 _____
Resilient Vietnam: millennia of occupation and the thriving culture that resulted
(Appropriate for all teachers.)

The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity institution. 4/09

Register today by filling out the form at <http://tulsa.ou.edu/Surveys/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=180M882>. For more information or to register by email or phone, please contact Jennifer Tufts (918) 660-3497, jtuffs@ou.edu.

Supported by the Freeman Foundation



Why Can't I Skip My Twenty Minutes of Reading Tonight?

Let's figure it out Mathematically!

Student A reads 20 minutes, five nights of every week.
Student B reads only 4 minutes a night...or not at all!

- Step 1** Multiply minutes a night X 5 times each week.
Student A reads 20 minutes X 5 times per week = 100 min./week
Student B reads 4 minutes X 5 times per week = 20 min./week
- Step 2** Multiply minutes a week X 4 weeks each month.
Student A reads 400 minutes per month.
Student B reads 80 minutes per month.
- Step 3** Multiply minutes per month X 9 months per school year.
Student A reads 3600 minutes in a school year.
Student B reads 720 minutes in a school year.

Student A practices reading the equivalent of ten whole school days per year.
Student B gets the equivalent of only two school days of reading practice.
By the end of 6th grade, if Student A and Student B maintain these same reading habits, Student A will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student B will have read the equivalent of only 12 school days. One would expect the gap of information retained will have widened considerably and so, undoubtedly, will school performance. How do you think Student B will feel about him/herself as a student?

Some questions to ponder:

- Which student would you expect to read better?
- Which student would you expect to know more?
- Which student would you expect to write better?
- Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary?
- Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

Source: U.S. Department of Education, America Reads Challenge. (1999) "Start Early, Finish Strong: How to Help Every Child Become a Reader." Washington, D.C.



Fire extinguisher safety training of Putnam City High School science faculty.



Have you joined a .pc Learning Community?
<http://www.putnamcityschools.org/.pc>