



PROMONTORY NEWS

PROMONTORY SCHOOL OF EXPEDITIONARY LEARNING • NOVEMBER 2012 NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

by Bryce Passey, Director

"Do not train a child to learn by force or harshness; but direct them to it by what amuses their minds, so that you may be better able to discover with accuracy the peculiar bent of the genius of each."

- Plato

Have you ever found thoughts or quotes that just resonate with you? Twenty years ago, I had been teaching for about ten years at the time, I stumbled across that quote by Plato, and it just resonated. Even though it was astutely observed more than two millennia ago, its insights ring true today.

I picked up that quote as the introduction to a state sponsored training I was invited to attend. In the course of that training I was given an in depth introduction to the work of Howard Gardner and the Harvard Graduate School of Education's research into Multiple Intelligences. To some it is controversial because it runs counter to our traditionally accepted view of what intelligence or IQ is, but it made total sense to me and my experiences, both personally and working with kids. If you are not familiar with this work, take some time to familiarize yourself with it. It is fascinating.

Howard Gardner and his team identified eight Intelligences or, as Plato observed, eight peculiar bents of genius. The eight Intelligences are: Verbal Linguistic, Logical Mathematical, Spatial Mechanical, Interpersonal, Intrapersonal, Musical, Bodily Kinesthetic, and Naturalist. All people are born with propensities, strengths, talents, or "bents" in certain of these eight Intelligences. These are "bents" that "amuse their minds" or, in our modern vernacular, it is what rocks their world. You find that, wrap their reading around it, wrap their math around it, wrap their art, music, and movement around it and you have a learner on your hands.

To demonstrate this, let me get personal and share myself as a younger student. To my parents, my teachers would have said, "He is a quiet boy who has trouble sitting still and focusing. He tries hard but he looks out the window and day dreams so much we have to place him on the far side of the room, and he is just not very motivated."

Interestingly, when I take Multiple Intelligence assessments, they tell me my natural "bents" are:

- Intrapersonal (quiet boy). What they didn't know was I had a lot of very deep thoughts that no one ever knew how to create enough safety to prod out of me.
- Bodily Kinesthetic (has trouble sitting still). I have never outgrown that one. I still have trouble sitting still, which is why there is not a big comfy chair in my office and why I like to jump rope and play foursquare with the kids. Even as a boy, I lived to play sports. It didn't even matter which sport. If someone had known to wrap my reading and my math and my schooling around that...
- Naturalist (looks out the window and day dreams). I wasn't dreaming. I was longing to be out, to explore and wander. I was an "unmotivated" learner who loved to hike, and camp and earned his Eagle Scout rank without his mother's help. That was, and still is, my favorite classroom, but nobody knew to wrap my learning around that either. Somehow I survived and flourished, even though I look back on many turning points where I could have just as easily not.



November 15 🌀 3-4

November 20 🌀 5-6

December 3 🌀 K-2

December 12 🌀 7-8

Teachers will tell you I use the phrase, "It's all about relationships" a lot. When students come to "visit" me, for any reason, I spend time getting to know them and discover their peculiar genius. At Promontory we have adopted and adapted a learning model, Expeditionary Learning, which builds in the flexibility to pursue the unique talents, gifts and genius of each of our students. It takes time, it takes patience, and it takes creativity, but together, as parents and teachers, we can discover, nurture, and celebrate that peculiar genius in each of our students. 🌈

Please joins us for a Town Meeting
Thursday, November 29, 7:00 PM in the Library



THANK YOU

to everyone who participated in the "Reading for Change" and the Book Fair for the school to purchase more books for the library.

Thank you for being amazing parents and for the classroom donations that were given in October! The teachers appreciate all the time and efforts that goes into making Promontory great. If you have any mentioned supplies in new or in good used condition and would like to donate that would be great! We love our teachers and thank them for the DEDICATION and hard work that is going in to our children!

Classroom Wish Lists

Sherry Christensen (Special Education Teacher)

Kleenex and pencils

Tia Cornelius (Sports and Adventure Teacher)

Badminton and volleyball nets, all sorts of racquets, any type of balls: basketball, soccer, football, snowshoes, sound system, anything sports

K-2

Mindy Espinoza — Straws and gallon size Ziploc bags

Glenna Petersen — An Elmo, a projector, lined paper for writing, Kleenexes, scholastic books that parents don't use anymore, and smiles J!

Tina McMullin — Glue sticks and pencils

Tiffany Conger — Kleenex, beaded 6' jump rope, Elmer's liquid glue, pipe cleaners, Elementary dictionary/thesaurus, Belkin Rockstar multi plug-in head phone jack, headphones (over the ear), stickers, informational books about rocks, water, or tools for elementary grade readers, 1st or 2nd grade primary lined newsprint paper for writing, classroom computers, and iPads

Cindy Wells — Boxes of Kleenex, dry erase markers, gallon Ziploc bags, anything from Australia, Belkin Rockstar multi plug-in head phone jack, Headphones (over the ear), informational books about: rocks, water, or tools for elementary grade readers

3-4

Lynette Reeder — Clear page protectors, tissues, gallon and quart size Ziploc bags, Clorox wipes, window cleaner (both physical laborer and hard water build-up), American Flag for classroom, small mailing envelopes, clear contact paper, 25 1/2" clear view binders for Green & Latin Studies, Lumi sticks (bamboo poles for rhythm activities), yo-yos, juggling balls, Nerf balls & darts, ping pong balls, lunch bags, glue sticks, black PVC pipe and connectors to make hula hoops (see Ms. Reeder for directions), old magazines, children's Yoga instructor and mats

Nina Guzzetti — Pencils, plain paper, flash cards, puzzles, Crayola water color pencils (12 or 24 count), and crayons

Dana Durney — Hand sanitizer, pencils, lined paper, a class set of clipboards, AA batteries for our digital cameras

5-6

Lindsay Walter — Classroom: Lots of tissues, paper towels, books (nonfiction, fiction, anything), markers, lined paper, 1cm graph paper Recess: Board games/cards, long jump ropes for double dutch, basket balls, kick balls Dreamin' Big Items: pull down maps (Utah, US, and world), classroom digital cameras, projector, document camera

Dorothy Dobson — Lots of Kleenexes, electric pencil sharpener, digital cameras not Single Lens Reflex, but not crummy ones, either - I have some really great photographers, projector that hooks to the computer, document camera, roll down maps, screen that pulls down, chart paper, poster board, colored butcher paper (for school), a group (5) set of iPads - better yet, a class set! Okay, let's get REALLY dreamy! A class set of laptops!!!! :), A good small printer that can be used for one or two copies and can connect wirelessly to my Laptop (which is a Mac)

Heidi Heil — Lots of Kleenexes, tons of hand sanitizer, small and large plastic bags, Ziploc bags, Clorox wipes, notebook paper, pencils, and graph paper

Nancy Smith — Band-aids. Ms. Smith is participating in a school donating website. Please go to www.donorschoose.org/nancysmith to see what her classroom is working towards. Please use code HoraceMann12.

7-8

Mary Beth Farrer — Clorox wipes (generic brands are great)

DRIVERS PICKING STUDENTS UP FROM THE FRONT ENTRANCE:

Please remember to leave an opening (CAR LENGTH) at the parking lot entrance so families picking up on the side can get thru. This is imperative in the pick up process running smoothly. Thank you, Safety Crew



FIELDWORK CREW

Parents -Thank you! Thank you!

We appreciate all the parents that helped with driving and chaperoning in October. Your students are amazing. They are able to research and explore great things because of YOU! If you have not had the opportunity to chaperone or drive, please contact your children's teachers and see what exciting fieldwork is scheduled for November.

LOGGING
VOLUNTEER
HOURS

Shanon Hayden is tracking each family's volunteer hours. Please wait for her email each month, and then send her your hours.

(shayden@promontoryschool.org)

Why do I need to track my volunteer hours?

Tracking volunteer hours is very important at our school. We apply for grants for much of our funding. In the grant applications, we provide information about all we are doing to provide for our school. The more we put into our school, the better chance we have at receiving a grant. For example: We apply for a grant for the library. When we do this, we include in our grant application how much money we've spent on the library, how many donations we've received for the library, and how many volunteer hours have been put into our library. The more we have done to help our library, the more likely it is for us to receive the grant.

What about the book when I sign in at the school?

This book is for security purposes at the school. It is an excellent resource for you to look at when you are sending in your hours to Shanon. In an effort not to overlap recording hours, we are not recording hours from this book. You are responsible for sending in all of your volunteer hours, whether they are at home or at the school.

BOOKMOBILE
Monday, Nov 26
Monday, Dec 10

WELLNESS
CREW

There is still a need for volunteer help in the lunchroom. The volunteer time is from 11:00 am until about 12:30pm. You can sign up on the days that work best for you by clicking [here](#) and going to the current month on the "Lunch Volunteer Sign-up Calendar".