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and Where Are We Going?*

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Back Matter

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MONDAY – August 6, 2012

Alfie Kohn

Title – The (Progressive) Schools Our Children Deserve

Our knowledge of how children learn - and how schools can help -- has come a long way in the last few decades. Unfortunately, most schools have not: They're still more about memorizing facts and practicing isolated skills than understanding ideas from the inside out; they still exclude students from any meaningful decision-making role; and they still rely on grades, tests, homework, lectures, worksheets, competition, punishments, and rewards. Alfie Kohn explores the alternatives to each of these conventional practices, explaining why progressive education isn't just a realistic alternative but one that's far more likely to help kids become critical thinkers and lifelong learners.

Dr. Punya Mishra – Michigan State University

Title: Creative Teaching with Technology, what does it take?

Technology is playing an increasing important role in the world of teaching, offering the potential to fundamentally change the practice and process of teaching and learning. These changes, however, present significant challenges to teachers and teacher educators. Confronting these challenges requires moving beyond notions of just integrating technology to an understanding of the complex issues teachers face. In this session, Dr. Mishra will discuss how technologies (both analog and digital) can influence teaching and learning and focus on what teachers need to know to develop innovative approaches towards technology integration.

TUESDAY – August 7, 2012

Dr. Mike Schmoker – ASCD

Title: FOCUS: First Things First for the 21st Century

In this session, participants will learn precisely where to focus their precious time, efforts and resources to ensure that all students are prepared for the 21st century demands of college, careers and citizenship. They will learn about the three most essential elements of good schooling, and how to implement them immediately, successfully and on a very clear, straightforward model. The three elements are: Coherent curriculum; Authentic literacy; Soundly-structured lessons. Despite their unrivalled power for improving performance in any and every school, these elements continue to be misunderstood--and grossly under-implemented. For this reason, these simple, familiar elements should be our first and highest priority. Participants will leave this session knowing both what to do and how to do it, in ways that will yield immediate and significant results.

Rushton Hurley

Title: The Power and Possibility of Digital Media for Engaging Projects

What is it about audio, images, and video that so thoroughly capture the attention of our students? How can we use their fascination to help them learn more effectively and better see new possibilities for their futures? This session will include ideas on and work with various digital media tools, and prepare you to implement powerful projects with your students.

WEDNESDAY – August 8, 2012

Dr. Robyn Jackson – Mindsteps, Inc.

Title: Never Work Harder Than Your Students and The Reluctant Learner

Dr. Jackson will focus on key principles of education, rather than isolated strategies and canned approaches. Using these principles, she will help teachers and school leaders discover for themselves how best to increase student achievement and teacher effectiveness. Her unique approach to professional development shows teachers how to become master teachers who help every child meet or exceed rigorous learning standards.

THURSDAY – August 9, 2012

Dr. Thomas Guskey – University of Kentucky

Title: Grading and Reporting Student Learning: Effective Policies and Practices

This presentation describes the good, the bad, and the ugly of grading and reporting policies and practices. Stressing the importance of fairness and honesty in grading, a variety of ways to report student learning progress to parents and the community are discussed, including report cards, alternative formats for parent conferences, newsletters, phone calls, and other reporting tools. Designing new reporting structures that better communicate and involve parents in students' learning will be highlighted, along with policies and practices that should be avoided due to their negative consequences for students, teachers, and schools.

Martha Kaufeldt

Title: Think Big: Start Small – Differentiating Instruction

Differentiating instruction in any classroom with diverse learners can be a labor-intensive, daunting task – we know! Conscientious, dedicated teachers are encouraged to think big in their dreams and goals of designing differentiated instructional strategies. Martha will show you how to start small by demystifying differentiated instruction as you create an environment that maximizes student learning; engage learners with interesting, meaningful, relevant tasks; modify and extend learning to accommodate struggling learners and challenge capable students; and assess student progress and provide feedback.

FRIDAY – August 10, 2012

Dr. Anthony Muhammad

Title: No More Drama!: Getting Everyone on the Bus and Becoming Real PLC

This address will deal head on with the issue of conflicting agendas within schools. A PLC has a very clear purpose; learning for all students. We will examine the barriers to aligning the adult agendas with the school agenda and what leaders must do and what teachers must do to develop the synergy necessary to guarantee learning.