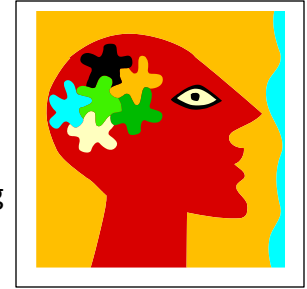


JUNE NEWSLETTER, 2014



As we head into summer, I wanted to talk to you all briefly on preparing our kids for success in life, after school. As parents and educators both, our goal is always to have our kids become successful adults that make healthy contributions to our society. But we constantly ask ourselves if we are successfully doing this! California's switch to Common Core Standards has been met with a lot of criticism, but what many don't realize is that the decision to switch to Common Core was based on the data that indicated that kids with Common Core training do better "after" school. That data has shown that Common Core Standards better prepare kids for things such as Critical Thinking, Flexibility, Collaboration, Communication Skills, Knowledge Building and Digital Expertise. But of course, as with any education plan, it only works the right way when it is properly implemented. When teachers get adequate training and preparation and when districts work to provide the supports needed. This is an increasingly difficult thing to do in our current economic situation.

So how can we work together to ensure that our kids get a quality education that prepares them for the future? Our district is working to provide teachers with the right level of education and training in preparation for using Common Core. Parents can help by actively getting involved in their children's schools. Join the PTA, or work as a school volunteer. Or if you can't do that, check in regularly with your children's teachers and see if they need anything. The more our schools and parents work together the more likely we are to see our kids succeed.

During the summer, encourage your children to continue to learn. Help your kids continue to learn during the summer by doing some of the following type of activities:

- 1) Cooking projects- help teach measurement, science, etc... while still being fun! And TASTY!
- 2) Nature Walks- Take your kids out exploring and have them journal what they see. If they come across a new bug or a new plant that they don't recognize help them search for it on the internet and find out more about it. Great way to encourage writing and learning.
- 3) Science Projects- Find creative and simple science projects to do with your kids. An example would be to turn plain white carnations into colored carnations, or creating balloon rockets. You can look up "how to" do these projects on the web. Or simply search for other creative, simple and fun science projects you can do with kids. These kind of projects encourage creative thinking and build interest in science.

- 4) Museum Tours-Take your kids to their local museum. It's a great way to find out more about the history of the area they are living in.
- 5) Music, Dance, Zumba or Yoga Lessons- Musical activities are always great ways to build neurological connections while having fun! Your local community groups often have classes that you and your child can enroll in.

And even if your child has special needs, don't let their need be their defining quality. Work with them to find their strengths and help them build on their strengths while encouraging them to keep working with their areas of weakness.

Attached is an article on preparing kids for the world as well as a you tube video that is awesome, and demonstrates how working to overcome your deficits can actually end up being the very thing that makes you GREAT!

Enjoy your summer!

Silver Valley Unified School District School Psychologist and ESC Dept.

Check out this article for more information on helping prepare our kids for the world:



<http://bigideasineducation.wordpress.com/2014/04/04/education-and-the-skills-needed-to-prepare-students-in-the-world/>

Check this out:

Student Walks on Stage, Reveals He Has a Disability — Then Blows Away Crowd With Commencement Address | Video | [TheBlaze.com](http://www.theblaze.com)

<http://www.theblaze.com/stories/2014/05/18/student-walks-on-stage-reveals-he-has-a-disability-then-blows-away-crowd-with-commencement-address/>

