



Transforming Schools From Within

"Find that person who challenges, advises, and celebrates you—and be that person for someone else".

*From: Every Teacher Needs a Mentor
by Heather Wolpert-Gawron*

In a few days we will be welcoming close to 800 educators and friends of the Tri-Association to the Dominican Republic, the site for this year's Annual Educators' Conference; **"Transforming Schools from Within"**. I can hardly wait for our most important learning event of the year to get underway! Our deepest appreciation to our host school, Carol Morgan, the Tri-Association Support Team, and most importantly thank you conference participants for being part of Triconf18!



Fran Prolman's work on school transformation and her book, ***School Transformation: Leading & Learning in Complex Systems***, served as the inspiration for the theme of this year's conference. Fran will be sharing her work through a two-day pre-conference institute. Here are Fran's favorite quotes from her book: <http://www.tri-association.org/2018fallfranprolman>

Our work in schools proves to us that lasting transformation is not the work of any one individual, but rather the result of visionary leadership and consistent focus on the part of many. However, transformation also begins with our individual ability to see things from a different perspective and to look at our daily challenges as opportunities to do better, and be better! I want to take this opportunity to honor the work of all the educators in our schools who are serving as the architects of positive and lasting change through their daily work.

A transformative 2018-19 to each and every one of you!

*Yours truly,
Sonia Keller*

At a glance

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The Association of American Schools of Central America, Colombia, Caribbean & Mexico expresses its gratitude to the following institutions and companies for their sponsorship of the different events and speakers for our annual conference:

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New Heads

Note: If you are new to this position for 2018-19 and are not on this list, it is likely that your school has not updated their directory information. If we do not have current information for your school we will be unable to deliver the benefits that you are entitled to as a member of the Tri-Association. Please let me know immediately if this is your case!

ACCAS

<i>Nick Glab</i>	Colegio Jorge Washington
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AASCA

<i>Ken Davis</i>	Discovery School
<i>Luis Chavez</i>	Happy Days Freedom School
<i>Michael Schneider</i>	Marian Baker School
<i>Polly Anna Parker</i>	American School of El Salvador
<i>Rebecca Coury</i>	Balboa Academy

ASOMEX

<i>Mark Sylte</i>	American School Foundation Mexico City
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Invitational Schools

<i>Dan McKee</i>	Metropolitan School
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New REO

Robin Heslip recently joined the Office of Overseas Schools as the REO for the AASSA and Tri-Association regions. Dr. Heslip has over 40 years of experience as a teacher, curriculum director, principal and head of school both stateside and internationally. She has spent the last thirty-one years in international schools in different parts of the world. Her last assignment was in the American Community School (ACS), Abu Dhabi where she served as the Head of the School. In addition to ACS Abu Dhabi, Robin worked as the Director of the American International School of Zagreb, Croatia. She has also been a teacher and administrator in Kinshasa, Zaire; Rabat, Morocco; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; and Buenos Aires, Argentina.

During her tenure as an international head, Robin has served on the NESA, CEESA, and AISH Boards of Directors. At the end of this month Robin will join us in the Dominican Republic for the Annual Educators' Conference. A very warm welcome to Robin to our Tri-Association family!



New Programs & Initiatives

> International Inclusive Leadership Program Partners with San Diego State University

The Inclusive Education Program opening up in San José, Costa Rica this month, is the first being offered under the new partnership with San Diego State University. This cohort will include teachers from Costa Rica, Panama and Guatemala. For more information please refer to the informational flyer here <http://www.tri-association.org/2018fallcostaricaflyer>.

> ISS

The Partnership between International School Services and the Australian group Schrole, will bring changes to the agreement we had with ISS, which gave regular member schools free access to the ISS database. I am in communication with Laura Light who continues to advocate strongly for our schools regarding what this means for our schools. We will be able to give you more specific information as soon as it becomes available, but I encourage you to reach out to Laura about what this will mean for your particular school since their fee structure is based on the size of the school.

> TGR - EDU - CREATE – International STEM Studio

The Tiger Woods Foundation is dedicated to training teachers and students in STEM through summer workshops and on-site opportunities facilitated by professionals in the different fields that make up STEM. The Foundation is now expanding their services to our type of school, so I am excited to share that Michelle S. Kim, Vice-President for Strategic Partnerships will be attending the conference in Santo Domingo to speak with educators in our region who may be interested in participating in their program. This past summer a group of teachers from several schools in our region attended a one-week STEM studio in Anaheim, CA. The feedback received was so positive, that on the invitation of the Office of Overseas Schools, we would now like to offer this opportunity to schools interested in expanding in this area of their program (<https://tgrfoundation.org>). Below are two flyers that explain the summer program. <http://www.tri-association.org/fall2018stemstudio>

> School-Based Professional Learning in Partnership with the Tri-Association

The following professional learning opportunities will take place in our region in 2018-19.

Our appreciation to the Office of Overseas Schools for their support of our efforts to fund school-based staff development in our schools. This is a terrific opportunity for you to participate in staff development at a very low price, as one of the main goals of this initiative is to offset the cost through Association funding, allowing the host school to keep registration costs low.

- Reading Path to Success / Took place in August at *Colegio Maya, Guatemala*.
- 3rd Annual Learning Center Symposium / *Colegio Nueva Granada, Bogota, Colombia* / November 1-3, 2018.
<http://www.tri-association.org/2018fallcng3rdsymposium>
- Compass Training Part II / *American School Foundation of Guadalajara, Mexico* / January 25-26, 2019.
<http://www.tri-association.org/2018fallasfg2019flyer>
- Guatemalan Summit 2019: Vision to Action! / *American School of Guatemala, Guatemala City* / February 15-17, 2019.
<http://www.tri-association.org/2018fallasguatemala1819>
- Live Curious, Go Beyond / *American School Foundation of Monterrey* / February 14-16, 2019.
<https://www.smores.com/8a0s3-live-curious-go-beyond-2019>
- *Colegio Bolivar Forum, Cali, Colombia* / March 14-16, 2019
<http://www.tri-association.org/2018fallcolegiobolivarforum>

> Featured Articles

• Goal Attainment Scaling

The following Educational Leadership article on Goal Attainment Scaling was written by Lee Ann Jung, Ph. D. In the course of her work with the Inclusive Education programs in our schools, Lee Ann has ongoing conversations with teachers about the challenging topic of measuring and reporting student progress. She hopes this article supports your thinking about personalized learning plans, IEPs, individualized goals, and their respective measurements. <http://www.tri-association.org/2018falljungscalesofprogress>

• Digital Citizenship Focus

The American School Foundation, Mexico was given the designation of being a Common Sense District for their work on Digital Citizenship! Here is their story. <http://www.tri-association.org/2018falldigitalcitizenship>

Pathway To Reading Success, with Lisa Stone

Tuesday 4th September 2018, Colegio Maya Guatemala

Thanks to Tri-Association, Colegio Maya in Guatemala hosted a regional workshop this month, facilitated by literacy consultant, Lisa Stone. Educators gathered from a range of schools, with a range of experiences to address one issue: how to improve reading instruction in our schools.

During this workshop, Lisa helped participants unlock the complexity of teaching the "unnatural process" of reading. By better understanding the stages of reading, and through the presentation of practical ways to assess student proficiency and determine next steps for their progress, Lisa skillfully guided us on a pathway to help our students achieve the ultimate goal of reading comprehension. From developing phonological awareness through improving accuracy, fluency, and engagement to the final stage of comprehension, participants generated definitions, explored our own preconceptions (and misconceptions) and practiced research-based strategies to move our understanding from collecting data ("here's what"), to understanding the evidence ("so what?") and most importantly determining next steps ("now what?"). Under Lisa's guidance we left feeling better equipped to guide our students towards becoming more skillful and engaged readers.



Nikki Ellwood
Director of Teaching and Learning, Colegio Maya Guatemala



Connecting and Learning through World Cup Stickers

By Joe Stanzone, Elementary Principal, American School Foundation of Monterrey

You may have noticed students carrying some extra items with them last spring: World Cup sticker albums and stickers to trade. Yes, it was that time once again when many children (of any age!) became a bit obsessed with filling the blue FIFA World Cup Russia 2018 sticker album. Did you have one? Did you know someone who had one? The answer is likely YES to one or both of these questions.

I would like to make the case that trading World Cup stickers was a great learning opportunity that supported student learning. There may be some who refute my evidence and perspectives by saying that kids could have lost things or that trading stickers got in the way of learning. Here are some things to consider before making a judgment:

- 1. People collect things:** Seashells, ornaments, cards and coins are just a few examples. This time it was stickers. The question then is, "Why do we collect stuff?" Research says that some collect for investment, some for preservation, some for study, some to feel secure, some just for the fun of the quest of completion. Collecting gives us a chance to sort, resort, arrange and rearrange at our pleasure. This single-minded task can be therapeutic. In short, it is in our nature to collect and is arguably a healthy endeavor.
- 2. Building Responsibility:** A value that is so very important in the lives of all people. Responsibility is with us everywhere. In this case, students needed to properly house their stickers, album and want-list in a place that was safe and secure.
- 3. Organization and Planning:** The true sticker trader had a list of needs and had ordered her or his stickers from least to greatest or greatest to least.
- 4. Self-Management:** Students in Kindergarten to Grade 5 were given clear guidelines for times to trade and times not to trade. Before school, recess, lunch, after school before athletics. As tempting as it may have been to want that last trade, when the bell rang or an adult called on a student, time was up! Self-regulation can be a challenge.
- 5. Relationship Skills and Inclusivity:** Over the springtime before school concluded, I had seen students meet other students who may not have even known each other or even known someone's name. Could a sticker initiate an acquaintance or friendship? Sure!
- 6. Social-awareness:** Students kept a watchful eye on how people interacted when it came to trades. Some stepped in to support where possibly needed. This was an example of empathy and a sign of emotional intelligence. **Dan Goleman's work** can tell you more.
- 7. Self-awareness:** Trading a sticker was something that could have seemed simple. Some got attached to collections and then doubted upcoming choices. Knowing how to handle feelings and then linking decisions with actions or words could have been complex. Put yourself in this situation: You've got an extra shiny shield sticker. It meant something to you, right? Were you willing to just trade it away? That was being selfaware.
- 8. Responsible Decision-making:** Bartering and trading is part of life. I was confident that someone with a duplicate LEGENDS STICKER (the most difficult to find) traded it for more than one sticker. The deal was though that both parties needed to agree on the deal. Handshakes were taking place to signal a transaction had been made.
- 9. Building Skills, Memory and Knowledge:** Incredibly, some students had visualized their albums and only needed to see the face of a player. These students thought, "Got it. Got it. Got it. I need that one!" For our youngest learners, concepts such as counting



and ordering of numbers were prevalent. Lastly, if you took a close look, the album was full of information about countries, names of players, regions of the world and other languages. Imagine the possibilities!

10. Debunking Bias: Just take a look at the photos included here. These stickers had no gender barriers.

At ASFM, we encourage teachers to tap into the interests of students and harness this toward learning. Sure, some days were challenging and things got lost. These things happen. Yet all teachers should seek out ways to bring authenticity toward learning and to support social and emotional learning (SEL). Numbers four through eight are directly related to SEL. For anyone, teacher or parent, this past World Cup tradition was an opportunity to connect, challenge and engage. In fact, in one Grade Four homeroom class, when asked who had a sticker album, 15 out of 22 students raised their hands. The trading of stickers was as real and authentic as life gets for young minds. I think I have made my case, however, I am confident that I have missed something in my supportive argument list.

If you think of another learning opportunity that came from trading stickers or you know of another idea linked to this topic, let me know. If you were one of the ones who collected and you still find yourself needing some stickers, be sure to take a photo and tweet it to [@josephstanzione](#). I've got plenty to trade! Now, who has an extra Panini #00 or a Paul Pogba sticker!



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► From the Executive Director

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- Spring 2019:
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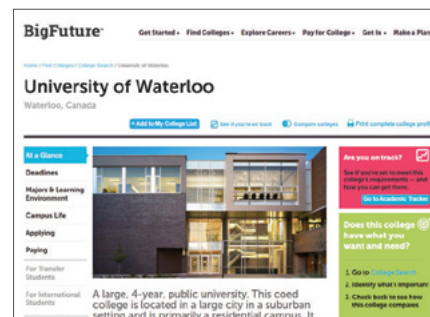
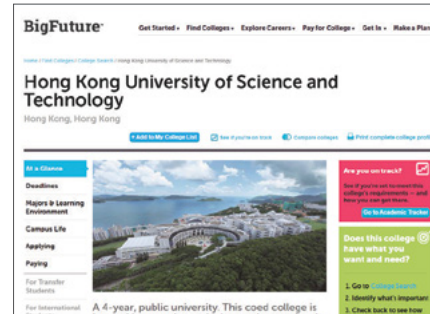
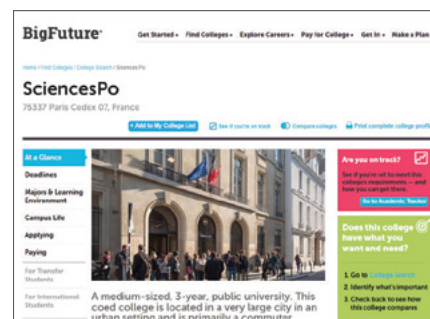
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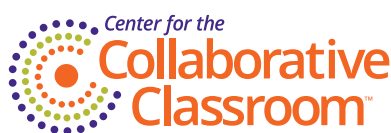
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GRAHAM, Principal
Dubai, UAE



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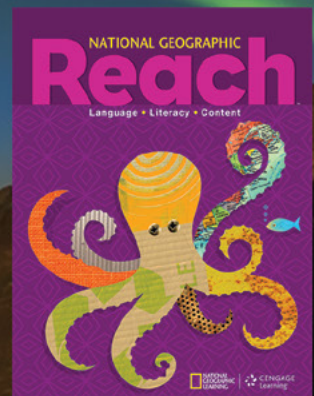
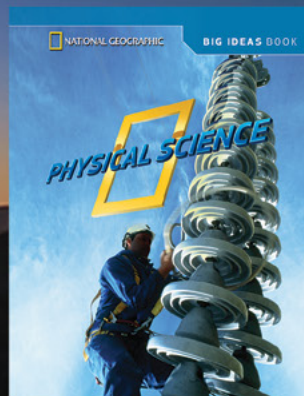
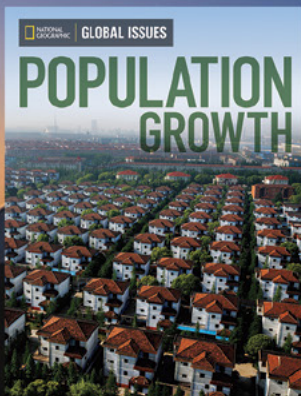
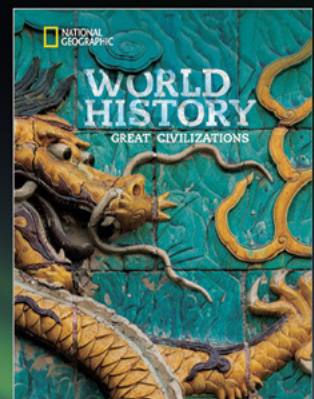
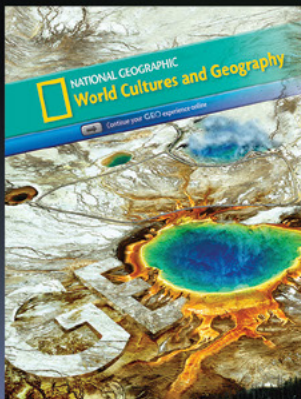
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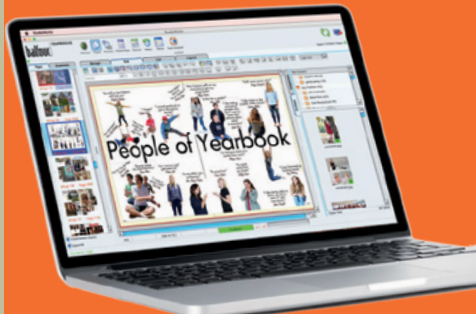
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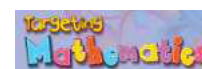
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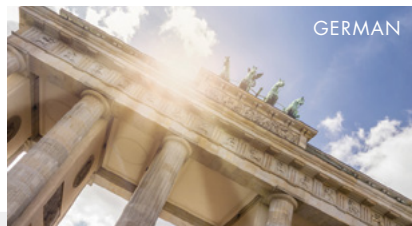
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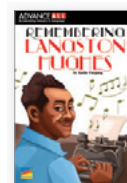
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