



Extraordinary Times Demand Extraordinary Leadership at All Levels

by Dr. Joanne Robinson, CEO International School Leadership

To answer the question to the theme of Tri-Association's upcoming conference in Costa Rica, 'What Matters Most?', educators from around the globe are turning to some common words that seem to capture the sense of urgency everyone is feeling: effective, strategic, quality, essential, performance, innovative, accountability, impact, alignment, coherence, efficacy – and the list goes on.

What does matter most? How do we realize our potential, and maximize our leadership impact – as teachers, school leaders, system leaders? Who are the leaders with influence in our organizations?

Recent research from the OECD (2016) encourages us to reconceptualise schools as learning organizations that are more nimble and responsive to our changing environments and to students' diverse needs. But, it seems, we are still looking to wave a magic wand to make this happen. OECD (2016) also identifies the four T's or themes that influence our impact as leaders at all levels: Trust, Time, Technology and Thinking Together (p. 1). Yet, labelling these themes does not make them integral to life in a school. It is the committed, tireless, and creative work of leaders in our classrooms, schools and districts that brings a learning organization to life.

In this article, International School Leadership will review what we know, from the most current research, about the qualities of effective districts, practices of school leaders, and the efficacy of classroom teachers that have the most direct impact on students and their learning environments.

http://www.tri-association.org/uploaded/newsletters/What_Matters_Most.pdf

Insights on Keynote Speakers for Triconf17

by Silvia Tolisano, Social Media Coordinator

➤ **Michael Fullan**, Dean Emeritus of the Ontario Institute of Studies in Education and worldwide authority on educational reform with a mandate for helping to achieve the moral purpose of all children learning, will open the conference with his keynote address: "What Matters Most: The Role of Coherence & Deep Learning". Michael Fullan recently spoke with Alan November about the Role of the School Leader. Their conversation was recorded in a podcast and is being shared on November Learning. Take a listen to learn more about Dr. Fullan's work. <http://novemberlearning.com/dr-michael-fullan-the-role-of-a-school-leader/>. You can connect with Michael on Twitter @MichaelFullan1 or via his website <http://michaelfullan.com/>



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> In 2010, one of my mentors and educational gurus, **Heidi Hayes Jacobs**, wrote a book titled "Curriculum21". That book finally articulated what I had noticed about the accelerated changes occurring in the 21st century, and their effects on my own learning and teaching. Recently, Heidi together with her co-author, Marie Alcock, published another book "*Bold Moves for Schools*", which promises to be the same game changing trailblazer for educators. I am very excited to see Heidi Hayes Jacobs together with **Allison Zmuda** as one of the keynote speakers. The topic, "Globalizing and Personalizing Learning in the International School" is more relevant than ever. To connect with Heidi and Allison and familiarize yourself with their work, follow them on Twitter [@heidihayesjacob](https://twitter.com/heidihayesjacob) & [@allison_zmuda](https://twitter.com/allison_zmuda) or explore their websites <http://www.curriculum21.com> & <http://www.learningpersonalized.com/>

> **Doug Fisher**, Ph. D. Professor of Educational Leadership at San Diego State University and teacher leader at Health Sciences High & Middle College, will deliver the last keynote, *Engagement: The Impact of Relationships, Clarity, and Challenge*. Dr. Fisher is a prolific writer. He will be presenting at Triconf17 on one of his most recent works, "Teaching Literacy in the Visible Learning Classroom", which he co-authored with Nancy Frey and John Hattie. You can find out more about his work on his website <https://fisheandfrey.com/> and follow him on Twitter [@DFISHERSDSU](https://twitter.com/DFISHERSDSU)

Association Supported PL Events

ASFM/ Live Curious, Go Beyond

The 2017 Live Curious, Go Beyond Tech & Innovation in Education Conference at the American School Foundation of Monterrey was attended by 413 educators, 40 students, and 13 parents from 24 schools from throughout North America.

Through the collaborative effort of the ASFM School Community, the Tri-Association, and other sponsors, this has now become an annual event. Mark your calendars for 2018!



WE BELIEVE THAT ALL STUDENTS CAN BE ENGAGED IN AN EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE THAT COMPELS THEM TO "LIVE CURIOUS AND GO BEYOND" AS THEY DISCOVER THEIR OWN "MOONSHOTS". THE LIVE CURIOUS, GO BEYOND TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION IN EDUCATION CONFERENCE STRIVES TO BRING THAT TO REALITY.



Teacher Takeaways from Live Curious, Go Beyond 2017 - ASFM Learns



I was especially looking forward to attending this session. Some time ago, a Kinder teacher had expressed concern with the Pokemon craze and wanted to find an activity to focus their attention on the educational aspect of it. In this session, Ms. Rachel Lanquist, from the American School of Guadalajara, explained different approaches to leveraging the Pokemon excitement. One suggestion was to create activities centered around the Pokemon theme and characters. Another idea is to create activities that incorporate the same technology of augmented reality. The presenter demonstrated an app that could easily be introduced to Kinder students or any other grade level. This app is called **Klikaklu**. It's basically an app to create scavenger hunts, in which kids have to find and match images, once they find them, they are prompted with a question or a clue to continue with the hunt. This was just what I was looking for and plan to create a game for the Kinder students. Follow [@rachellanquist](https://twitter.com/rachellanquist)

It seems that nowadays everything is about telling stories, so I was eager to learn of a novel way to do so. This session led by Ms. Marybell Rodriguez, from the Universidad de Monterrey, centered around three tools developed by Adobe. They are **Adobe Spark Page**, **Adobe Spark Video**, and **Adobe Spark Post**. These applications require you create a free account that can be used for any of them. Well, just as the title suggested, you can "shine" with these amazing tools! They make publishing a breeze, with so many templates and features to choose from, in a few minutes you can have an amazing professional post, video, or web page. It's **available online** and through iPad apps. In fact, if you take a look at the **recap of the 2017** conference, you'll find an example of a page made with Adobe Spark Page. Follow **@marybellr**



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Important Dates

- **Call for Presenters:** April 24 - August 11, 2017
- **Proposal Decisions:** August 18, 2017
- **Call for Sponsors:** April 24 - September 30, 2017
- **Early Bird Registration:** May 1 - October 31, 2017
- **Live Curious, Go Beyond 2018:** February 16-17, 2018

(Links to proposals and registration can be found on the conference website when dates open.)

Lifting Learning Off the Page! @ ASPV

by Leza Warkentin - Early Childhood Coordinator, & Nancy Coates - Elementary Principal, American School of Puerto Vallarta

Bringing the curriculum to life for students is always a goal of an effective teacher. At the American School of Puerto Vallarta, we make this happen! It's important for educators to model the enthusiasm and excitement for learning. It's also vital for teachers to use new strategies and techniques in the classroom that help students reach their learning goals.

To that end, the Elementary School at ASPV organized an educators' conference appropriately named "Lifting Learning Off the Page". Our goal was to bring in conference leaders that would bring an excitement and vitality to the learning environment in both the primary and early childhood programs.

Norma Guinto, Director of the Spanish program at the American School Foundation in Guadalajara, brought her expertise in the



Reggio Approach. She worked with early childhood educators and shared the importance of the learning environment and being intentional in the development of learning goals. The teachers practiced creating classroom provocations, where students can use materials that are presented by the teacher, in order for the teacher to carefully observe students in the learning process.

Norma spoke on the critical importance of documenting the progress of student learning. Documentation is not only for the teacher to view student learning, but to inform the practice of the educational team. It is a multi-purposed, continuous process, where the end result is an accumulation of knowledge and skills, an informed assessment of development, and a learning path which can be celebrated along the way.

The dynamic Vincent Ventura, Director of LitLife Latin America, asked primary language arts teachers to consider the emphasis on authorial vs. secretarial writing. He asked, "If all books at the bookstore are grammatically correct, why aren't they all best sellers?". It was this essential question that sparked excellent professional discussion about how to guide students in writing. Additionally, Vincent led teachers in designing engaging and inspiring oral language lessons that focused on intercommunication between students.

Both workshop leaders provided fantastic learning experiences for our parents and teachers. We thank them deeply. We are also thankful for the support from the Tri-Association Regional Staff Development Fund and the participants from the four other Tri-Association schools who joined us in this phenomenal conference.



AST Hosts STEM Workshop

On February 15 & 16, The American School of Tegucigalpa (AST) hosted a STEM workshop to promote student inquiry and problem-based learning. Participants were inspired by examples of students world-wide who are using STEM to solve community problems. Participating schools included Discovery School, Colegio Maya, American Nicaraguan School, Lincoln International Academy and AST. The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Helen Pashley, Professor at Seton Hall University.



Professional Learning at Colegio Bolivar

by Dr. David Fayad, Director of Learning

This past March, Colegio Bolivar hosted two important PL opportunities for educators in the region.

“Enhancing Student Learning through Assessment, LEADING THE WAY!” was held with the support of the Association of Colombian-Caribbean American Schools (ACCAS). Ms. Bambi Betts, Director of the Principals' Training Center for International School Leadership, led this inspiring professional learning opportunity for seventeen participants, coming from six different ACCAS schools in Colombia, who enriched their repertoire of strategies to foster best assessment practices in their communities.

Colegio Bolivar's 12th Forum on Teaching and Learning, was attended by the faculty and more than eighty educators who came from three countries and eight different cities in Colombia. The program offered participants a variety of high quality presentations and workshops. These included the keynote delivered by Bambi Betts', workshops offered by Patricia Reeder from NWEA, and presentations on the part of more than fifty teachers! The exchange of best practices was phenomenal!



We hope to continue promoting such events in our school for the benefit of our region!

In The News

GoalWorks: A New Resource to Serve Students with Learning Differences

In March 2017, ASCD launched **ASCD Student Growth Center**, a joint venture that includes **Lee Ann Jung**, Ph.D. a frequent Tri-Association presenter and Director of the Center's **International Inclusive Education program**. The Center provides professional learning, coaching, courses, consultation, and the software, called GoalWorks, all designed to support schools' efforts to serve students with learning differences. GoalWorks is an IEP development platform that helps teams write goals, design strategies, communicate, and track progress over time. Watch a demonstration of GoalWorks [here](#) and learn more at GoalWorks.org.

Check out the blog: <https://www.studentgrowth.org/blog/>
Recent posts include:

- Is it an accommodation or a modification?
- A Model for Differentiated Assessment & Grading
- New Ideas for Engaging Homework



* Lee Ann Jung will be presenting on GoalWorks at Triconf 17!

Community Service Award 2017

Project: Misión Internacional Voces de Esperanza

Escuela Internacional Sampedrana



TieCare Global Leadership Award

Proyecto Provivienda: Bolivar Housing Project

Colegio Bolivar



Thank you for your support of the Tri-Association!

We are excited to be part of the expansion of professional learning in our region, and look forward to your continued involvement.

Have a wonderful summer!

Sonia Keller
Executive Director

Information Page

► **The Association of American Schools of Central America, Colombian-Caribbean and Mexico**

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► **From the Executive Director**

Please send me articles featuring the important work and events taking place in your school!

Newsletter Submission Deadlines

- Fall 2017:
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- Winter 2018:
November 1, 2017
- Spring 2018:
March 1, 2018

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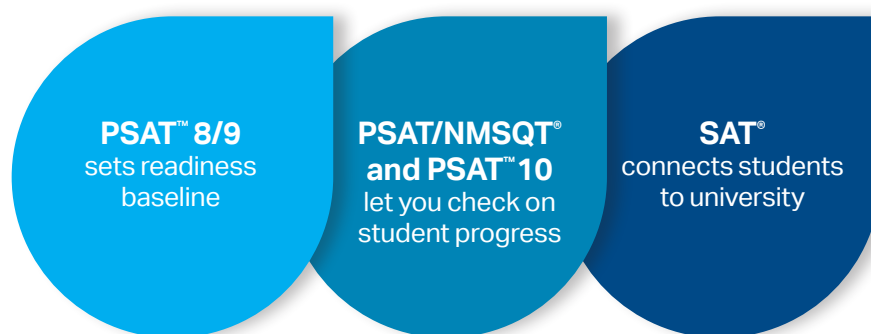
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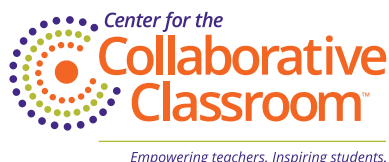
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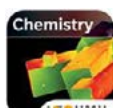
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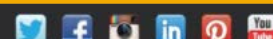
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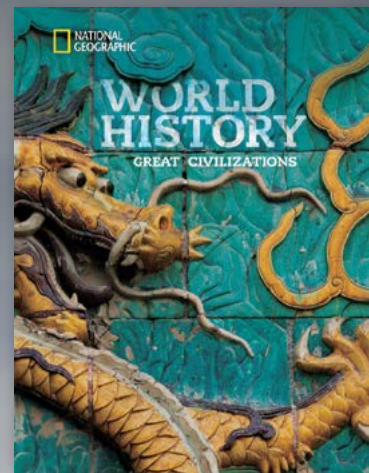
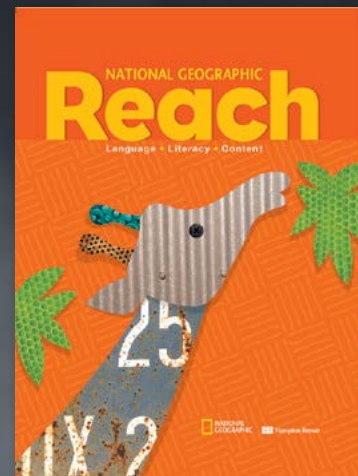
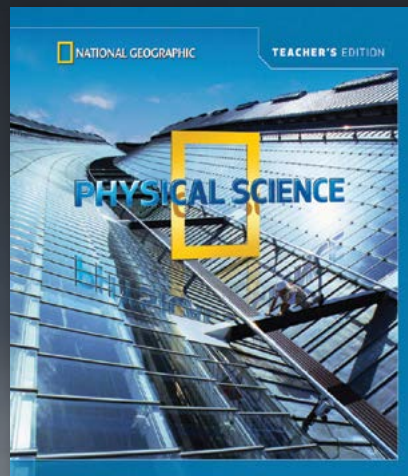
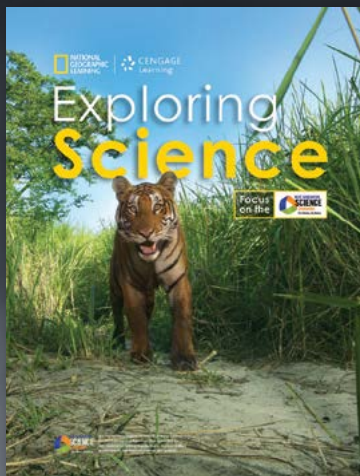
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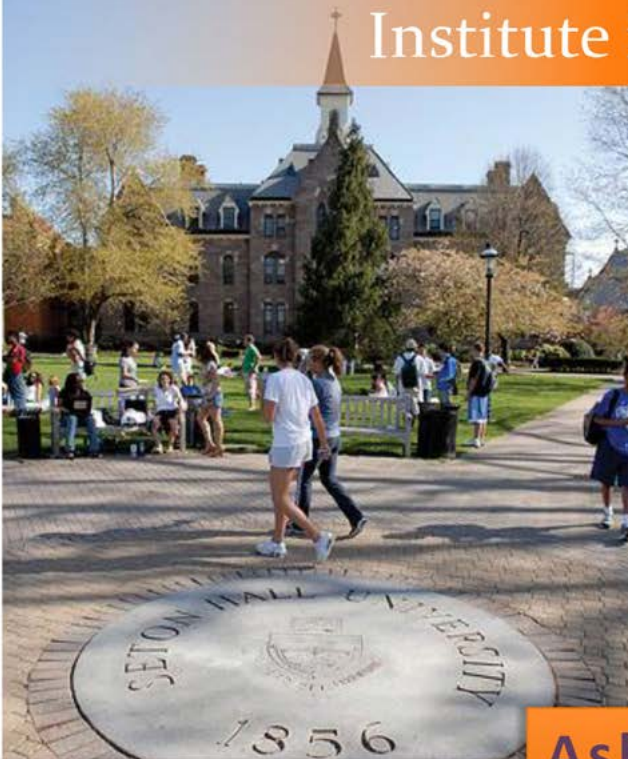
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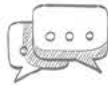
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