



TRI-ASSOCIATION

A Reflection & A Farewell

How do we measure the last eighteen months?

How do we measure the ongoing challenges, the steep learning curves, the yearning for what we lost, the constant fear and weight of teaching and leading through uncertainty and chaos?

As difficult as it has been, I look back and measure this time in the partnerships forged, the hundreds of colleagues I got to know through zoom, the hours spent in deep conversations, valuable new learning and fresh perspectives, and a heartfelt respect and deep appreciation for the work that you, the heroes in our schools, carry out every day.

As I prepare to hand over the reins of the Association to Dr. Michael Adams, our new Executive Director, I feel uniquely privileged to have had the opportunity to work alongside you and your schools through this pandemic. I am walking away with countless cherished moments and prouder than ever of our profession and the opportunity it provides each of us to serve a higher purpose.

I will remain a transitional role through December after which time, I hope to embark on new adventures, yet to be determined!

On behalf of the TRI Team I want to thank you for your incredible support and faith in our work throughout these nine years. Together, we have built a strong and vibrant organization that will continue to grow and thrive under its new leadership.

Stay healthy and keep hope and optimism alive!

Sincerely,
Sonia Keller, Ed. D.
Executive Director

SPRING - SUMMER 2021

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FROM THE INCOMING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

May 23, 2021

Dear esteemed colleagues,

It is my great pleasure and honor to say hello and let you know that I am thrilled to jump into my new role as the Executive Director of this amazing Association as of August. Sonia and I are working hard on the preparation of the upcoming virtual Educators conference scheduled for October 1 and 2. We are so excited to offer the region opportunities for further growth, exploration, networking, and extended learning in the areas of leadership, sustainability, wellness, virtual learning, and diversity, equity and inclusion among others.

Over the past 32 years I have had the privilege and joy of working with students, educators, leaders, parents, board members, and community members in Colombia and Mexico (at The Columbus School in Medellin, Colegio Granadino in Manizales, Colegio Nueva Granada in Bogota, Colegio Jorge Washington in Cartagena, and the American School Foundation in Monterrey). During this time, I have focused on the growth and learning of these communities with the main goal being the promotion of ongoing improvement, development, and growth at all times.

At this point in my career, I am now eager to give back to our region and help other schools, leaders, and educators prepare for the future. I am excited to help the region in this way based on the love I have for it and based on the fact that the region has helped me develop as an educator, leader, mentor, spouse, father and grandfather for many years. I am eager to move into this different, but related role and continue working with and supporting my friends and colleagues from Colombia, the Caribbean, Central America, and Mexico.

I conclude this short note with an open invitation to reach out for the support you need as we transition into what promises to be yet another challenging school year. Rest assured that Sonia and I are here to help.

In learning,

Michael



Michael W. Adams, Ed.D.

Incoming Executive Director

PAUL G. ORR RECIPIENT 2020-21

Dr. Robin Heslip

PAUL G. ORR RECIPIENT 2020-21

"In every generation, there are those whose vision broadens our own, transforming the way we see the world... A person who pointed us in a new direction building bridges for us to cross..."

Excerpt from the Paul G. Orr criteria



On behalf of the Tri-Association Board of Directors and member schools it is my privilege to announce Dr. Robin Heslip as the recipient of the Paul G. Orr Award for 2020-21.

Dr. Heslip embodies the essence of this award. She is a leader of leaders whose "can do" approach, ability to connect people across borders and trustworthiness have been a beacon of light during the last eighteen months. Her unconditional and inclusive approach has benefited all our schools and allowed the Tri-Association to offer an unprecedented level of professional learning opportunities and support to the regional educators.

As I get close to the end of my tenure with the Tri-Association, serving alongside Dr. Heslip will be one of my most cherished experiences. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Heslip for this well-deserved recognition.

Dr. Robin Heslip's Bio

<http://www.tri-association.org/n/summer2021robinheslip>

Paul G. Orr Award Criteria & Recipients

<http://www.tri-association.org/n/summer2021paulorr>

NEED TO KNOW

Annual Educators' Conference October 1- 2, 2021

Annual Educators'
Virtual Conference 2021

*May our new constant be
resilience*

gratitude collaboration respect empathy care sustainability patience equity trust love resilience

STRANDS

 New Leadership Lenses for a Post-Pandemic World: Big Questions Institute	 2030 Sustainability Goals: Inspire Citizens	 Wellness & Relationships / Social & Emotional Learning	
 Math and Science	 Distance/Remote/Hybrid / Toggled Learning	 Child Protection	 Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Our two-day virtual event will have a powerful line-up of thought leaders, practitioners, and regional educators to provoke reflection, raise questions and guide discussion as we harness our pandemic lessons towards planning for post-pandemic schooling. Program information and registration will be on our website soon!

Keynotes & Conversations

The 5 Key Concepts for Planning Post-Pandemic School with **Will Richardson & Homa Tavenger**

Let's connect for a conversation

Creating a new future of schooling calls for educators and leaders to see the world as it is, not as it was. It requires understanding new contexts, and building new lenses around vital questions of *world*, ***purpose***, ***change***, ***power***, and ***our stories***. Your communities put trust in your schools' ability to lead and navigate the volatile, confusing realities, from the pandemic to climate to racial justice, an “infodemic” and economic uncertainty – all on top of the changing learning landscape.

NEED TO KNOW



In this keynote, the founders of the Big Questions Institute, Will Richardson and Homa Tavangar, will push your thinking to embrace the new realities, or lenses, of the post-pandemic world. Each of the lenses will help you frame new questions and conversations that are fundamental to creating an experience of school for kids that will help them move beyond surviving, to thriving in whatever future they inherit.

Bios for Homa Tavenger & Will Richardson

<https://bigquestions.institute/team/>

The Future of the World is in Our Classrooms:

Transformative Teaching, Learning & the Art of Education for Sustainable Development & Global Citizenship
with **Steve Sostak & Aaron Moniz**



The founders of **Inspire Citizens** will explore the WHY and WHAT of future-focused education via **Futures Thinking** routines, design a **Portrait of a 2030 Graduate**, and identify transformative learning goals for inspired global citizenship in a complex world.

NEED TO KNOW

Steve and Aaron will examine HOW to make this crucial learning come to life through **Empathy to Impact: Inspire Citizens'** design cycle that amplifies student-centered learning for key areas of sustainable development: Harmony with nature, circular economics, equity, humane technology, and holistic well-being.

Finally, they will unpack the transformative learning in these experiences, centering on modern literacies, cognitive skills, civic dispositions, integrated technology, and informed action that helps turn our schools and classrooms into community centers dedicated to a healthier and more just future.

Presenter Bios:

<http://www.tri-association.org/n/summer2021inspirecitizens>

WE ARE PROUD

5 Time HACIA Democracy Champions

By **Jackie Kruger,**

Secondary Principal American Nicaraguan School

The American Nicaraguan School 2020-2021 HACIA Democracy delegation has won Best Large Delegation for the 5th consecutive time! Given the obstacles schools around the world have faced in light of the global pandemic, this group of young men and women, guided with steadfast support by their advisors Ms. Sonia Davila and Mr. Roberto Garcia, stayed connected and laser focused on what has now become the norm - high expectations, fierce preparation and a commitment in taking the skills learned both inside and outside the classroom and applying them to real world dilemmas – the very essence of the HACIA Democracy organization.

In addition to recognition as Best Large Delegation, ANS students received the following individual awards:

Luiselena Gutierrez, *Best Essay (Spanish)*

Jeremy Cunliffe, *Best Essay (English)*

Tarek Khatib, *Best Delegate (PAHO Pan American Health Organization)*

Patrick Mikeska, *Best Delegate (Crisis Cabinet Brasil 2030)*

Luiselena Gutierrez, *Best Delegate (Press Corps and NGOs)*

Carlota Navarrete, *Best Delegate (Crisis Cabinet Mexico 1860)*



WE ARE PROUD

Shoutout to Colegio Decroly Americano Students!

Milena López, Gifted 9th Grade Writer!

Milena participated in the Immerse Education 2021 Essay Competition Scholarship with a fantastic argumentative essay titled **“The Most Impactful Field of Medicine”**, in which she explores the universal reach of internal medicine.

In a record-breaking competition, with thousands of entries received from students attending leading schools all over the world, Milena stood out from most, receiving a partial scholarship to the Cambridge or Royal Hospital School summer programme.

Congratulations to Milena on being recognized as one of the highest caliber writers this year!

Model United Nations

A shout out to our student leaders who are going to represent Colegio Decroly Americano in the Model United Nations simulation this year!!

Our students are going to participate in the first Model United Nations virtual simulation hosted by Country Day School of Costa Rica. This event was on **April 9th, 10th, and 11th of 2021**. They will offer the following committees: United States Senate, Security Council, SPECPOL, World Health Organization, Middle School General Assembly, Crisis Committee, and Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA).

We are very proud of your participation and hope you have a meaningful learning experience and make many connections, an applause for these students:

Juan Esteban Cabrera
Iván Morales

A Warm Welcome (Despite the Distance): Courage in Onboarding New Expat Faculty during the Pandemic

by **Tracy Berry-Lazo**, Deputy Director of the American School of Guatemala

“Ugh... the borders still are closed. We'll have to extend their target arrival date... again.” Much to the chagrin of the American School of Guatemala's Educational Leadership Team members, this became a mantra repeated several times from May to September 2020 as the team eagerly awaited the arrival of the cohort of new expatriate teachers.

Read full article here:

<http://www.tri-association.org/n/summer2021americanoguatemala>

HOW EMBRACING UNCERTAINTY DROVE INNOVATION, CREATIVITY & LEARNING

Throughout the last eighteen months we have witnessed how educators and students stepped up to the challenge of a lifetime and in doing so created new networks, rich professional learning opportunities and innovative and relevant teaching and learning scenarios. These experiences will live on in our post-pandemic world, continuing to shape our thinking with the hope of creating schools that are more authentic, diverse and inclusive communities of learning. Our deepest appreciation to the Tri-Association school leaders, teachers and students who contributed their stories.

Reflection on the NGSS Partnership

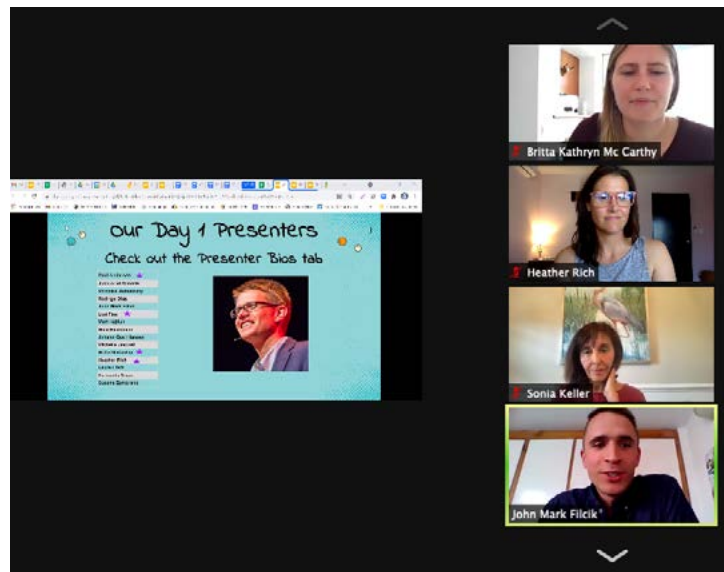
By **John Mark Filcik**, **Britta McCarthy**, and **Heather Rich**.

All great scientific discoveries and developments are the result of collaboration between scientists. Often this collaboration occurs across time zones and great distances. The same can be said for advancement and development among science educators in our region. By collaborating across time zones and distance, science teachers are better able to learn the practices that will inspire the next generation of scientists to confront scientific challenges. The NGSS Partnership was formed to foster this type of collaboration.

This past school year, science educators across the Tri-Association regions gathered to increase their understanding of Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) instruction. In November, over 100 teachers and administrators at schools in Colombia and the Caribbean gathered virtually for the inaugural NGSS Partnership Conference. Then, in April, another 150 teachers and administrators from Mexico and Central America gathered to deepen connection with each other and with NGSS. Because of the positive feedback received from the events, the partnership will continue. Future events are in the works for the 2021-2022 school year.

As the facilitators of the events, we have developed a few takeaways from the Partnership thus far:

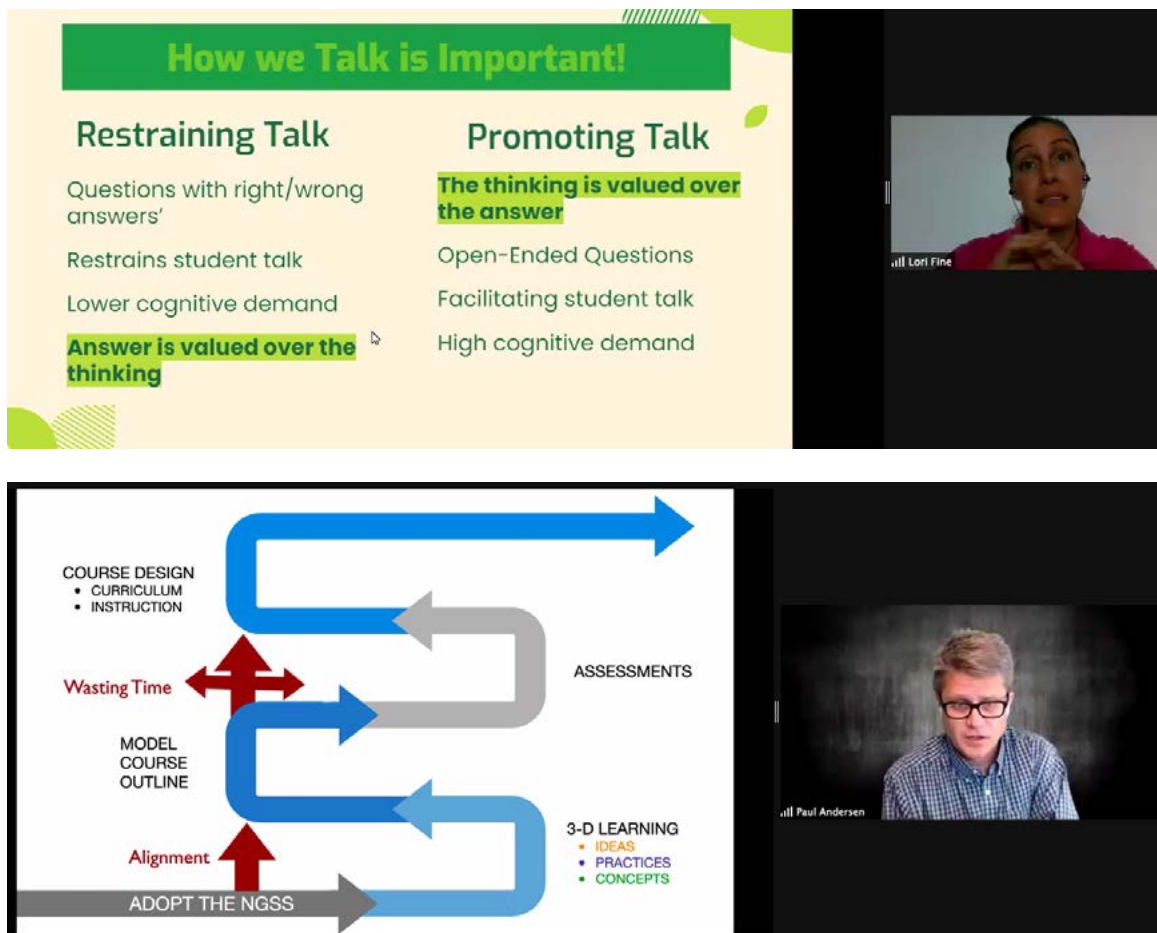
- 1. Distance learning is a sustainable model for professional learning in the post-pandemic future.** The idea of the NGSS Partnership came about as schools around the region adjusted to teaching during a pandemic. The idea of the partnership likely would not have flourished if not for the functionality and flexibility offered to us by video conferencing platforms like Zoom. Rather than coordinate (logistically and financially) the convergence of 250 teachers to one location, we



HOW EMBRACING UNCERTAINTY DROVE INNOVATION, CREATIVITY & LEARNING

were able to join the collaboration from our homes in Mexico, Colombia, or the Dominican Republic. Though there is definitely a place for in-person collaboration and learning, there will also be a permanent place for virtual connection and learning moving forward.

- 2. We are our own best resources.** Between the two conferences, 25 teachers from around the region led sessions about their various topics of expertise. Though the internet is rife with resources for teaching NGSS, oftentimes learning is more accessible and meaningful when the presenter is someone from a similar context to yours. We're thankful for all the teachers who presented and facilitated sessions in both conferences.
- 3. Teaching NGSS with fidelity is hard work and requires a partnership between teachers and administrators.** From the November conference, we received feedback that attendees would have appreciated sessions geared directly towards school leaders. After all, system-wide implementation of NGSS involves complementary but distinct concerns to classroom implementation. In April, we were able to offer four sessions specifically for school leaders. Both school leaders and teachers expressed appreciation for including these sessions at the conference, because it confirmed that implementing NGSS is a joint endeavor between teachers and administrators.



Please stay tuned for information about upcoming events with the NGSS Partnership!

HOW EMBRACING UNCERTAINTY DROVE INNOVATION, CREATIVITY & LEARNING

Windows Of Opportunity

By **Jackie Kruger**

*"We redefined our teaching & learning framework this year as our "Window to Learning", championing that an avenue to learning need not reside in a physical space, but could exist through any "window"--even a Zoom window. Unexpectedly, our students' leadership and call to action to serve the community opened another window. The pandemic forced conversations about standards, and so-called learning loss, and "what about testing?" and "what matters most?" Student Leaders spoke loud and clear--**what matters most is the steady development of young men and women who embody our values of respect of self and others and social responsibility. Innovative and creative young minds that see problems in the world around them and seek out solutions.** It is a remarkable time to be an educator to witness the amazing windows of opportunity our students will open for us next".*

Jackie Kruger

Secondary Principal, American Nicaraguan School

In the swirl of chaos and uncertainty surrounding us as a school community with the pandemic hit in March 2020, one thing was certain--we were going to need each other more than ever before to get through this. Administrators knew it. Teachers knew it. Students knew it. While distance learning plans were being built and teachers immersed themselves in Zoom after Zoom to pick up best virtual teaching practices, student leadership groups swiftly organized themselves to step into action in support of their fellow classmates and the school at large. National Honor Society members, Mu Alpha Theta members, Student Council and volunteers-at-large identified the talents they've honed throughout their years at ANS and brought those to the forefront



as students across Primary and Secondary were thrust into self-navigation of learning at a moment's notice.

Over twenty-five High School students built in time to their schedules to serve as **Student Health Ambassadors**, providing support at each school gate checking health report slips, sanitizing hands and facilitating physical distancing. Heath Ambassadors promoted and model healthy habits and served as a constant reminder of our collective commitment to safety on campus.

English Literacy



What will my child learn?

Writing Standard

Write opinion pieces in which they introduce the topic or book they are writing about, state an opinion, supply reasons that support the opinion, use

The Quezatcoatl Chapter of National Honor Society, 30+ strong, identified a need for Primary students to have access to read alouds while learning asynchronously from home. Members recorded virtual read alouds for every book in the ELA Units of Study from Pathways to 5th grade. In addition to this amazing resource, Senior and NHS President Anastasio Ortiz **built a digital library of audiobooks** for all SLA novels of study for students with learning differences in grades 6-12 as part of his Capstone project. And

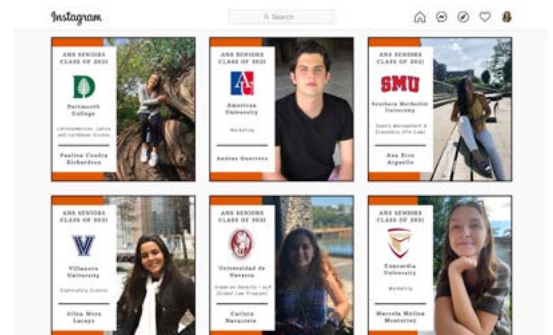
HOW EMBRACING UNCERTAINTY DROVE INNOVATION, CREATIVITY & LEARNING

they didn't stop there! NHS rallied together and crafted a **student mentoring program** offering support in a wide range of disciplines and grade levels so that any student could seek out a thinking partner; be it for a single assessment or the duration of the school year. Their message was resoundingly clear--teachers, you are not alone, we've got your back!

Mu Alpha Theta, our Math Honor Society founded just last year, jumped into action too! During asynchronous blocks, members made themselves available to provide mentoring for students enrolled in courses from Math 6 all the way to AP Calculus AB! **Math mentors** worked side by side our Math department during after school tutorials, running breakout rooms and leading one on one conferences with their peers.

Inspired 9th Grade Scientists developed a **weekly Friday Forum** as an interest based session for Primary School Scientists to engage in questioning around phenomena. These two 30-minute sessions were fully student-led to promote engagement with our natural world and relationships across age groups.

Virtual settings could easily have hindered keeping up with what's going on at school but the Student Council was not going to let that happen! Representatives keep **a steady stream of information** on social media and Whatsapp groups to ensure our student and parents populations know what to expect from everything to Covid protocols to where our latest Class of 2021 university acceptance came from. Even from a distance, STUCO made sure we knew day in and day out that #weareANS, no matter where our Zooms may lie.



The Courage Effect: Thriving in Critical Moments

by **Dr. Ginger Carlson**

Director of Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning at the American School of Guatemala

Schools and educators are often challenged by the friction between tradition and vision. Never has this challenge been more true than at this time. With each passing day right now, we have incredible opportunities for growth as both individuals and communities. What we are finding is that this challenge requires more than just showing up to the work. It means approaching education, and its next impending evolution, with true courage. If we can look at each challenge with new eyes, and then embrace and act upon them uniquely, there is potential for rippling results.

HOW EMBRACING UNCERTAINTY DROVE INNOVATION, CREATIVITY & LEARNING

With all this in mind, at the American School of Guatemala, we embraced a theme for our year, ***The Courage Effect: Thriving in Critical Moments***. This begins, like all effective learning, as a journey within. This has been a journey of discovery for our whole community, where we are deepening our teaching and learning practices and tapping into the courage to reflect, grow, and make an impact.

Like schools the world over, all our programs and processes have been affected. From recruiting and onboarding to communications to teaching and learning shifts, we have had to view everything with new eyes, and summon the courage to emerge through this experience with a transforming educational experience on the landscape. What we are learning in the process is that this road is not easy, but the results are certainly worth it. What follows here are a few stories of bravery, change, and thriving in critical moments from our community.

The Courage Effect Educators' Conference

In late March, our local and global community came together for a week of professional learning with other educators and leaders representing 38 different countries around the world. With approximately 250 participants on site and another approximately 400 attending virtually throughout the week, in a hybrid format we dove into this topic: ***The Courage Effect***.

We opened the week with the important understanding that Courage does not mean the absence of fear. It means you are scared, but you do it anyway. You take risks, try new things, and stay open. The question we then asked throughout the week was: what is the effect, the impact, on a learning community, and then maybe the world, when we have the courage to reimagine how we come together, how we interact, how we contribute, and how we learn?

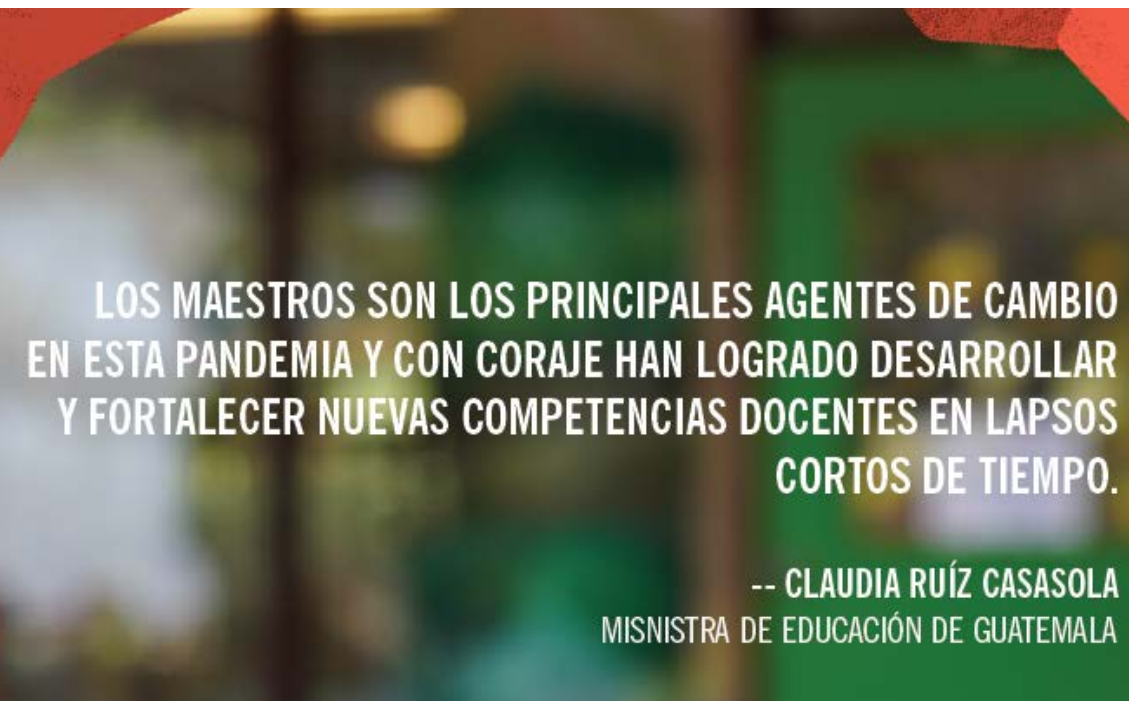
The answers to these questions are neither easy nor finite, but they are available to us when we stay open to reimagining our story and the impact even our smallest actions can have in support of a living, breathing, thriving system.



HOW EMBRACING UNCERTAINTY DROVE INNOVATION, CREATIVITY & LEARNING

"Every single day we have opportunities to choose courage over comfort, these are ordinary moments when we're called upon to let ourselves be seen and choose doing what is brave over what's known."

Amber Barnes, StartHuman, during The Courage Effect Conference, March 2021



Amplifying Students' and Teachers' Voices in Virtual Learning

by **Shannon Hickey**

PYP Coordinator, Puebla American School Foundation

Our ability to confidently predict outcomes for the school year based on past experience decreased exponentially in the transition to new online teaching and learning models. While many people opine about learning loss, I argue that this experience has been the birthplace of true innovation and change.

By taking away the traditional confines of time and place for learning and teaching, at the Puebla American School Foundation primary department, we have seen a marked uptick in innovative practices and empowerment of student voice. Children no longer follow in the recurring learning experiences set by students and teachers before them. Instead, they have shown themselves limitless in their ideations. Empowering students and teachers is not a new concept or idea in our institution, but we have seen how virtual spaces can expand where and how those voices are heard.

Read full article here:

<http://www.tri-association.org/n/summer2021voices>

HOW EMBRACING UNCERTAINTY DROVE INNOVATION, CREATIVITY & LEARNING

Adventures in Courage: Implementing AP Capstone in the Midst of a Pandemic

by **Laura Salichs Rodriguez**

Social Studies Department Chair and AP Capstone Faculty, American Guatemalan School

In her opening of school email our head of school said the following:

"Now, more than ever is a time to dare and brave a whole new dimension in teaching and learning. Be courageous and make a lasting impact on the lives of your colleagues, your students, and our school. Embrace this school year! Enjoy the journey."

As the school navigates implementing the AP Capstone program, an innovative and unconventional course for the first time, virtually, it is only appropriate that our school's theme this year is 'courage'.

Read full article here:

<http://www.tri-association.org/n/summer2021adventures>



STUDENT VOICES

Video: How Do You Measure a Year?

Created by **Mariana Delgado**

RISING Senior 2022 American Nicaraguan School

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TbZ-cv2FbfA>



"It's been exactly a year since the doors to our ANS Campus were closed. With the efforts of everybody, we were able to successfully reopen our doors. This is one of my biggest projects so far in alliance with the American Nicaraguan School. I am incredibly grateful for those who have given me the opportunity to hear each and every student's goals and accomplishments". It's always a great day to be a Tiger! **#WeAreANS**

Mariana Delgado, 11th grade ANS Student

Student Engagement - What a Conundrum!

By **Joe Stanzione**

Elementary Principal and Campus Director, American School Foundation of Monterrey

Student engagement - what a conundrum! How do you measure something like engagement? It is so personal and unique. Valid questions come to mind like, "Is it interesting to me?" or "Is it fun?" or "How is this even relevant?" After all, educators need to be mindful of so much when it comes to writing curriculum, planning units, designing lessons, and keeping in mind the sparks for an engaging learning environment. To add on, sometimes engagement is intrinsic. For others, no. I think we have all seen the need for a little nudge, push, or big shove to get people engaged. At times, there is even reluctance. Engagement can walk hand-in-hand with motivation. There is a lot to consider about this topic.

Read full article here:

<http://www.tri-association.org/n/summer2021engagement>



One Size Does Not Fit All: Making PD Matter in 2021

By **Shannon Croston** and **Jeff Richardson**

Fundación Liceo Inglés, Pereira, Colombia

Many schools make time for professional development, even in 2021. Often there are weekly afternoons where students leave early or teachers stay late and everyone is supposed to participate in PD meetings. The hope is that each of these time slots will help teachers become more knowledgeable, more skilled, more confident, and overall stronger educators because teacher efficacy is what impacts student learning the most. The reality is that too often these afternoons are used to discuss logistics or teachers have to listen to someone talk about a topic that does not feel relevant to their daily practice with students. Even less often do professional development opportunities apply what researchers have learned about adult learning theory.

Elena Aguilar summarizes the science behind how adults learn best with the following points:

1. The learning experience has to feel good.
2. Adults want to be the origin of our own learning.
3. Adults will commit to learning when we believe that the objectives are realistic and important for our personal and professional needs.
4. Adults need direct, concrete experiences for applying what we have learned to our work.
5. Adult learners come to the learning process with a self-direction.

Read full article here:

<http://www.tri-association.org/n/summer2021pd>

The Journey Towards Better Bilingual Education

By **Samantha Olson-Wyman** & **Maura Herrera**

PK-12th Grade Dual Language Liaisons & Instructional Coaches, American School of Guatemala

Language acquisition and learning is a complex and multifaceted topic within international schools. The American School of Guatemala (CAG) has long acknowledged the importance of intentional language instruction embedded in content, but the past few years have yielded meaningful results in shifting mindsets around traditional views of language acquisition and learning. Below is a bit about our courageous journey.

Read full article here:

<http://www.tri-association.org/n/summer2021bilingual>

“The Global Goals Project”

By **Sandra Gerez**, Social Responsibility Coordinator
Puebla American School Foundation

The pandemic has challenged us in many ways, and it has also brought new learning opportunities and life lessons for all of us.

Continue reading here:

<http://www.tri-association.org/n/summer2021goals>



The Handbook to a Successful School During a Pandemic

By **Jessica Schultz B.A, M.Ed.**

Middle School Principal, San Roberto International School in Monterrey, Mexico

It's been over a year. In February 2020 I was getting ready for the many different celebrations and events that are common during this month in our busy school calendar, and the ones that were coming just a few weeks later. I was excited about piloting a large conference in April entitled “*Beyond Empathy: Engaging all learning, all ages*”, where we had already confirmed a well-respected keynote speaker as well as many workshop leaders, and I was feeling very proud to lead the experience. So many plans at that time. So little knowledge of what was to come.

Read full article here:

<http://www.tri-association.org/n/summer2021successfulschool>

COVID and Our Community's Growth

By **Charlotte Duchanaut** & **Victoria Hammond**

International School of Sosúa

As of March 2020, the world has had to adopt a “new normal.” This new normal has curfews, face masks and temperature checks, and is wrapped in various levels of anxiety, fear and loss.

While COVID-19 was unprecedented and terrifying, people found ways to remain optimistic, coming up with creative solutions to once easy-to-solve problems. From garden design to chartered flights, the Sosua/Cabarete

LEARNING COMMUNITIES

community located here on the North Shore of the Dominican Republic has proven resilient and hopeful and effective in helping those most vulnerable. Not only that, but we have grown as an empathic and inclusive community.

Read full article here:

<http://www.tri-association.org/n/summer2021growth>

Featured Thought Leader: An Invitation from Will Richardson

Will Richardson is a brilliant and progressive thinker. Throughout the pandemic Will has moderated the AAIE Global Heads of School Conversations, pushing us to re-imagine school as a place of constant inquiry, innovation, and relevance. Below is a provocative excerpt from his blog and at the end an invitation to join his **community of inquiry**.

Will and Homa Tavenger are keynoting at our Annual Educators' October 1, 2021 and launching a five part series based on their 9 Questions Institute. Detailed information will be posted on our site.

One of the drivers of our work is the idea that in most cases the answers we seek are not absolutes, and that our focus when thinking about learning in any context should be on the questions we ask. We're not alone in this stance, obviously. But it makes us unafraid to say "We don't know."

Throw today's uncertainties into a pot with the tremors shaking the foundations of our current approach to schooling and we think that's a powerful path forward. As Margaret Wheatley writes in "**Willing to be Disturbed**":

But the world now is quite perplexing. We no longer live in those sweet, slow days when life felt predictable, when we actually knew what to do next. We live in a complex world, we often don't know what's going on, and we won't be able to understand its complexity unless we spend more time in not knowing. We actually know so little, both in terms of what the future might bring but also what the present requires of us. Like:

We don't know what the long term impacts of technology will be on learning and schooling.

We don't know how the traumas of the pandemic will linger or take root.

We don't know for sure what skills and literacies will be required to thrive in the future.

We don't know how we're going to overcome systemic racism, climate change, and economic inequality.

And much, much more.

But all of those unknowns drive us toward powerful inquiry. And while Wheatley suggests that we struggle with "what to do next," I actually think we know that much at least. Keep asking questions. And ask them with kids. Model "not knowing" as the way forward.

If there ever was a pedagogical stance meant for this moment, questioning is it.

Will

(We're building **a community of inquiry**. Maybe you might join us?)

THE END

HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!

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From the Executive Director

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

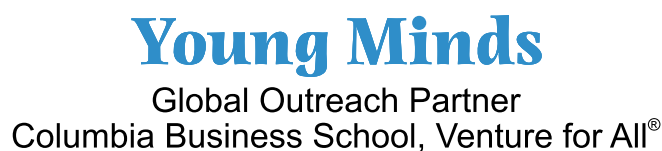
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- Fall 2021: August 15, 2021
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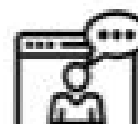
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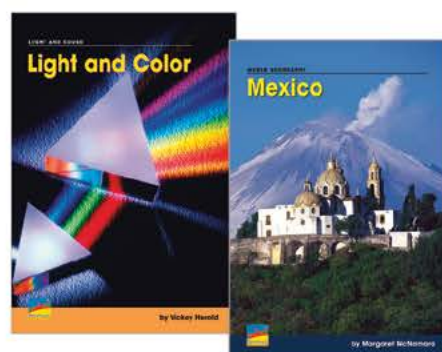
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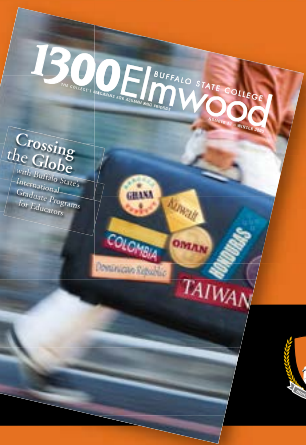
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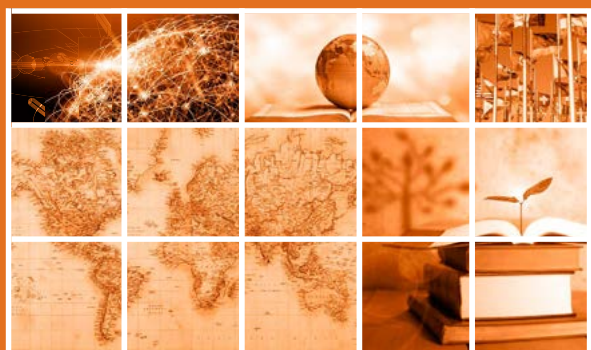
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