

KDSL

WELCOME

K D S L
Know. Do. Serve. Learn.

Global Educational
Consulting Services

KDSL Values
Knowledge
Action
Achievement
Relationships

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Welcome to the first KDSL newsletter. KDSL offers educational consulting services to schools worldwide (see page 3 for more details). The goal is to be informative and short for the busy educator. Each newsletter will feature information related to the four values of KDSL—knowledge, action, achievement, and relationships.

Where did the summer go? This summer went fast but was full of professional learning and growth. I served with the U.S. Department of Education's *Teacher to Teacher Initiative* to present *Got History?* in New Mexico and Massachusetts. July allowed me to serve as a Young Scholars Lead Teacher for three weeks at two elementary schools in Fairfax County. This program seeks to give access, affirmation, and advocates to students in kindergarten to grade 6 with gifted potential. While in the midst of launching KDSL *Got History?* was also presented at the Welcome Back DC Educator professional learning sessions during August.

Recent KDSL events and work:

Curriculum Writing: Dig in the Past for Young Scholars Program, Fairfax County, Virginia, September

DC Education Stakeholder Reception,

September 10

Smothers Elementary School, Washington, DC
Consultation meeting



Above Kevin works with Young Scholars during July 2007.

2007 will be coming to an end soon. KDSL is already thinking about next year. Here is a clue about what is to come in 2008—DuBai. More information will be coming. It has been said that the only limits that exist are the ones we put on ourselves. May you continue to live limitless lives and expect excellence daily in your work with students and/or teachers.

WORLD CLASS EDUCATION

What does it mean to you?

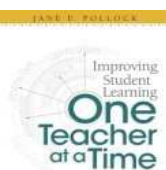
*Please email your responses to
KDSL07@hotmail.com*

Quote

“To be effective, scores of researchers say, professional development must be ongoing, deeply embedded in teachers' classroom work with children, specific to grade levels or academic content, and focused on research-based approaches. It also must help to open classroom doors and create more collaboration and sense of community among teachers in a school.”

—Alexander Russo, Harvard Education Letter, Research Online, July-August 2004

New Book Look!



Are you looking for a book to add to your school's professional library? Look no further. Jane Pollock's *Improving Student Learning One Teacher at a Time* would be perfect for a teachers as readers group. Go to www.amazon.com for more details.

Teacher Testimonial: Action

It's not enough to know as educators, but we must do. History and Science teacher Deb McNabey (Illinois) demonstrates this in her recent electronic mail message to me about observations made in her history classroom.

On the last Friday they have to produce an 8.5 x 11 poster on which they make a judgment and defend their position. They'll illus-

trate the poster with drawings related to the topic. On the reverse of the poster they will write the story in their own words. I'm using your word Hi STORY. The first day was WONDERFUL! The kids loved trying to come up with ideas about the cartoons. The archives reading was tough going, but we waded through about half of it. We'll finish the background Friday and start on the documents. A telling comment from

one of the kids about the cartoons, "Will we get the right answers?" I explained that there are no right answers and I'm learning with them. The topic is fascinating because I've found out that independence continues to be an issue. This is like inquiry in Social Studies instead of Science. I love it! Thank you so much again!

Celebration: Achievement

Show me the data! After working for six months as a kindergarten to grade 6 math resource teacher, the 2007 Virginia Standards of Learning assessment data for grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 are in for Freedom Hill Elementary School.

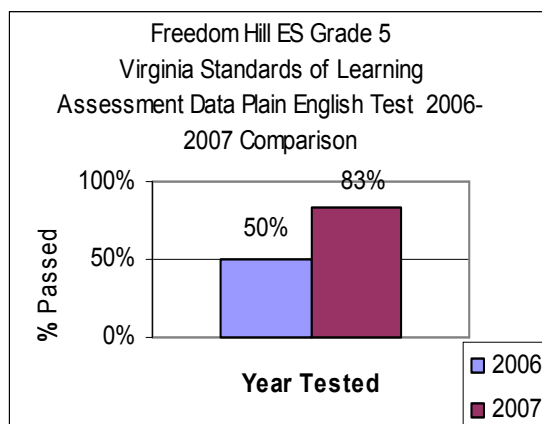
Grade 3: 95% passed

Grade 4: 100% passed (14% increase)

Grade 5: 95% passed (13% increase)

Grade 6: 81% passed

The **BIGGEST CELEBRATION** goes to the grade 5 team where the students taking the Plain English Test had a pass rate of 83%. This was a 33% gain from 2006. Grade 3 had an 8% percent increase and Grade 6 had a 22% increase from the previous year. Congrats Freedom Hill and may you continue to put kids first in all you learn and do.



Education Around the World: Laos

This month's *Education Around the World* article comes from Sophie Donnelly, a native Californian who teaches P5 (grade 4) at Vientiane International School in Laos. Laos is a landlocked country located in Southeast Asia. It is bordered by Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, Vietnam, and China. The capital city is Vientiane and visitors come from all over the world to marvel at this unique country in Asia.

The unit we are teaching is called Challenges and Risks and it falls under the transdisciplinary theme of WHO WE ARE (An Inquiry into the nature of self, beliefs, and values, personal, physical, emotional, social, and spiritual health, human

relationships including families, friends, communities and cultures, rights and responsibilities what it means to be human.) The Subject Focus is Social Studies although we are doing work in Language Arts as well. The central idea is: People react to challenges in different ways and children world-wide face a variety of challenges and risks.

My knowledge and experience with the Primary Years Programme (PYP) grows as I continue to implement the many



Map of Laos

facets of it in my classroom. Through this process I have become more invested in the objectives/mindset of the International Baccalaureate (IB) and the structured curriculum that leaves room to be creative. Using the unit's lines of inquiry, children have structured inquiry to develop depth to their thoughts and

curiosities. Like any program it is brought to life by those who teach it and it has been inspiring to begin work with experienced and inspiring educators.

To learn more about the Primary Years Programme visit www.ibo.org.

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Kevin Simpson has been consulting since 2004 and KDSL was started as a result of this work. The mission of KDSL is to serve schools and educators by providing high quality, sustained professional

Kevin Simpson has been in the education field since 1998. He has taught in parochial, public, and international schools located in Washington, D.C., Michigan, Virginia, and Laos. Simpson has also served as a countywide elementary social studies curriculum teacher, preschool to twelfth grade curriculum coordinator, and elementary math specialist. He is a National Consultant with the U.S. Department of Education's *Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative* which provides effective, research-based practices to educators across the country. Simpson specializes in educating teachers, curriculum writing, and data-driven instruction. He believes that providing teachers with high quality, collaborative professional learning is essential to student achievement. Currently, he is a Senior Associate (Math) with America's Choice in Washington, DC.

Educational Consulting Services

Services are individualized and tailored to the needs of the schools, teachers, grade level teams, and student achievement data. KDSL firmly believes the best professional learning is ongoing and sustained. Therefore, schools must commit to working with KDSL one or more times each marking period throughout the academic year. No one shot deals. For complete consulting service descriptions, please email KDSL07@hotmail.com.

Got History?

Math that Works

Assessment: The Remix

Learning While Doing: Teachers as Readers

Show Me Don't Tell Me: Modeling and co-teaching lessons

Same, Same. Differentiate, Differentiate: Differentiating Instruction

Follow the Curriculum Map Road: Curriculum Mapping, Planning, and Pacing

Show me the Data! Accessing, analyzing, and acting on numbers

Somebody's Watching Me: Peer observation and feedback

Hands-on, Minds-on: Instructional Strategies that Work

The Secret: Teacher Collaboration



Other Services Available

Curriculum Writing

School Improvement Plans

Instructional Walkthroughs