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KDSL is now online. The new weblog address is...

<http://kdsl.wordpress.com/>

Take a Stand!

Do we care about marginalized children all over the world? Goal 2 of the Millennium Development Goals to be accomplished by the year 2015 is to: Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling. Living in a developed country can make you oblivious to the hard facts of life experienced by youth worldwide. If you live in a developed country you are blessed beyond belief. There are so many opportunities we possess but can easily overlook. Education being one of them. Read the "Did You Know?" section below for mind-boggling education statistics.

To add your voice and take a stand against poverty and for the United Nations Development Programme Millennium Development Goals go to <http://standagainstopoverty.org/>.

In this issue you will find what one organization calls 21st Century Skills. Read page 2 to see if your school or educational organization makes the cut. Fairfax County Public School Educator Tasha Climo records her memories being educated in India on page 3.

Did You Know?

<http://endpoverty2015.org/goals/universal-education>

- One in four adults in the developing world – 872 million people – are illiterate. (Oxfam UK – Education Now Campaign)
- More than 100 million children remain out of school. (Source: UNFPA)
- 46% of girls in the world's poorest countries have no access to primary education. (Source: ActionAid)
- More than 1 in 4 adults cannot read or write: 2/3 are women. (Source: ActionAid)
- **Universal primary education would cost \$10 billion a year – that's half what Americans spend on ice cream. (Source: ActionAid)**
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- Young people who have completed primary education are less than half as likely to contract HIV as those missing an education. Universal primary education would prevent 700,000 cases of HIV each year – about 30% all new infections in this age group. (Source: Oxfam)

21st Century Skills



“The more we learn about and understand each other, the more effective we will be in creating a world of global citizens, and the better our chances of achieving peace in our increasingly interdependent world.”

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, October 15, 2004

Where are your students and/or school when it comes to 21st Century Skills? According to the Partnership for 21st Century Skills this includes:

“Think about it: Every educated person is not rich, but almost every education person has a job and a way out of poverty. So education is a fundamental solution to poverty.”

-- Former Louisiana Governor
Kathleen Blanco

- Master of core knowledge in key content areas, such as math, science, foreign language, as well as the ability to use that knowledge
- Personal responsibility, including the ability to work with others in order to acquire knowledge throughout their lives
- Skills to communicate clearly with those of different cultures, both orally and in writing and in more than one language
- The ability to use information and communication technologies and to apply computer literacy skills in real-world situations.

Source: <http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/>

Education Around the World

Experiencing an Indian education, first hand

This month's Education Around the World article is written by Tasha Climo, a kindergarten teacher at Centre Ridge Elementary School in Fairfax County Public Schools. India is a linguistic land set apart by a nearly 5000 year old first civilization, the Himalayas, and diverse festivals such as Diwali and Mahaveer Jayanthi. Read on as Tasha reflects on her schooling experience in India.

When you first step out of the airport in a place like Delhi, all you think is people, cows, and exhaust. The truth is, though, that once you've admitted your ignorance, and are really ready to dive into what you're about to experience in the months to come, butterflies and apprehension take the place of the wonder and excitement. Not a lot of people have the courage to pack up their two children, a house, and a Siamese cat to move over ten thousand miles away to a country like India. Now, don't get me wrong here, India is not as "developing" as one might think, the cows are always a slight exaggeration, but it is quite different for a twelve year old who has only known elementary and middle school in Springfield, Virginia.

I had already completed the eighth grade when we moved, but due to limited skills and different subjects, I started my schooling experience in the middle of the eighth grade again. Let me explain my first week. I was enrolled in a private Christian school (St. Stephens) and like a good little private school girl, had my uniform washed and ironed and my socks up to my knees. Unfortunately I did not have the pig tails, but instead had spiky highlighted blonde hair (and if you don't want to stand out, don't enroll in a private school with hair like that). I did not want to stand out, but did anyway; the accent, the hair, the HELP look, all gave it away. Morning announcements were a bit different there. Every morning we would line up by class, outside, in front of a stage, where some of the older students would read the prayer, and the daily announcements. For someone coming from the States, standing there in the hot sun is not really something you are used to. So, in the presence of the entire school, I proved just that, and fainted.

When I think back on my school days in India, that memory stands out as one of my favorites. Of course back then, horrified was how I described it, I mean *which* twelve year old wants to faint in front of the entire school? I got over it, it did take a longer time than I thought, but realized that the differences between the education of a place like India and the U.S. are not solely based on the academics, but involve actually diving into the classroom and the school setting. Everyone knows the academics of places like India, China, Japan, Singapore, etc. are all extremely competitive and much more demanding than here in the States, but not everyone knows that every morning, the entire school community gets together and recites a small prayer and creates a connection (among all students) so strong that they support even those with spiky, blonde hair.

KDSL

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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.

- 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

- Education Branding
- Curriculum Writing
- School Improvement Plans
- Instructional Walkthroughs

For complete consulting service descriptions, please email KDSL07@hotmail.com.