BOOK PUBLICATION: MAY 7, 2013

We are pleased to announce the release of our publication, *The 5 Dimensions of Engaged Teaching*. At a time when “teacher satisfaction” is at a 25 year low, with “half of all teachers describing themselves as under great stress several days per week,” (MetLife Survey, 2013), we hope this new resource will support, empower and inspire K-12 teachers and engage and enliven students. This book was developed to honor, acknowledge and build on the wisdom and experience of teachers.

*The 5 Dimensions of Engaged Teaching* was written by a six person writing team, led by Co-authors and Co-directors of PassageWorks— Laura Weaver and Mark Wilding. The book was developed ‘by educators for educators,’ and is the result of a rich collaboration that included the writing team and many brilliant educators, field experts, researchers, and editors. The book supports teachers to integrate social, emotional and academic learning and cultural responsiveness. The Engaged Teaching approach fosters our capacities as educators to reflect on and develop our own authentic teaching practice, build productive relationships with students and colleagues, and create engaging, inclusive, and meaningful classrooms.

SMART IN EDUCATION PROGRAM
(STRESS MANAGEMENT AND RELAXATION TECHNIQUES)

We are excited to announce that we have expanded our professional development offerings to include SMART in Education (Stress Management and Relaxation Techniques), an evidenced-based teacher renewal program rooted in the tradition of Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (MBSR). The SMART course for educators was developed by a team from The Impact Foundation, and thanks to the generosity of Ulco Visser and Impact, Passageworks Institute now owns the U.S. rights to SMART in Education. We are offering SMART programs in Colorado this Fall.

Click here for more info.

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BOOK GRANT PROGRAM

Due to generous grants and donations from foundations and individuals, the PassageWorks Institute has been able to offer book grants to teachers and schools to support schools who might not otherwise have the financial resources to purchase book copies. The minimum grant request is for (2) books. Each teacher or staff member who receives a book agrees to complete a short pre and post (3) minute online survey regarding their experience of reading and using the book. This survey will help us understand more about how the Engaged Teaching Approach is supporting teachers in different environments. The book grant program has been a wonderful success and we have now sent over 600 books to 110 schools in 33 states and 3 countries (Canada, Australia, and Netherlands). Because of the response, we have now seeking additional donations to this fund so we can continue to offer books to interested teachers and schools. Please consider donating to our book grant fund!

PassageWorks offers courses across the country to educators and leaders to integrate social, emotional and academic learning into their schools. At a time when teachers often lack the funds to cover their own professional development and budget cuts have limited school resources, educators are increasingly in need of partial and full scholarships to attend our courses. We invite you to contribute to this very important fund for educators.

Click here to DONATE!
NEW BOARD MEMBERS:

Barbara Catbagan - Director, School of Humanities & Interdisciplinary Studies, Naropa University
Barbara’s commitment to education and leadership is grounded in her K-12 teaching background and her association with the National Coalition for Equity in Education through which she works with institutions of higher education on issues and initiatives of equity, social justice, and personal and professional development. Through her past work as the Director of the Human Rights Resource and Education Office for the City of Fort Collins, she facilitated professional development and community educational opportunities on topics of civility, communication and human rights, and investigated and mediated allegations of discrimination. She consults with businesses, organizations and educational institutions, and has presented locally and nationally on topics germane to diversity and social justice. She has a B.A. in English and a M.Ed. from Colorado State University.

Cathy Hill - Teacher and Mentor
Cathy has worked in elementary schools for 30 years in the US and abroad. She is especially passionate about teaching student teachers, mentoring colleagues in literacy methodology, and building community with her students. Cathy currently teaches third grade at Whittier International School where a diverse student body learns through inquiry, service learning, and collaboration. In her free time, Cathy enjoys traveling, camping, and hiking in the mountains with her husband, Graham, and two daughters Peyton (13) and Lexie Bowe (11).

Diane Israel - Psychotherapist & Professor of Psychology at Naropa University
Diane Israel is currently a psychotherapist with a private practice in Boulder, Colorado and a professor of transpersonal psychology at Naropa University. Her experiences as a world-class runner and triathlete led her to specialize in body image, eating struggles, and our issues around the race to perfection. Her life’s work has been to help individuals reclaim their humanness, practice self-care, and heal through mind-body integration. She produced the award-winning independent documentary film, Beauty Mark and inspires folks around the country during her lectures. Diane’s film has reached over 10,000 people and has been endorsed by the National Eating Disorders Association, the Women’s Sports Foundation and the Dove Self Esteem Fund. She is also behind the revolutionary program, Camp Celebrate You, which will be offered for free to schools who want to increase positive self-care, self-worth, and wellness through a month of life-changing activities and events. Diane inspires people to find their authentic greatness and coaches individuals to reach their fullest potential with joy!

Marilyn Jerde
Marilyn Jerde has extensive experience in public education and is known for her strong leadership and collaborative style. She has a 30-year record of achievement in teaching, coaching, and leading school change. Her experiences have included being an elementary classroom teacher, a professional developer, a literacy coordinator, an elementary principal, a university adjunct professor and a director of schools. As a former elementary principal, Marilyn built a team of highly effective teacher leaders and, together, they successfully elevated her school to high performing. As Executive Director of Schools in a large district, Marilyn provided leadership for the elementary schools and worked directly with principals and assistant principals to improve instructional leadership skills and build highly effective organizations. Marilyn led the coordination of the principal selection process of her schools and provided beginning administrator support. She focused on recruitment, selection, and leadership development. She currently coaches education students at University of Colorado, Boulder.

Pat Sanchez - Superintendent, Adams County School District 14
Pat Sánchez brings more than 18 years of comprehensive administrative experience to the Adams 14 team, most recently as the Director of Human Resources for Aurora Public Schools. His impressive, educational background includes time spent as a principal at M. Scott Carpenter Middle School in Adams County School District 50, West High School in Denver Public Schools and Ranum/Westminster High School. He has also served as assistant principal at Westminster High School, and as Dean of Students, as well as assistant principal at Aurora Central High School in Aurora Public Schools. Additionally, Pat has served as State Director of the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America, and as Assistant State Director for Trades and Industry for the Colorado Community College system. Pat strives to create a culture of high expectations, combined with one that supports both academic and social growth for all students. Pat insists on engaging in regular communications with all District stakeholders, in order to foster a climate of mutual trust and respect. Pat received a bachelor’s degree in industrial science from Colorado State University, and a master’s degree in administration supervision and curriculum development from the University of Colorado at Denver.

DEPARTING BOARD MEMBERS:
We send our heartfelt thanks to David Brand and John Lainson for their many years of service on the PassageWorks board. Both David and John remained on the board past their tenure to support PassageWorks through critical times of growth and transition. Their skills, wisdom and heart will be greatly missed!
SMART in Education supports teachers in improving their mental and physical health, revitalizing their commitment to teaching and reclaiming their wholeness as human beings. Key topics in the course include: concentration, attention and mindfulness; understanding and regulating emotions; and empathy, compassion and forgiveness. Research on the efficacy of SMART has just been published in the Journal of Educational Psychology. SMART courses have been offered to educators in Boulder Valley School District, Jefferson County School District, Ann Arbor, Vancouver and Toronto over the past six years. We now plan to increase the size of the SMART faculty so that we can offer this powerful program to a much wider audience of educators.

SMART complements and supports our new book The Five Dimensions of Engaged Teaching and our other professional development programs. SMART provides in-depth experiential training focused on the cultivation of the inner capacities of educators that Passageworks sees as fundamental to creating inclusive, caring and rigorous learning communities: open heart, self-observer, presence, an expanded emotional range and the capacity to set respectful boundaries.

Rona Wilensky will be the SMART in Education Project Director at Passageworks. Rona was the founding principal of New Vista High School, a non-traditional small school of choice in Boulder Valley School District and has more recently been helping to grow the field of contemplative teaching and learning through a variety of activities including her role on the Leadership Council of the Initiative on Contemplative Teaching and Learning at the Garrison Institute.

For more information please connect to our SMART in Education web page: http://passageworks.org/programs/smart-in-education

For SMART in Canada, Contact University of British Columbia Okanagan Campus
The Centre for Mindful Engagement (CME)

Educators with Contemplative Practices

Rona Wilensky and Mark Wilding have been working with colleagues Andra Brill, Charles Igel, Charlotte Rotterdam, Janet Solyntjes, Linda Wallace, Mara Rose, Samten Kobelt to develop a network of Educators with Contemplative Practices (Ew/CP).

The purposes of forming the network are:
- To identify educators with long standing contemplative practices and to bring them together to share, learn and become more intentional about how they bring their personal practice to their teaching practice in ways that respect the constitutional separation of “church and state” in public schools.
- To connect local educators with the larger national and international mindfulness and/or yoga in schools movements.
- To provide support and a community of practice for alumni of SMART in Education, CARE and other contemplative education programs.
- To provide a secular support network for any educator working with mindfulness practices or programs in the classroom.

Passageworks has received a small grant from the Hemera Foundation to support this work. We are currently offering monthly half day retreats alternating locations between Boulder and Denver to anyone interested in attending. This fall we hope to sponsor one or two evening events - speakers or a film - to increase interest in our work.
UPCOMING COURSES & EVENTS

CREATING ENGAGED CLASSROOMS

This highly experiential course for k-12 educators will offer core practices and principles that foster students’ social, emotional, and academic development and support teachers to develop and sustain an intentional teaching practice. Educators will experience practical tools and strategies for creating rigorous, relationship-based learning communities.

| Where: | Pasadena, CA |
| Date: | Oct 12-13, 2013 |
| Facilitators: | Cathy Fink & Laura Weaverr |

| Where: | Boulder, CO |
| Date: | Oct 25-27, 2013 |
| Facilitators: | Batya Greenwald & John McCluskey |

SMART in EDUCATION

(Stress Management and Relaxation Techniques)

20 hour mindfulness program for educators

Where: BVSD/Boulder, DPS/Denver & JeffCo

Date: Sept - Nov, 2013

Click Here for More Info...

AUTHENTIC LEADERSHIP MINDFUL WORK SERIES

Mindfulness in Schools:
The 5 Dimensions of Engaged Teaching
How can teachers utilize mindfulness to foster social, emotional, and academic learning?

Rona Wilensky & Mark Wilding

Where: Naropa University

Date: October 22, 2013, 7:00-9:00 p.m

Click Here for More Info...

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

PassageWorks will be presenting at or attending the following educational conferences in 2013.

Mindfulness in Education Symposium—Garrison Institute- November 15-17, 2013

“The Symposium will explore how, within the formal systems of educator training, contemplative practices can cultivate the social, emotional and cognitive competencies of educators to ensure personal wellbeing, professional efficacy and their ability to promote positive school cultures. This program is open to faculty at schools of education, district staff, providers of alternative licensure and professional development and others who train and support educators.”

Learning Forward Annual Conference – Dallas, TX - December 7-11, 2013


Please follow us on:

@mwilding  @passageworks  www.facebook.com/passageworks.

Vivian Elliott and Mark Wilding will facilitate the preconference.
RECENT COURSES & EVENTS

CREATING ENGAGED CLASSROOMS

Where: Boulder, CO
Date: April 19-21, 2013
Facilitators:
Ari Gerzon-Kessler & Carrie Simpson

Where: Greensboro, VT
Date: June 17-19, 2013
Facilitators:
John McCluskey & Laura Weaver assisted by Terrie Keppel

Where: Nevada City, CA
Date: August 1-3, 2013
Facilitators:
Batya Greenwald & John McCluskey

Where: Boulder, CO - Shining Mountain Waldorf School
Date: August 22-24, 2013
Facilitators:
Laura Weaver & Carrie Simpson

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

Early this Summer, the organization Random Acts of Kindness (www.randomactsofkindness.org) approached PassageWorks to develop a series of short experiential workshops for six schools in the Denver Metro region. Random Acts of Kindness provides schools with powerful grade specific supplemental instructional tools (free of charge) that foster a culture of kindness. As part of introducing their materials to schools, they wanted to offer an introductory professional development session that would support teachers to understand the foundations of SEL and the ways the Random Acts of Kindness materials help develop SEL skills school wide. To meet this goal, PassageWorks and Random Acts of Kindness collaborated to design these three hour workshops, offered between August 12-September 11th, to six elementary and middle school faculties. Vivian Elliott, Mark Wilding and Laura Weaver facilitated the workshops with the Random Acts of Kindness Team. We are grateful to Random Acts of Kindness and the participating schools for this wonderful opportunity!

Heart-Mind Conference – Vancouver, BC
May 9-11, 2013
Heart-Mind 2013 brought together some of the leading minds in child development and contemplative practice - from scientific researchers to practitioners - to address the Dalai Lama’s question, “How can we educate the hearts of children?”

Brain Development & Learning – Vancouver, BC
July 24-28, 2013
An interdisciplinary conference organized by Adele Diamond at UBC devoted to improving children's lives by highlighting innovative programs and by making the newest research and insights from neuroscience, child development, psychology, & medicine understandable & applicable to those who work directly with children.

IDEC 2013 International Democratic Education Conference – Boulder, CO August 4-8, 2013
The 2013 International Democratic Education Conference was held at CU in Boulder, Colorado. Over 500 people participated from 35 states and 35 countries! Participants included students, teachers, parents, administrators, researchers, activists, interested in democratic and learner-centered schools.