

E-newsletter

June 2007

Dear Colleague,

Please share this e-newsletter with your peers and invite them to subscribe by e-mailing us at teacher_center@wsboces.org with their names and e-mail addresses. We will promptly add them to our subscription list. We wish you a relaxing and enriching summer! Look for our next issue in September.

Jane, Carol and Elyse

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VERBAL PROFUNDITIES

I wondered why the baseball was getting bigger. Then it hit me.

Police were called to a daycare where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.

The roundest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference.

To write with a broken pencil is pointless.

When fish are in schools they sometimes take debate.

The short fortuneteller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.

A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.

We'll never run out of math teachers because they always multiply.

When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, U C L A.

If you take a laptop computer for a run you could jog your memory.

A dentist and a manicurist fought tooth and nail.

What's the definition of a will? (It's a dead giveaway)
A backward poet writes inverse.
The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine was fully recovered.
You are stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.
A lot of money is tainted: 'Taint yours, and 'taint mine.
A plateau is a high form of flattery.
When you've seen one shopping center you've seen a mall.
Acupuncture: a jab well done.

Only in America

.....do drugstores make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front.
.....do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a diet coke.
.....do banks leave both doors open and then chain the pens to the counters.
.....do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and put our useless junk in the garage.
.....do we buy hot dogs in packages of ten and buns in packages of eight.
.....do they have drive-up ATM machines with Braille lettering.

FVI

Spring-Summer Courses and Workshops at Home and Abroad

June 24, 25, 26, 2007. YSMSA/CMoG Middle-Level Institute Summer Program

This top quality program is being brought to you through the collective efforts of the New York State Middle School Association/Corning Museum of Glass. This twelve-page brochure provides detailed information about the Institute's entire program including each of the six different ten-hour workshop offerings. Complete daily schedules and registration materials are also included in the brochure. <C:\CorningBrochure2007.pdf>

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Dennis Tosetto at Tosetto@nysmsa.org.

June 25-27, 2007. For those of you who are interested in Professional Development on **Leadership Coaching**, here is one that Karla Reiss is offering on in the Denver area. The local BOCES is sponsoring it. [POWERful Coaching June 07](#) Travel and PD in one!

June 25, 26, 27, and 28, 2007. Unraveling Racism Training at Eastern Suffolk BOCES. <C:\2007-6-25 and 6-26-ERASE racism flyer.doc>,

[2007-6-25 and 6-26 Erase Racism reg form.doc](#)

[2007-6-27 and 6-28-ERASE racism flyer.doc](#)

[2007-6-27 and 6-28 Erase Racism reg form.doc](#)

June 29, 2007. Are you recently retired or contemplating retirement? Here's a workshop for you. [Retirement-The Best Chapter of Your Life summer 07.doc](#).

Continuing & Community Education Advanced Placement Summer Institute. Niagara University is delighted to offer their annual College Board endorsed Advanced Placement Summer Institute (APSI) for teachers who would like to prepare themselves for AP teaching or advanced their skills in AP courses. Participants will have the opportunity to design or modify a course outline and curriculum that is organized around selected topics, concepts and themes.

Session I June 25-29, 2007, Psychology, Statistics

Session II July 16-20, 2007, Italian Language and Culture

Session III July 23-27, 2007, Biology, English Literature, Calculus AB, European History, Economics, US History. 30 hours of professional development credit. Early Bird Registration fee: \$795 (registration postmarked by May 24), Regular Fee: \$895. For more detailed information or to register, please contact Niagara University at (716) 286-8181 or at <http://www.niagara.edu/cce/>

July 9-13, 2007. **Project Look Sharp's Tenth Annual Summer Institute.** Last day to register is July 2! This 5-day intensive workshop (for K-12 teachers, librarians and administrators) includes both the theory of media literacy and hands-on practice with digital/computer technology (Mac-based). Project Look Sharp staff coach participants in developing and implementing individual media literacy integration plans intended to be used in their academic environments. This course may be taken for 3.1 continuing education units, or 2-3 graduate credit units (in which case the course extends 2 weeks beyond the institute and includes an online component). The institute takes place on the campus of **Ithaca College, Ithaca, New York**, and inexpensive on-campus housing is available. To download a flyer, on-campus housing form, or view a five-minute video from last year's institute, please visit http://www.ithaca.edu/looksharp/services_summer.php . For additional information contact Victoria Jordan at 607-274-3471 or looksharp@ithaca.edu.

July 17, 18, 19, 2007, **Writing Retreat for National Board Candidates and Advanced Candidates**, This retreat was created to give time for writing in a collegial environment. Working independently, with partners, or in writing groups, candidates read, write, review and reflect in congenial and supportive surroundings. Teacher Center at Rensselaerville. Registration required/No fee. **For more information and/or registration forms, please**

contact Ellen Sullivan. Phone 518-479-4083, email Ellen@teachercenter.org.

July 30-August 3, 2007. College Board Advanced Placement Program Summer Institute 2007 at the Teacher Center at Rensselaerville. Institute subjects are Biology, Environmental science, Art, Spanish Language, English Literature and Composition , Calculus AB, US Government and Politics, Chinese Language and Culture, Economics, US History, Statistics, Physics. All participants will receive a certificate of attendance that indicates the contact hours (30) and subject. Registration Fee \$500, Lodging and meals: \$495. Teachers interested in enrolling can receive registration forms via fax, mail or email by contacting 518-384-1718 or abertino@nycap.rr.com.

Attention Stony Brook students in the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Program. (MA/LS)! This August you will be eligible to study abroad in Florence, Italy! Students who wish to be part of this amazing opportunity will be registered for CEH 595 - Contemporary Italy. The 3 graduate credits earned through the course will be applied to your degree cluster area. Interested students, please contact, Lucinda Acquaye, Study Abroad Advisor, International Academic Programs, Phone 631-632-7030, Email lucinda.acquaye@stonybrook.edu.

Events

June 24-26, 2007 Make plans now to attend the [Literacy Leaders Institute](#), in Charleston, South Carolina, and join a community of learners and nationally acclaimed literacy leaders in an interactive institute for English district supervisors, literacy coaches, and department chairs focused on effective literacy instruction.

Wednesday, Aug. 8, 8:30 AM- 3PM, 8; We the People Workshop - Free Professional Development Opportunity. *We the People* is a nationally acclaimed program that promotes civic competence and responsibility for students. It enhances understanding of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. Participants will be eligible for a free classroom set of texts (30), including a teacher's edition. Three levels covered: elementary, middle and secondary. Administered by the Law, Youth and Citizenship Program of the New York State Bar Association. Melville Marriott; 1350 Old Walt Whitman Rd., Melville, NY 11747, Complimentary Buffet lunch 12-1. To reserve your place, reply by **Wed., July 25**, with the following information:

Name, School, Grade level you teach, Home: Street address, City, State, Zip, Home phone

Cell phone, Summer Email address.

Each teacher receives review copies of the textbook at the workshop and registers for a classroom set of 30 books at the completion of the day. Respond by email to dtaylor@nysba.org .

November 15-20, 2007. Make plans now to attend [NCTE's 2007 Annual Convention](#) in New York City. Register by printing and mailing the [PDF Registration Form](#) or completing the [Online Registration Form](#)! Be sure to reserve your space in one of the post-conference workshops as well. You're also invited to create a literary map of your specific locale, region, or state, designing maps through (1) researching literature and (2) using the medium best suited to achieving your intended purpose for the [Convention's 21st Century Literary Map Project](#).

Announcements

NCTE Program Recognizes Literary Magazines. Enter your senior high, junior high, or middle school student literary magazine in the [2007 NCTE Program to Recognize Excellence in Student Literary Magazines](#). The entry deadline is **July 2, 2007**.

Worthwhile Websites

Here's the URL of an educator's version of U-Tube. This is the link to a video that is very motivating regarding the use of technology in the classroom!














http://www.teachertube.com/view_video.php?viewkey=40c570a322f1b0b65909







If your students think current events are boring, get them to check out these websites from major newspapers that cover news and more in a kid-friendly way.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/kidspost/orbit/kidspost.html> Filled with polls, maps and stories about kids from other countries, this interactive site also helps kids learn about different professions with stories like "Be A DNA Analyst."

wsjclassroomedition.com/teen/index.html With stories on money and college prep, the Wall Street Journal site is a great resource for older teens.

Twenty great websites for elementary and middle school kids.

- [Carving at Skidegate.](#)  On this site, photographs and text indicate the elaborate nature of totem pole carving.
- [Castles on the Web.](#)  A beautifully designed and carefully researched site by Ted Monk. A great "Castles for Kids" section.
- [Catholic Online Saints and Angels.](#)  Read about angels and saints on this site.
- [Celebrate Hispanic Heritage!](#)  Scholastic' offers activities and resources for teachers to help students discover the contributions and rich cultures of Hispanics in the United States, with special activities for Hispanic Heritage Month.
- [Chateau Meddybemps.](#)  All kinds of fun for families with younger kids.
- [Chem4Kids.](#)  A brief overview of chemistry, the study of matter and how it changes and interacts with other matter. Covers matter, elements, atoms, reactions, and describes different types of chemistry from biochemistry to physical.
- [Chetro Ketl Great Kiva, Southwestern United States Project.](#)  This site presents a 3-D reconstruction of a Great Kiva, an architectural feature found in many prehistoric Anasazi communities in the Southwestern United States.
- [The Children's Museum of Indianapolis Fun On-Line Page \(Grades preK-2\)](#)  This museum-sponsored site provides engaging activities such as creating a multimedia puppet show and designing your own space station.
- [The Children's Museum of Indianapolis Kids Games \(Grades 3-5\)](#)  Provides games and activities for grades 3-5.
- [Children's Butterfly](#)  A delightful site: pictures to color, facts to learn. Includes bibliographies of books and videos on butterflies.
- [Children's Literature Web Guide: Authors](#)  Information about children's authors and illustrators, and their books.
- [The Children's Museum of Indianapolis.](#)  The museum offers nontraditional learning opportunities for children and their families. Includes explorations of dinosaurs and visits to "Rex's Lending Library."
- [CIA World Factbook.](#)  Extensive data, maps, and flags of all the countries in the world. Current Web edition is 2003.
- [Civil War Women.](#)  Opportunities to read diaries, documents, and letters revealing women's lives and experiences during the Civil War. Includes links to great historical photos.

- [CivilWar@Smithsonian](#)  This site provides information about many aspects of the American Civil War based upon artifacts from the Smithsonian's collections. Clicking on the dotted square icon at the top of each subject area page allows access to images of selected items along with insights into the featured documents, photos, and artifacts of the era.
- [Congress for Kids](#)  Congress for Kids gives you access to interactive, fun-filled experiences designed to help you learn about the foundation of our federal government and how its actions affect you.
- [Consumer Reports Online for Kids](#)  Produced by the Consumer's Union, this Web site tests and rates toys, games, and other products aimed at kids. No longer being updated after the year 2001.
- [Cool Science for Curious Kids](#)  Created by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, this site offers both online and offline science activities for children of all ages.
- [Coolmath.com](#)  This site is fully interactive and allows the user to sharpen basic math skills, play math-related games and explore new math concepts.
- [Coretta Scott King Awards](#) 

Sharing Success

Please click on the link directly below to access research information.
Elementary, MS and HS

- [Technology for Instruction Classroom and School Management](#)

You Asked -- We Answered

Sample Research Requests

Two way bilingual programs for secondary students? [Secondary](#)

Can you send any research on challenging gifted students in a regular ed setting and anything that could be helpful for the parents? [K-5](#)

Do you have research on elementary guidance and K-12 developmental guidance programs? [Grades 5-12](#)

We Asked -- You Answered

Excerpts from 2006-2007 Sharing Success Field Surveys:

Academic Intervention Services (AIS) sample questions and responses

[Elementary](#)

[Middle School](#)

[High School](#)

NCTE Inbox

News

How to Fix No Child Left Behind. The kids and faculty at James G. Blaine Elementary School, an all-African American, inner-city K-8 school in Philadelphia, worked hard this spring to prepare for the state reading and math tests. Last year the school met the federal goal for adequate yearly progress on the tests for the first time. If it does so again, Blaine moves off the dreaded list of failing schools. NCTE member P. David Pearson is quoted. [*Time, May 24, 2007*](#)

Study Finds Dramatic Math, Reading Gains. The report [*Answering the Question That Matters Most: Has Student Achievement Increased Since No Child Left Behind?*](#), released today by the Center for Education Policy, says that most states have seen dramatic improvements in math and reading test results since NCLB was implemented, but that it's too early to tell whether the gains are tied directly to the law. [*Stateline.org, June 5, 2007*](#)

Report: Early Reading First Program Gets Mixed Results. A [*U.S. Department of Education report*](#) released yesterday says that the Early Reading First Program has had a positive effect on children's print and letter knowledge and has led to more professional development for teachers. But the study also found the program has had no impact on phonological awareness, which includes rhyming, or oral language, which includes vocabulary development. [*CNN, June 4, 2007*](#)

With Lawsuit Looming, Spellings Discusses No Child Left Behind. Secretary Spellings defended the No Child Left Behind Act in Connecticut, where a lawsuit against the law has been filed. [*Newsday, May 29, 2007*](#)

Uncensored Self-Expression, Fourth-Grade Style. Schoolchildren find that writing for 10 minutes without stopping is harder than imagined. [*Christian Science Monitor, May 30, 2007*](#)

Kids Have Their Own Language. Do you speak text? Your teenagers do and how they're writing is all the talk. NCTE member Beth Rimer is quoted. [*WCPO TV, May 22, 2007*](#)

Does High Tech Equal High Grades? Bethlehem-area educators say "yes." But others aren't sure school laptops are worth the cost. NCTE member Joyce Bogusky is quoted. [*The Morning Call Online, May 14, 2007*](#)

Your Kids Are Reading Different Books. The high school English class is modernizing to

keep up with a fast paced, Web-driven world. NCTE member Sandy Borel is quoted. [Vail Daily, May 24, 2007](#)

Students Not Reading Shakespeare. To be or not to be? At U.S. colleges, it's increasingly "not." [Chicago Sun Times, May 21, 2007](#)

Parents Learn Alongside Kids in Literacy Program. Harborside Elementary School's family literacy program has nine mothers enrolled in an English-as-a-second language program learning in class along with their children. [San Diego Union Tribune, May 15, 2007](#)

Views

NCTE Recommends Changes for NCLB. The NCTE Executive Committee agrees that full funding and changes in the No Child Left Behind law could yield more positive results. Among the recommendations recently made by the Executive Committee are:

- Multiple assessments are needed for an accurate portrait of the academic achievement of all students.
- Teacher quality is an important factor in enhancing learning.
- High-need students should have the best prepared and most experienced teachers.

See the [complete set of recommendations](#) for further details

Ideas

Last-Day and Summer Activities. School is winding down across the United States. As students and teachers prepare for some well-deserved time out of the classroom, these activities provide useful options to last-day discussions and projects.

The *Language Arts* article "[Summer Reading: A Reflection](#)" (E) recounts the author's family's summer reading and how she used it as an opportunity to talk with her children about books and, ultimately, about life. On the last day of school, why not invite students to discuss what they plan to read during the summer months? "[Sharing Ideas for the Tools of Our Trade](#)" (M) from *Voices from the Middle* includes ideas from several teachers who offer "their best ideas for teaching vocabulary . . . ideas that work even on the last day of school." Looking for a cool way to send students off with pride in their work? Check out the fortune cookie idea explained in the *College English* article "[Editor's Choice: The Cookies of Fortune](#)" (G). The activity can be used at any grade level. Teachers need to think about

their own summer activities as well. In the *English Journal* article "[What Do You Do during Summer Vacation to Help You Reenter the Classroom Refreshed in the Fall?](#)" (G), five teachers share their own stories of rest, reading, exploring, and reinvigorating. For additional activities and resources, be sure to visit the [Summer Reading and Learning Teaching Resource Collection](#), which includes additional articles and lesson plans.

The Language of the Internet in the Classroom. The WCPO-TV9 story "[Kids Have Their Own Language](#)" discusses how today's media-savvy students use the language of texting and instant messaging every day. Students' understanding and use of digital technologies provide great opportunities for us as teachers. Our job is to find ways to foster and support those new creations. The ReadWriteThink lessons [What's the Difference? Beginning Writers Compare Email with Letter Writing](#) and [Write Right Back: Recognizing Readers' Needs and Expectations for Email Replies](#) (E) outline opportunities for investigating the genre of email in the classroom. For more information, read the article that inspired the lessons: "[Email as Genre: A Beginning Writer Learns the Conventions](#)" (E) from *Language Arts*. Explore the language of electronic messages and how it affects other writing with the ReadWriteThink lesson [Audience, Purpose, and Language Use in Electronic Messages](#) (M). To set up online chats and email with the students, check out the *Voices from the Middle* article "[Improving Writing: Online Bulletin Boards](#)" (M). The *English Journal* article "[Virtually Being There: Creating Authentic Experiences through Interactive Exchanges](#)" (S-TE) describes an email writing exchange between preservice teachers and high school students, designed to help students develop conversations about writing as a tool for learning across the curriculum. For resources to structure your own writing exchange, check out the ReadWriteThink lesson [Exploring Literature through Letter Writing Groups](#) (S-C). The *College English* article "[Distant Voices: Teaching Writing in a Culture of Technology](#)" (C) considers the ways that technology can influence our teaching in light of "the increasing replacement of face-to-face contact by 'virtual' interaction via multimedia technology, email communication systems, and the recently expanded capabilities of the World Wide Web" in our campus classrooms and in distance education.

[In the News](#)

[Eye on Curriculum](#)

Study: Some top states set standards low. Many states that claim large shares of their students can read and do math proficiently have set less stringent standards than lower-

performing states, according to a [National Center for Education Statistics study](#) released Thursday. [The New York Times](#) (6/8)

Study: Children make strides with dialect-based phonics. A new linguistic phonics method, which builds on a child's existing language, boosts reading skills, a study of 900 children found. Researchers at a Belfast university said pupils advanced several months more than expected. [BBC](#)

Maryland county aims to improve middle schools with specialties. All 30 Prince George's County middle schools will offer specialty programs from French immersion to a mid-level International Baccalaureate program. The programs aim to strengthen the bridge between middle school and high school. [The Washington Post](#) (6/5)

Grade inflation puts "B" students in bottom half of class. Nearly one in five students in one Pittsburgh-area school have weighted GPAs of 4.6 or higher; at another school, students with GPAs lower than 3.3 fall into the bottom half of the class. Nearly half of college freshmen reported high school grade point averages of A-minus or higher in 2006, compared with 19.4% in 1966, according to UCLA's Higher Education Research Institute. [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) (6/3)

More minorities take AP tests as overall numbers grow. More than twice as many Hispanic students and 177% more black students took AP exams in 2005 than in 1997 as overall participation in the exams has more than doubled, according to the U.S. Department of Education's latest education statistics released Thursday. The same report showed the U.S. population of minority students has surged to 42% of public school enrollment, up from 22% three decades ago. [The New York Times](#) (6/1)

Learning and Teaching

Road trip teaches students about immigration, geography. Mary Carter Van Atta's classroom on Wednesday was an Atlanta highway: with steaming bowls of Vietnamese soup for lunch and the sounds of Mexican music, she showed her students how migration is changing the community. "This helps me understand exactly how rich the cultures in Atlanta and North Georgia are becoming," said Van Atta, who teaches high school geography and civics. [Journal and Constitution \(Atlanta\)](#) (free registration) (6/7)

Professional Leadership

Japan's teachers need instruction in dealing with "monster parents". Parents in Japan are tossing aside generations of unconditional respect for teachers, becoming what staff secretly call "monster parents." Regional education boards have assembled teachers' manuals, categorizing demanding parents into 10 types and explaining how to deal with each. [Asahi Shimbun \(Japan\)](#) (6/7)

New York City charters to get merit bonuses. The U.S. Department of Education awarded \$10.5 million to a New York City nonprofit to create merit pay systems in 10 charter schools, officials announced this week. The charter schools will offer bonuses of up to \$8,000 for school supervisors, \$6,000 for teachers and \$2,000 for aides. [The New York Times](#) (6/7)

Aspiring teachers follow different routes to classrooms. About 50,000 educators began teaching last year after changing careers, perhaps in part due to increasing numbers of alternative-certification programs. The condensed curriculum for programs in Delaware and Maryland are not viewed as easy but seem to be alleviating teacher shortages in those states. [The News Journal \(Del.\)](#) (6/6), [The Sun \(Baltimore\)](#) (free registration) (6/3)

Technology Solutions

Teen's vault into Internet spotlight worries educators. High school pole-vaulter Allison Stokke, 18, found herself in the public eye after photographs of her competing were posted online, resulting in lewd online discussions, a fake Facebook profile and MySpace messages. Internet safety experts and educators are calling for vigilance regarding the use of online photos, among other things. [eSchool News](#) (6/6)

Survey: Most schools out of compliance on new e-mail rules. Six months after new federal rules required schools to keep copies of all digital communications produced by their employees, an informal survey of K-12 school districts showed 90% aren't yet in compliance with the new requirements that went into effect Dec. 1. [eSchool News](#) (6/4)

Policy Watch

Teen's vault into Internet spotlight worries educators. High school pole-vaulter Allison Stokke, 18, found herself in the public eye after photographs of her competing were posted online, resulting in lewd online discussions, a fake Facebook profile and MySpace messages. Internet safety experts and educators are calling for vigilance regarding the use of online photos, among other things. [eSchool News](#) (6/6)

NCLB

Analysis: State exam scores may be misleading. Some of the highest-ranking states under NCLB look to be more concerned with creating the appearance of academic progress than in raising standards, according to a [Gannett News Service](#) analysis. The widest performance gap was identified in Mississippi, where 89% of fourth-graders passed the state's 2005 reading test, but just 18% passed the National Assessment of Educational Progress test. [USA TODAY/Gannett News Service](#) (6/6)

Survey: Nearly two-thirds of U.S. adults want NCLB abolished, amended. Nearly two out of three Americans want Congress to rewrite or abolish NCLB, according to a Scripps Howard News Service and Ohio University survey of 1,010 U.S. adults. Slightly less than half said NCLB has had a negative impact and only one-third said that it has had a positive influence on public education. [The Detroit News/Scripps Howard News Service](#) (5/31)

Nebraska's maverick NCLB model draws attention. In Nebraska, where 87% of students meet federal goals in math and reading, teachers are given free reign over curriculum, school districts are allowed to create their own tests of student progress and students must write essays rather than just fill in bubbles when tested. "We just told the [U.S.] Department of Education that ... high-stakes testing isn't the way to do it," says Doug Christensen, Nebraska's education commissioner. "We told them we would show them that we had a better way." [TIME](#) (5/30)

In the Field

Sleepy teens seek to put insomnia to bed. With a recent survey by the National Sleep Foundation finding only a fifth of teens get the minimum nine hours of sleep recommended by doctors, sleep centers are booming as many teens and their parents seek answers. Physical and chemical changes require more sleep, doctors say, but new pressures combined with new freedoms can sometimes make it tough for teens to set healthy sleep habits. [The Arizona Republic \(Phoenix\)](#) (6/6)

China's children waltz away their excess pounds. As rates of obesity among Chinese schoolchildren increase, officials are introducing into the school curriculum the waltz and other dances to be performed during class breaks in addition to existing physical education courses. [The Independent \(London\)](#) (6/6)

Some graduates rack up hundreds of thousands in savings. As college costs soar, some high school students are racking up hundreds of thousands each in college scholarships by playing schools off one another and applying for expanded scholarship offerings. "As of now, I don't have to pay for anything except medical care, and I'm trying to find a scholarship for that. I'm still applying," said Shannice Clark, who has received about \$457,000 in offers. [The Cincinnati Enquirer](#) (6/5)

Five Illinois students denied diplomas after graduation cheering. Five students in Galesburg, Ill. -- four blacks and one Hispanic -- were denied keepsake diplomas after enthusiastic friends or family members cheered for them during high school graduation. "It was one of the worst days of my life," said Caisha Gayles, an honors student with a 3.4 grade-point average. "You walk across the stage, and then you can't get your diploma because of other people cheering for you. It was devastating." [CNN/Associated Press](#) (6/1)

"Green school" movement gains momentum. The promise of lower energy costs and healthier classrooms are inspiring schools nationwide to create more environmentally friendly learning environments. Nearly 300 schools are on a waiting list for U.S. Green Building Council certification, and 27 have already received the recognition. [The Washington Post/Associated Press](#) (5/28)

"A closed mind is a dying mind."

Edna Ferber, Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist