

TST Weekly Bulletin

Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES

TST BOCES
TOMPKINS • SENECA • TIOGA

School Improvement Services

Leading and supporting school communities in their efforts to provide the best possible learning environment for all students.



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FOCUS OF THE WEEK: STUDENTS

This week, let's take some time to clarify in our own minds how what we do (or what we ask our students to do) will help these young people meet their basic human needs. In addition, let's share our thinking with a few colleagues and invite a few colleagues to share their thinking with us.

FOR TEACHERS

Help Write Sustainability Lessons

Project LookSharp, the award-winning media literacy program at Ithaca College, is seeking ten regional teacher collaborators from different subject areas and grade levels to help write and promote new free-online curriculum activities that will teach key sustainability content through inquiry-based media analysis. Receive professional development and hours through MLP and a \$200 stipend. Write two media decoding activities using PLS standard format and question-based media analysis approach. You will be named co-author. Participate in training this fall (less than 5 hours total). This includes advising on the prioritizing of sustainability content for new activities. Training dates and times will be determined by participants.

More information is available [here](#).

Enhance student engagement through Media Decoding Integration

This is a team-based training for this school year, including 4-6 sessions totaling less than 3 hours. Meetings will be held during regular in-school meeting times designed with and for your subject area or grade level team. This training will also include individual coaching and activity feedback. For more information, check out this [flier](#).

Place-based Education: Communities as Learning Environments

"As the emergence of personalized learning, project-based learning and deeper learning approaches, the time is right to connect learning to communities in authentic and meaningful ways. This place-based education approach can serve as a framework to connect learning models, increase the power of our educational system and serve as the foundation for a thriving democracy." Find out more, [here](#).

Math Teachers

This [link](#) will provide you with an overview of the many different grants available through the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

Quote of the Week

"Quality curriculum should play a central role in meeting the core needs of students...it is the teacher's job to make the link between the basic human needs of students and curriculum"

-- Tomlinson & McTighe, 2006

▶ THERE'S MORE!

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Teaching Ambassador Fellowship

The Teaching Ambassador Fellowship is designed to improve education for students by involving teachers in the development and implementation of national education policy. More information, including information about how to sign up to be notified when the 2017 – 2018 application opens, can be found [here](#).

{UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES}

Autism Collaborative Community

The Autism Collaborative Community is a new opportunity for educators currently working with students with Autism Spectrum Disorder in their classrooms to collaborate and share promising practices across our region. This community will be co-facilitated by Jennifer Gondek, Instructional Specialist for Inclusion at TST BOCES, Rachel Walker, Autism Consultant for Ithaca City School District, and Justin DiMatteo, Technology Instructional Specialist at TST BOCES. Throughout the series, participants will explore evidence-based practices and interventions with opportunities to plan for implementation and reflect together on data collected. Classroom-based follow-up support will be offered as needed by the facilitators. The shared mentor texts provided to all participants will be *You're Going to Love this Kid* by Paula Kluth and *The Reason I Jump* by Naoki Higashida. Series dates are October 28th, January 18th, and April 5th, from 8:30 – 2:30. More information available on [this flier](#). Sign up in mlp, [here](#).

Elementary Co-Teaching PLC

This regional PLC will bring together educators that are co-teaching in elementary school classrooms. Teams of co-teachers will reflect together on their instructional practices, plan with the principles of Universal Design for Learning, and create action plans to guide their work. Facilitated by Jennifer Gondek, Instructional Specialist for Inclusion at TST BOCES and Lee Ginenthal, Teacher on Special Assignment for Inclusion at Ithaca City School District. Sessions will be held on October 20th, January 12th & March 16th, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sign up in [mlp](#). For more information, see the [attached flier](#).

The New Jim Crow Community Book Read

“The New Jim Crow, by Michelle Alexander, is the definitive academic/legal account of the contemporary system of mass incarceration. In Alexander’s words, mass incarceration is a ‘stunningly comprehensive and well disguised system of racialized social control that functions in a manner strikingly similar to Jim Crow.’

The Book Read project lasts from September 2016 to April 2017. There are two main parts: Free films and 8 free community events based on chapter themes and actions we can take locally to end injustice. These events are open to everyone, whether you read the book or not. Childcare and a free, light dinner are provided at each event. Barry Derfel, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction at TST BOCES will be facilitating online follow-up discussions for teachers following each of the monthly community events at GIAC. Discussion is only open to those who attend the event. The next event will be on October 17th, from 5:30 – 8:30 at Greater Ithaca Activities Center (GIAC), 301 West Court Street, Ithaca. Sign up for the follow-up discussion in [mlp](#). In addition, be sure to sign in with Barry at GIAC.

Poverty is Not a Culture: Understanding and Supporting Students Dealing with Economic Insecurity

This is a three-session series. Each session runs from 8:30 - 2:30, and participants are expected to sign up for all three sessions. Session dates are: Monday, October 31st; Friday, November 18th; Friday, December 16th. Co-sponsored by SUNY Cortland and TST BOCES. In this three-session workshop series, we will work together to develop clarity about the ways in which our schools can best support and affirm students and families who are struggling for economic security. We will confront mainstream stereotypes, myths, and misinformation relating to poverty by examining how these notions have been constructed over time. We will reflect on our own beliefs in order to solidify within ourselves an assets-based mindset regarding our students and families who struggle for economic security. We will identify concrete actions we can take to ensure that all of our students are successful. More information available on the [attached flier](#). Sign up now in [mlp](#).

Sustaining an Appetite for Learning

Friday, November 14, 2016 from 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Johnson Museum of Art

From Meso-American chocolate pots to Pop art still life, the Johnson Museum of Art has countless art objects relating to food. We'll explore food as a lens for learning in an interdisciplinary way touching on history and art, biology and music, literature and economics. Sessions will focus on food justice, sustainability, sacred vessels/sacred meals and lesson plan construction on the subject of food and civil rights. A special lunch will be included. The day-long session will be led by Maryterese Pasquale Bowen and Carol Hockett with guests speakers from Cornell University. Sign up now in [mlp](#).

Project LookSharp Media Decoding Integration – Introductory Training

Participate in an introductory 90 minute inquiry-based media analysis training, to be followed up with individual coaching and online group support. In addition, participants will receive media analysis resources and support in accessing media documents tied to their content and objectives. For more information, see [this flier](#).



FOR PRINCIPALS

AP/Dean of Students Council Meetings for 2016 – 2017

In response to requests from folks who serve as AP's/Deans, we will begin having monthly Council meetings in November. These meetings will run from 8:00 – 10:00, and will be held on the following Tuesdays: November 1st, December 6th, February 7th, March 28th, and May 2nd. Please ask you AP's/Dean to sign up in [mlp](#).

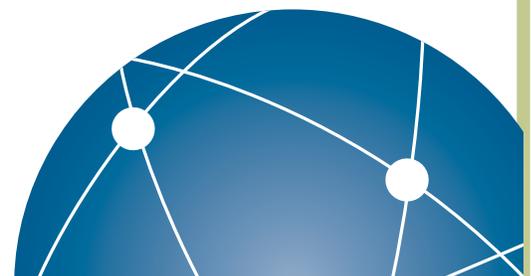
Principal Ambassador Fellowship Program

The U.S. Department of Education created the Principal Ambassador Fellowship (PAF) program as one means of recognizing the critical impact that principals have on instruction and student achievement; school climate and improvement; and community and family engagement.” More information, including information about how to sign up to be notified when the 2017 – 2018 application opens, can be found [here](#).

LINKS, ARTICLES & BOOKS

- [Project LookSharp Webinars](#)
- [America in 1492 – The World of Indian Peoples Before the Arrival of Columbus](#), edited by Alvin M. Josephy, Jr. 1991
- [Revitalizing Natural History Education by Design](#), Kolan and Poleman, 2009

Contact Barry if you would like to borrow a book or article.



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Barry Derfel, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

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