Bringing School and Community Together

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Significant learning experience

• Reflect on a learning experience that was especially significant for you

• It could be one you had in school/university, or in some other setting such as home, church, work, a museum, summer camp, online, travel, etc.

• Jot some notes, just to help you remember the circumstances
Youth...

• feel alienated from society

• see school as a waste of time

• engage in anti-social & self-destructive behavior
Communities...

• need to “talk to strangers” – D. Allen

• mental health consigned to jails

• privatizing the public good

• growing inequity
Shooting in St. Louis
How can we connect learning and life?
Ferguson libraries

- Racial tensions in mostly black suburb, with mostly white police department

- School was postponed for two weeks; library provided educational services & creative programs for families + sanctuary for all

- “Ad hoc school on the fly”

- Taught by working and retired teachers, with volunteers
• Math/science in the morning; arts in the afternoon

• 150 students; expanded to the Baptist church for some classes

• Community groups provided programs: Tibetan prayer flags; talks by scientists & artists
“This is the type of work that libraries were made to do, providing continuing education, cultural enrichment, and being a meeting space for the community”

–Scott Bonner, Director
Where do we learn?

- Learning occurs in every setting (learning space)
- Learning is enhanced by the relation between two learning spaces
- Learning develops most fully in a richly connected network of learning spaces
We must remember that intelligence is not enough...not only power of concentration, but worthy objectives upon which to concentrate...[transmit] the accumulated experience of social living.

–Martin Luther King, 1947, “The purpose of education”
make the entire social organism democratic, extend democracy beyond its political expression

–Jane Addams, 1893
Progressive education

- Respect for diversity (child-centered)
- Critical, socially engaged intelligence (social reconstruction)
Inquiry

Self

Others

The progressive impulse
Inquiry-based learning... in which people construct knowledge based on the questions that arise in their lived experience.
Taking kids seriously –
Alfie Kohn
Inquiry cycle

- Ask
- Investigate
- Create
- Discuss
- Reflect
Célestin Freinet, France, 1920-
Célestin Freinet, 1896-1966

- Wounded in the lung, became pacifist
- Elementary schoolteacher in Le Bar-sur-Loup
- Turned platform into work table
- Purchased a printing press
- Free texts and class newspapers for his students
• Learning walks

• Children compose their own works, discuss & edit, present as a team effort

• Exchange with other schools

• Change public education from the inside with the co-operation of teachers

• http://youtu.be/EGv_cjNhWY
Reception in US

• Teacher-created curricula
• Socialist
Community schools,
Turkey
Community schools

The school is...an experiment in democratic living...it belongs to its people. They share its ideas and ideals and its work. It takes from them as it gives to them.

Village Institutes, 1940-54
Turgut Reis middle school
Çocuklar Evi
Yeniceköy Primary School
• 14 children in grades 1-4
• multigrade (one classroom)
• new early childhood room
Some of the actors
More actors
Family
Audience (sister school)
New early childhood space
Gift from sister school
Sister school
Global understanding
Misiones Pedagógicas, Spain, 1931-36
Literacy for all
Teachers to the villages
Libraries by donkey
Watching an outdoor film
Teaching without a classroom
Traveling museum
Music by phonograph
No comprendo por qué odian de esa manera a las Misiones. Las Misiones no hacen más que educar. Y a España la salvación ha de venirle por la educación.

–Manuel Bartolomé Cossío, 1935
Engaged citizens,
Romania, 2006-
Democracy means free and fair elections, but also a political environment where citizens actively participate in the decision making process

–Resource Centre for Public Participation (CeRe), 2006
Learning

- Working together
- Listening to each other
- Making decisions together; being a team
- Compromising, negotiating
- Understanding the laws and municipal government
Work with university, libraries, schools
Mapping Schools and Hospitals

Problem and Context
Nepal has five active thematic programs - called Flagships - aimed at disaster risk reduction and response. Flagship...
Read more »

Exposure Survey

Problem and Context
Nepal is the 11th most vulnerable country in the world in terms of earthquake risk....
Read more »

Map For Everyone

Problem and Context
Like many other developing countries, Nepal does not have freely available detailed online maps. While traditional mapping...
Read more »
Mapping Public Toilets

Problem and Context
"One evening, it was 7:30 when I left for home from the office. Just as I was leaving,...
Read more »

Public Transportation

Problem and Context
Kathmandu Valley is Nepal's major administrative, political and economic center. It consists of 3 districts, 5 municipalities and...
Read more »

Mero Bhada Meter [Taxi Meter App]

Problem and Context
Taxi Meter tampering is real and rampant in Kathmandu Valley. Passengers often get cheated and are...
Read more »
http://youtu.be/dwL-VtlOFf8
Puerto Rican Cultural Center
Paseo Boricua

• Neighborhood in Chicago

• Diverse language, countries, religion, political views

• Challenges: Racism, diabetes, violence, substance abuse, school failure, poverty, poor housing,...
Vivir y ayudar a vivir
Anti-alcoholism
Anti-gentrification

- Resistance to modern, urban colonialism
- Economic development
- Community building
- Education
Participatory democracy
Café Teatro Batey Urbano

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Friday, December 5, 14
Café Teatro Batey Urbano
Digital Literacy for ALL Learners (Martin Wolske)

• Community volunteers

• Community technology learning centers: Urbana library, Champaign library, UNCC, Tap In, Kenwood Elementary

• Build on the capabilities, values, and goals of individual students

• Solve problems that have personal meaning, e.g., personal genealogy
Intergenerational book group

Nauset 8th grade classes...an opportunity to independently read literature that our students are also reading and engage in lively dialogue about the books and how they relate to life. If you enjoy reading and would like a chance to spend quality time with our wonderful teens, please contact...
Connect learning to life

- Integrative learning: across subjects, across time, and between school and community
- The “community is the curriculum”
- Inquiry process
Thank you for listening!
Questions? Comments?