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Reminder

You will not want to miss the 'brutal facts' from Mike Schmoker, brought to you by the Kansas Staff Development Council and KASCD! You need to register now to be sure to get the breakout sessions you want! [Click Here!](#)

How Are The Children? KASCD President's Message by Sherry Reed

When you greet others, what do you say? Do you say, "Hi, how are you?" Do you say, "What's going on?" Or maybe you are like my twelve year old, and you say "Whazzup?" The people of the African Mosai Tribe greet each other by focusing on the most valued resource in their culture; the children. As they meet each other on the beaten path they say, "How are the children?" And the response? "The children are well." What would our culture be like if we greeted each other this way? If the children really come first for us, doesn't it make sense that this would be the question and the response?



Molly McCloskey, ASCD Constituent Partnerships Director, and KASCD contact for ASCD, shared this story with the KASCD Board of Directors this summer at our retreat. The story and has really stayed with me all summer as I consider the work we are doing in others states, in our jobs in our schools, and the work I do with my community and my own children at home.

I had many opportunities over the summer to visit with colleagues in other states. Being the President of KASCD, our organization has an amazing network of truly gifted educators from other states. Time and time again I leave those discussions with my colleagues with a prayer of gratefulness that I work in Kansas; a state that sets up schools to succeed with the requirements of No Child Left Behind. My colleagues in other states would give so much to have the direction we have in the "deltas" in our standards. Our neighbors don't have such specific direction. As I look at the data with my colleagues, the question comes to mind; "How are the children in Kansas?" I look at the data and say, "The children are well!" And we are getting better every day!

USD 437 Auburn-Washburn is my professional home. It is an exemplary district and getting better every day. I am so often reminded by my colleagues that we are doing the right work at the right time and our focus is true and correct, since we are truly focused on providing teachers the information and resources they need to succeed in this time of heightened accountability and standards-based curriculum alignment. We will introduce no other initiatives until we are solidly aligned. So, "How are the children in USD 437?" I look at the data and say, "The children are well!" And we have the data to prove it!

My family and I live on a farm high on a hill in Franklin County. It is an amazing place with a view that extends for miles. We farm crops and livestock and my children grow up in the best possible environment. We are truly Kansas people. My husband and I work hard and we are dedicated to our children's education and development. As we sent our oldest child off to her junior year at Pittsburg State this fall, majoring in accounting (today), I am so grateful for her public school teachers and administrators and their contributions to her development and success in college. Then, I think of our twelve year old son, destined to be a professional fisherman on the Bass Pro tour (just ask him), and his wonderful experiences in the newly formed West Franklin Middle School in a newly consolidated district. I am so grateful to those who have worked so hard to create the best possible learning environment for him and his classmates. His principal is an inspiration! My son is a contributor to his school—in the classroom, on state assessments, and on the playing field. We are very proud. Then, I look into the big blue eyes of my youngest child and she tests me every day. She makes me the teacher I should have been for all of my students. I understand the ASCD Whole Child campaign because I am her mother. My nine year old is an autistic child who challenges us and makes our family stronger. Her teachers are some of the best in the state, in my opinion. We all go to bed every night tired and happy. She will constantly make her school better—regardless of any law. So, "How are the children at my house?" "The children are well!" My husband and I are proud parents.

Please take some time to reflect on your answer to the question, "How are the children?" I hope you can answer—from any perspective-- "The children are well."

A Just in Time BAIP Training Opportunity for KASCD MEMBERS ONLY by Michael Brom, Treasurer

What is BAIP? BAIP is CETE's new tool for Blending Assessment with Instruction Program. Please join us for this web-based seminar by Dr. John Poggio that is open for FREE to KASCD members only! Gather as many people as you like around a computer screen - this is your opportunity to see the program and discuss possible use with your students, *just in time*

*October 31, 2007 – 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 OR
November 1, 2007 – 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.*

There is absolutely no cost to members and this is a "members only" event. Registration is required. Once you register, then handouts will be attached to the meeting confirmation. We are accepting 75 members per session. Registration coming soon at www.kascd.org!

KASCD Unveils New Website! by Sherry Reed, President

A major project for the KASCD Board of Directors has been the redesign of the KASCD website. The website goes "live" on Monday, October 1st, 2007. We hope you will take some time to visit www.kascd.org to check out all the information and resources on the website (and register for the free BAIP training!) You will find that as a member, you have access to the members only login and that you can post information on a wiki site that allows members to discuss issues faced by curriculum leaders on a daily basis. We hope to continually develop the members only section. Please be sure to click on Contact KASCD on the home page to send us any suggestions or feedback. Thank you!

Join the ASCD Campaign for the Whole Child! by Molly McCloskey, ASCD Regional Rep

ASCD has some exciting new resources to share with you for your work supporting the whole child! KASCD encourages you to visit www.wholechildducation.org, sign the pledge, and choose to receive the newsletter. Over 10,000 people nationally now receive the newsletter every other week and more than 3500 have used the "Grade your school and community" tool on the website. Let's work together to make sure each child is healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged. KASCD is studying the Whole Child initiative and making plans for our state in this important campaign!

ASCD recently released a [short video on YouTube](#) that dynamically captures the message of the whole child. If you haven't seen it yet (over 3000 people have!), it is definitely worth your time!

We hope that you will find use for each of the tools. Please feel free to contact KASCD with questions or concerns. Thank you for all you do to support the whole child! Please stay tuned for more details and information. The ASCD campaign for the Whole Child has just begun!

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