

The 21st Century Educator

February

Volume 1, Issue 5
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With the stress of the testing season, just remember to breathe!

Learning Competency Focus: Real-World Problem-Solving & Innovation

Problems that provide students with opportunities to innovate solutions to real-world problems require *thinking skills*, not procedural skills. Real-World Problem-Solving means that **the activity's primary purpose is problem-solving; students are working on a substantial real-world problem; and the activity requires innovation – the creation of a product, method, or idea new to the student.** Our communities are improved by those who innovate to solve problems that exist in the real world. We are all engaged in some way in the work of implementing solutions—from garbage collection to security for online banking. The work of creating solutions, however small, to improve our lives is why real-world problem-solving and innovation are important 21st Century skills. Increasingly, we see examples of K-12 students who are addressing real-world problems, and coming up with solutions with the potential to benefit a real audience. Students with more opportunities to grapple with real-world problems are more likely to be engaged in the work of developing viable solutions. It seems important, therefore, that teachers create learning activities that provide students with the opportunity to solve real-world problems, and create products, methods, and ideas that are new to them. Project Based Learning (PBL) is a great way to implement Real-World Problem-Solving and Innovation in your classroom. See the [Elevator Guide](#) here.

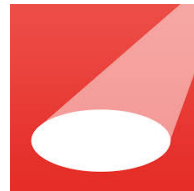
- ⇒ Click [here](#) for a great article **Dear Class, Welcome to the Real World**. Many lessons taught in the classroom don't correspond to skills for life—be at work or at home.
- ⇒ Click [here](#) for a short article on what skills employers are looking for in potential employees.
- ⇒ Click [here](#) for a great Office Mix presentation about Real-World Problem-Solving and Innovation.
- ⇒ Click [here](#) for several articles from *Edutopia* on Project Based Learning (PBL) and motivating students.

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Practitioner in the Spotlight

Webster's Dictionary defines a Practitioner as someone who is "**actively engaged in an art, discipline or profession**". A **21st Century Practitioner** is someone who is "actively engaged in the art of the 21st Century Learning Practices" by infusing them in his/her instruction. This feature of the newsletter shines a spotlight on 21st Century Practitioners in our district who are doing amazing things in their classrooms utilizing the 21st Century Learning Practices and working towards making our students college and career ready.



Ms. Dana Reynolds, Sarah Winnemucca ES

Can you just give a short background of yourself, what you teach and when you first started using the 21st Century Learning Practices?

Entering the classroom in 2013, as a 2nd grade teacher, I learned very quickly the value of utilizing 21st Century Learning Practices as a tool for engaging not only my English learner students but each and every one of my students. Having had an opportunity to work alongside a colleague who guided my interests in 21st Century Learning, I was quick to volunteer as a leader in the 21st Century Leader's Network as I transitioned to the 5th grade at a new school. Given this opportunity, my knowledge and assimilation of the 21st Century Learning Practices have

continuously influenced my planning and everyday instruction that empower my students daily.

How has using the 21st Century Learning Practices transformed your instruction?

The 21st Century Learning Practices have informed my instruction in the sense that these practices have to allow for some fluidity and adaptability, based entirely on the students' interests and curricular needs, rather than specific abilities. My planning is much more flexible now in order to allow for student input in how the curriculum moves forward. Rather than viewing my class as divided into particular, inflexible abilities, I recognize the plasticity and malleability of the class as a whole as they work together towards a common goal.

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- ◆ [CUE of NEVADA events](#)
- ◆ Leaders Network Professional Learning Day #4 March 15, 2018
- ◆ Engage Me! Saturday Café at TMCC March 17, 2018
- ◆ [NGSS Boot Camp 2018](#) - Taking STEM Outside May 4-6, 2018

Practitioner in the Spotlight cont.

How has implementing the 21st Century Learning Practices transformed your students' learning and their achievement?

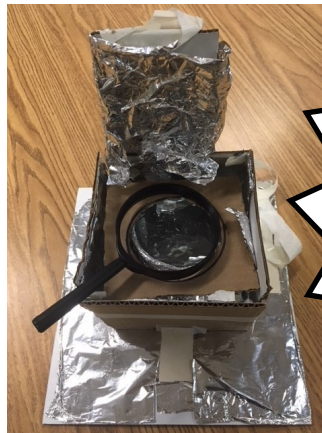
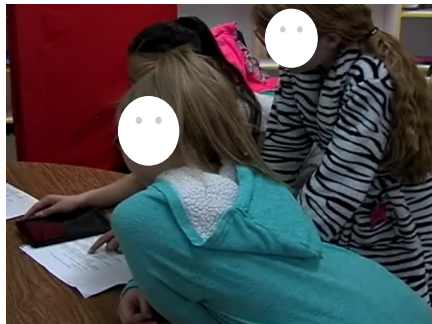
With the implementation of 21st Century Learning Practices in my classroom, I have seen a shift in many students' excitement for school. These practices empower students to willingly take on new and challenging problems with a smile on their faces! Students have such an opportunity to experience their own abilities to achieve personal and collaborative success. These learning practices have offered myself and my students the chance to integrate our own creative nature, regaining the joyous process of learning.

In thinking about planning with, and implementing, the 21st Century Learning Practices, what advice would you give to someone who is new to 21st Century Learning?

Utilize the elevator guide in your monthly, weekly, daily planning time alongside your grade-level. Have the guide available as you plan, and regularly reference the elevator as small reminders of the simple components that you can add to amplify your instruction.

Please describe the activities you are doing related to 21st Century Learning to demonstrate the students' learning.

Students have been learning about the processes of heating the spheres of the Earth, particularly through radiation, conduction, and convection. Thus far, the class has participated in a variety of hands-on FOSS experiments to understand the transfer of heat energy through solids, liquids, and gases. As a culmination of this unit, students worked together in a self-selected group to design and build a working solar water heater that they will test in the near future. Additionally, students have been asked to create some type of commercial, using technology and guided by a rubric, in order to "sell" their water heater to the other 5th grade classes.



Want to know more about PBL?

[What is Project Based Learning \(PBL\)?](#) from *BIE*

[Project Based Learning](#) from *Edutopia*

[Seven Essentials for Project Based Learning](#) from *ASCD*

[Project Based Learning: Start Here](#) from *Cult of Pedagogy*

[The Difference Between Projects and PBL](#) from *TeachThought*



WANTED! 21st Century Exemplar Classrooms! We are looking for 21st Century Exemplar Classrooms within Washoe County School District to exhibit the positive student impacts achieved through [21st Century Learning Practices](#). Click [here](#) to submit an **application** to highlight your work and how it enhances students' learning. If chosen as an Exemplar Classroom teacher, your practice will be showcased for your peers, leaders within the district, and professional learning communities beyond Washoe County Schools.

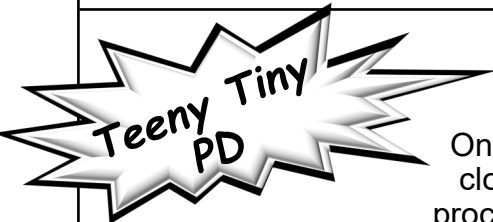


- ◆ [Here](#) are NEW updates to Office 365's OneNote, Teams, Class Notebook and Immersive Reader!
- ◆ [10 of the Best Writing and Grammar Apps for Elementary Students](#) from The TechEdvocate
- ◆ [How to Assign Group Work in Google Classroom!](#) from *Tech&Learning*
- ◆ [Here](#) are 150+ Chrome Apps & Extensions for Teachers and Students

Want to see what 21st Century Learning looks like in our School District? Click [here](#) for videos.



Are **YOU** doing amazing things in your classroom with 21st Century Learning Practices? Would you be willing to share these great things with others? We would love to come in and video-tape your students showcasing the 21st Century Learning Practices! Please email Shari Dunn at skdunn@washoeschools.net to schedule. These also make great artifacts for evaluations!



This month's **Teeny Tiny PD** is brought to you by **Mark Skoff!**

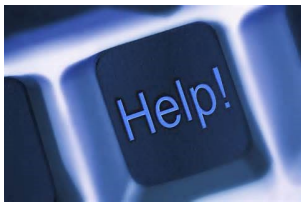
Mark is shining a spotlight on One Drive!

OneDrive is an amazing solution to store all your files in one place in the cloud. You can access your files on any device. Sharing files is an easy process like copying the link and sharing it with another person.

See all the things that OneDrive has to offer.

Video: [Teeny Tiny PD One Drive](#) * Link to [Transcript](#) of Video

More Resources: [Tutorial: OneDrive and Office 365](#) and [Using OneDrive in the Classroom](#)



What the Tech? and other Tools

IT'S HERE!! Have a **question** related to **technology**? The 21st Century Learning Division and I.T. have collaborated to create a Question and Answer Forum for your technology related questions. You can browse a wide variety of categories and search for answers to your questions. User settings have also been set for **you**

to pose questions on the site and get them answered. Click on the link for: [What the Tech?](#) **What the Tech** is a Sharepoint site so be sure to click on "Follow" so it's easy for you to find when you need it!

[Make Formative Assessment more Student Centered](#) from *Common Sense Media* - Tools and strategies to make your formative assessments more student centered and meaningful.

[Education By Numbers: Options Galore](#) from *Just for the ASKing* - This newsletter offers a wide variety of topics. This content does not follow a predetermined pattern; therefore, as you peruse the titles and content samples, select links to access articles of interest. Whatever you select to investigate, the goal is to enhance your thinking and to provide insights that will enrich your professional perspective.



[Woot Math Polls: Formative Assessment for the Math Classroom](#) - **Woot Math** has a gallery of thousands of resources you can dive into right away to find "just right" material for your next lesson. This includes quizzes, exit tickets and warmups on a variety of K-12 math topics. You'll also have the ability to create your own customized formative assessments with Woot Math too.

[2018 Grants Guide for STEM, EdTech and Prof. Development](#) - Where and how to secure funding. This comprehensive guide contains detailed information for grants by category, with a focus on K-8 students and their teachers. You'll also find links to online resources, search engines, and how-to grant writing tips.



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Please encourage colleagues at your site to take the Practitioner Badge course!



21st Century Practitioner Badge Courses

21st Century Educator Practitioner Fall 2018 Badge Course

Oct. 9 - Nov. 19, 2018; Brown Center; 4:15 - 6:15pm

Facilitators: Misha Miller-Hornbuckle & Terra Graves

[Link to Register](#)

Watch for more sections opening in MyPGS.

EdTech Courses

Explorer Badge - CAMP 21 Online Course

Did you know... You can take Camp 21 more than once to earn credit. There are many options to choose from, so you'll be able to pick something new to learn about and explore! Class is worth 1.0 credit.

Facilitators: Terra Graves & Misha Miller-Hornbuckle

Watch MyPGS for upcoming dates and registration details!

21st Century Leader Badge Courses

Prerequisite: Must have successfully completed Practitioner Badge

21st Century Educator Leader Badge Course Spring 2018 -

Brown Center - March 5 - May 21, 2018; 4:15- 6:15pm

Facilitators: Tina Holland & Misha Miller-Hornbuckle

[Link to Register](#)

Spaces are filling up - Register now to save your spot!

21st Century Educator Leader Badge Course Fall 2018 -

Dates, Times and Location - TBD

Watch MyPGS for registration details.

Other Free Webinars, Videos & Articles

[Power Up your Parent-Teacher Communication.](#)

Common Sense Media shares how proactive parent communication can boost student accountability.

[Project Based Learning and the Flipped Classroom...A Great Combination!](#)

As we look at the process of PBL and Flipped Learning we can begin to see how the two together can promote Bloom's higher order learning. Article from *Tech&Learning*.

[Integrating Technology with Project Based Learning: Four Indicators to Blend the Learning](#)

From *Tech&Learning*

[Helping Students Find the Truth in a Fake News World](#)

from *Tech&Learning*

[10 Types of Digital Activities to Engage Teens](#)

from *Tech&Learning*

8 Ways Teachers Can Incorporate Technology in the Classroom Webinar with Dr. Monica Burns.

Wednesday, Mar. 7th from 1-2pm PST. Click [here](#) to register.

Free Webinars from edWeb.net. Click [here](#) for a comprehensive list of free Webinars offered monthly on a wide variety of topics.

This monthly newsletter brought to you by The 21st Century Learning Division

Mail Stop: Brown Center

Contact us through our website, www.wcsd21.com with Questions, Concerns, Suggestions

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Check out our webpage frequently for new updates and resources.

