

Never confuse education with intelligence - Einstein

PISA Again

PISA results are a bit like the Olympics; they are announced, generate a flurry of activity and publicity and then fade from view. But they are important, they provide useful feedback, they point to areas requiring attention, they allow us to compare ourselves with others, but they should not drive everything we do.

A couple of years ago the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, OECD, the sponsor of PISA tests undertook a survey of 11 countries that participate in the PISA testing program. I am not sure of exactly all the survey included but I was particularly interested in the following findings, and I quote:

- “In countries where schools have greater autonomy over what is taught and how students are assessed, students tend to perform better.
- In countries where schools account for their results by posting achievement data publicly, schools that enjoy greater autonomy in resource allocation tend to show better student performance than those with less autonomy. In countries where there are no such accountability arrangements, schools with greater autonomy in resource allocation tend to perform worse.”

To read the full report, readers are encouraged to log on to the OECD website, http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/education/pisa-in-focus_22260919 where you will find the above report on School Accountability and Autonomy (Report No. 9), but a number of other interesting reports as well

Reminder-Workshop: January 20, 2014

The challenges of young people on PEI will be the subject of a workshop on January 20, 2014. The workshop will lead off with a review of a recent study commissioned by the Community Foundation of Prince Edward Island, [Taking the Pulse of Island Youth](#). Following a presentation by Steve McQuaid, Vice President of the Foundation, participants will engage in round-table discussions about the findings, especially those related to the issue of “preparedness”. The workshop is open to the public and will be held in the Southport Room, Stratford Town Hall, at 7:00 p.m.

Report cards

Report cards in British Columbia schools have been the subject of discussion for many years, and have often been somewhat controversial. Readers will find an update on what’s happening in the Vancouver Sun of January 10, 2014 <http://www.vancouversun.com/news/education/debates+merits+report+card+grades+elementary+students/9369888/story.html>

“Doing a doctorate

Considering graduate study? See Sunday’s Manchester Guardian at: <http://www.theguardian.com/uk/manchester>

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