

“When we present knowledge as more certain than it is, we discourage curiosity” – Anonymous

Time and achievement

Firstly, thank you to readers who commented or raised questions about last month's newsletter; in fact, this column was triggered by this question from a reader: "Can we separate standards and time?"

Last month's column suggested that we define standards in each subject, and vary the time available to suit student learning pace and style. It is a well-established principle of education and one that has growing support.

What the writer pointed out was that time is also a consideration in "the performance of a skill in an occupational setting (either cognitive or performance)" in the real world. A workman is not only expected to produce a product or provide a service of acceptable quality but must do so within "a competitive time limit".

It's an important issue and one that most forcefully differentiates work standards from academic ones. One can imagine, for example, two students in the same class building a small cabinet, one in order to obtain an academic credit and the other towards a "Red Seal" credit in carpentry. Even though they produce a product of equal quality, an academic student could receive an "A" while the carpenter may not even pass; the reason being that, the time spent by the carpenter making the item, makes the item too expensive. The time needed to produce a product or provide a service is certainly one of the criteria in assessing performance in employment, it should not, however, be confused with the time it takes to learn.

Potpourri

- **Presentation**
Reserve Wednesday evening, November 25 at 6:30 p.m., for a presentation by Dave Cormier, in the Southport Room of the Stratford Town Hall. Dave is Project Lead for Student Relations Management at UPEI and is also internationally recognized for his views on learning and teaching.
- **2016 Award**
Nominations are now open for the 2016 Excellence in Education Award. This time, for the nature and extent to which technology is used to enhance learning. Information about the Award, including award criteria, is available on our website www.education2020.ca.
- **Preparedness-2**
Education 20/20 is hosting a group of educators and employers on November 25, 2015, to explore the preparedness gap between school and postsecondary education and employment.
- **Coding**
Congratulations to Maureen Kerr, one of the Directors of Education 20/20, for raising the profile of technology in PEI schools. Maureen is not only an advocate, for the past five years, she has been offering computer experiences to children 8 to 12 years of age.

Don Glendenning, Editor

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