

The Basic Skills Gap

Recently, I was part of a discussion about students who graduate without having the skill levels needed to enter employment or further their education; we were not long into the discussion before we realized that there is not much hard information available about the nature of the gap or the number of people affected.

Participants took the view that the role of schools is to help young people develop the skills of citizenship, but whether the skills of citizenship and the skills needed to fill the gaps are the same, remains to be determined.

A search on the Internet revealed the following citizenship skills: critical thinking, critical enquiry, making judgements, active participation, representing your views to others, evaluation, decision making, collaborative working, negotiation, tolerance, advocacy, planning and communication. I am not sure just how one teaches or measures citizenship skills but at least the discussion has begun. I'll report again after our next meeting.

Learning Partnerships

Recently, the Premier announced the establishment of a number of consultative bodies:

- Principals' Council
- Family of Schools District Advisory Councils
- Learning Partners Advisory Council

I urge you to consider volunteering and to do it soon. Searching with key words “PEI Learning Partners Advisory Councils” will allow you to retrieve details on the work of these councils and how to volunteer.

Potpourri

A messy business

Those attending Dave Cormier's presentation at the Stratford Town Hall on November 25th were challenged to consider *rhizomatic learning* (A rhizome has no beginning or end... such as the learning process); it is even more complex than the “Learning Path” published recently by Education 20/20 Inc. Check it out on the Internet.

Most likely to succeed

We are pleased to present “Most likely to succeed”, a film describing project-based learning as practised at High Tech High in San Diego. The film will be shown at City Cinema in Charlottetown on Sunday, January 17, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. Admission is \$5.00 per person on a first-come-first-served basis. See our website www.education2020.com for more details.

Editor: Don Glendenning

To all our readers, we wish you...

*Merry Christmas
And
Happy New Year*

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