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US Math: Micro and Macro

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Robyn Silbey Professional Development Raising Teacher Quality and Student Achievement in Mathematics

Holiday Wishes



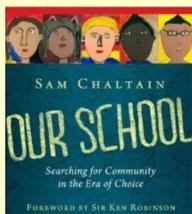
I wish you a wonderful year filled with abundance of joy and treasured moments with loved ones. May 2015 be a banner year in every way!

In This Issue

Our School, by Sam Chaltain

Shout Out!

Our School, by Sam Chaltain



In Our School, Sam Chaltain observes that public education is the only institution in American society that (a) is guaranteed to reach 90% of every new generation, (b) is governed by public authority, and (c) was founded with the explicit mission of

Shout Out! William Beanes Elementary School



William Beanes Elementary School uses a literacy lens to grow their ability in mathematics. The staff began a four-day professional development experience with Silbey's



preparing young people to be thoughtful and active participants in a democratic society. School options, such as those found in Washington, DC, prompted Chaltain to observe two Washington, DC schools: a charter school opening its doors for the first time, and an established DC public school. *Our School* takes us inside both settings for an entire school year. The results are both expected and shocking; affirming and alarming.

In the Foreward, Sir Ken Robinson calls *Our School* "an important book" because it looks into the hearts and through the eyes of children, teachers, and families-- and captures the feelings and motivations, personalities and relationships that define the lived experience of two schools. In a related talk called Changing Academic Paradigms, Sir Ken talks about readiness for the 21st Century with a global view.

Our School provides a clear lens into urban education and compels us to evaluate our goals and how they may be executed for the greatest outcome.

workshop, "The Wedding of Literacy and Math." Teachers explored the role that comprehension plays a in the problem solving process, and how to tap their expertise in reading strategies to help students understand math problems.

Subsequent days involved demonstration lessons, team planning, and leadership meetings. All activities were designed around concrete examples of the literacy-math connection for teachers of all grade levels.

Standards for Mathematical Practice

Why Do Americans Stink at Math?



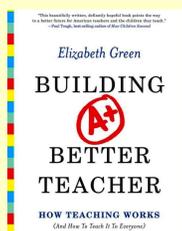
Why do Americans stink at math? That is the question Elizabeth Green posed in her insightful essay that appeared in the New York Times a few months ago. Green wondered how math could be taught in school so that mirrors how children learn it in daily life. She found that Magdalene Lampert taught elementary school in the 1980's with that challenge in mind. She replaced the traditional "I, We, You" method with "You, Y'all, We." Lampert assigned a single problem of the day and invited students to struggle toward a solution on their own, in peer groups, and finally as a class. The result was a process that replaced answer-



In the December/January Coaches' Corner of Teaching Children Mathematics, Robyn takes a close look at Model with Mathematics: Standard 4 of the Common Core Standards for Mathematical Practice.

getting with sense-making.

Green says that to cure our country's innumeracy, we will have to "accept that the traditional approach we take to teaching math--the one that can be mind-numbing, but also comfortingly familiar--does not work. We will have to come to see math not as a list of rules to be memorized but as a way of looking at the world that really makes sense."



Green's book, Building a Better Teacher, shares with readers the updated and intricate profession of teaching. She believes that legendary teachers are more than inspiring; they are the greatest craftspeople of all.

Green will be the opening speaker at the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Annual Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts, April 15, 2015. Lampert will be a major session speaker at the National Council of Supervisors of Mathematics Annual Meeting in Boston the same week.

In the Next Issue...



Book Review: Innovators, by Walter Isaacson

Discourse: 12 Steps to Get Students Talking

Coaches' Corner: Teaching Children

Mathematics, News & Reviews

--**And much more!**

Mathematics permeates every corner of our lives, and Robyn provides detailed math models at school, at home, on television, in the newspaper, and online. Robyn's article can be found in the journal on page 263.



Quote of the Month



"Growth and comfort do not coexist."
Virginia Rommety,
Chairman,
President and

CEO, IBM



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