

Happenings In Education

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

It's the time of year when we turn our attention to families, food, festivities, and of course finals. It is difficult to imagine where this semester has gone. I trust that all of you have had a productive term and will be ready to start all over again following the holidays.

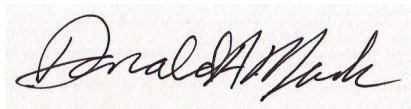
As we approach the Christmas season, let us remember the birth of our Savior. Let us also think about our many blessings and the many things for which we have to be thankful. As we consider how blessed we are, let's take time to remember those who are not as fortunate.

We are blessed to have great students, and I am blessed to work with terrific colleagues. Our partnership with Downey continues to thrive and we now have one of our own, December graduate Luke Redding, joining the Downey team. After spending this semester student teaching there, just before Thanksgiving he received the news that he had been hired as a second grade teacher. He begins his new adventure in January. Congratulations to Luke!

This has been a good semester. As we close this chapter of the school year and prepare to open the next, be sure to take time over the holidays to enjoy family and friends. Do some reading for fun. Turn to the program on TV that you have been wanting to watch.

Come back for the spring semester refreshed and ready to change education for the sake of all students.

Merry Christmas!



Department of Education, Chair



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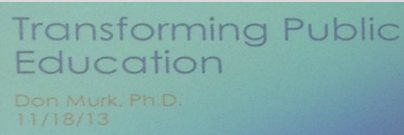


DR. MURK DELIVERS HIS BOYER FELLOWSHIP PRESENTATION

As part of the 2012-2014 Boyer Fellow Research Projects, on November 18, 2013, Dr. Don Murk, Fellow, The Ernest L. Boyer Center and chair of the Department of Education, delivered a presentation on “Transforming Public Education” to a receptive audience.

Dr. Murk opened his talk with a brief overview of how formal education has progressed over time, including such notable events as *Brown vs. Board of Education* of 1954 and contributions by respected philosopher Jean Piaget.

Dr. Murk used this progression to illustrate the development of current policies



and trends in education. He noted that while there are bright spots, many improvements can be made through empowering teachers and their students. In this way, classrooms can be tailored to fit needs rather than meet a qualified quota.

Dr. Murk also discussed ways to involve more parents in lower income areas and how the Together for Tomorrow partnership with Harrisburg’s Downey Elementary School has made great strides in addressing this and other problem areas in public education.

With the much appreciated assistance of Carly Day, Dr. Murk gave a thoughtful and insightful presentation.

WHAT HAS DR. GAITHER BEEN UP TO?

In October, Dr. Milton Gaither delivered his presentation, *Landscape Learning: the First 15,000 Years*, at the annual Organization of Educational Historians (OEH) conference. The theme of this year’s conferences was “Exploring Landscapes of Learning: Questions, Methods, and New Territories.” Dr. Gaither addressed the fact that “there has been no article published or book reviewed in the *History of Education Quarterly* or the *American Educational History Journal* about the 15,000 years of education that took place in North



America prior to European contact.”

Dr. Gaither began his research with three theoretical and methodological concerns. First dilemma was that historians were dealing with limited source material. The second problem was archaeological. Finally, the third concern was answering the question, “what is education anyway?” From this Dr. Gaither proceeded to address the three forms of education he uncovered during his research: landscape learning, cultural learning, and learning from mistakes.

This presentation just scratched the surface of “how deep and wide the topic of the history of education could be constructed if we wish to do so.”

Faculty Notes:

Congratulations to Dr. Maude Yacapsin, whose article “Faith: A New Component within Differentiated Instruction, was published in the Winter edition of *Christian Perspectives in Education*.

Article abstract: This qualitative study utilized student self-reports to Differentiate Instruction by Faith at a Christian college in central, PA. A brief survey was administered to 21 students. The students were asked to report how they preferred to engage in gracious Christian worship while in class, based on their unique faith practices. Data demonstrates that an even distribution of students (n = 7) reported preferring the practices of public prayer, silent devotion, or inspirational passage readings. Results further support the use of Faith differentiation in the Christian college classroom.

<http://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/cpe/vol6/iss1/2/>

M

ore than 30 Downey Elementary School students trekked across the Messiah College campus on November 15, as they participated in a field trip designed to recognize and develop leadership qualities within students.

Their day on campus was organized by three seniors, who are currently student teaching at Downey, Domenic Andolina, Taylor Miller, and Luke Redding. Downey Elementary teachers also participated in the planning and chaperoning of the field trip.

The goal of the trip was also to provide early college access to students from first through fourth grade, who have demonstrated noteworthy leadership skills. With that in mind, students began with a visit to Messiah's Oakes Museum of Natural History, where they took a guided tour of the many exhibits on display there.

From there they toured the campus and concluded the day with a private leadership banquet that was sponsored by Messiah College students, who generously donated meals for the event. For Andolina, Miller, and Redding this was the highlight of the day, as they wanted to provide an elaborate dining experience for the students in recognition of the exemplary leadership qualities they exhibit.

After returning to Downey, students told teachers about their experience saying, "Everyone was nice at the college. I liked seeing the museum because I like learning about animals." One fourth grader said, "I think I could go to college." Another added, "I liked eating with college students and I enjoyed seeing the library, gym, and the pool. I would go to that college!" When asked what has to happen before going to college, the student responded, "I have to work hard and that's what I do."

The students left Messiah College with a positive memory and new excitement to continue working hard, so that they can

Messiah Student Teachers: Making a Difference and Promoting Leadership in One Area School



one day go to college. Downey Elementary student teachers and staff hope they have created a tradition of inviting students to visit Messiah College to expose them to a college experience at an early age.

Downey shares a special relationship with Messiah College because of their partnership in the Together For Tomorrow initiative—a progressive endeavor that includes the US Department of Education, White House, and Corporation for National Community Service (CNCS). As such, we hope to see many more such field trips grace our campus.



MESSIAH COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

The mission statement of the Messiah College department of education is to develop exemplary educators who apply their knowledge, skills, Christian faith, and ethical principles to decision making, reflective thinking, and problem solving in diverse learning environments.

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STUDENT HONORS PRESENTATIONS **ROCK**

DANIELLE PIANUCCI, MENTORED BY DR. MELINDA BURCHARD

On Tuesday, November 12, 2013, senior PK-4/ special education major, Danielle Pianucci presented her findings on the research that she and Dr. Melinda Burchard conducted entitled, "Study of Conditionally Admitted Students at Messiah College: Needs and Gains Over Time." Pianucci began the study during the



fall of 2012 and recently concluded with a follow-up study of the same students in their sophomore year.

Dani noted in her presentation that, "If we believe in gracious admissions . . . then we must support their success, not to protect retention rates, but because we care about each student."

Pianucci is the 2013 Ernest L. Boyer, Sr. Teacher Scholarship recipient.

KELLY STIEF, MENTORED BY DR. MAUDE YACAPSIN

PK-4/special education major Kelly Stief delivered her senior honors presentation entitled, "Teaching Fractions to Students with Disabilities" on Monday, November 18, 2013.

In her presentation Kelly discussed the various challenges and opportunities inherent in teaching complex concepts to this unique population using current research based strategies and iPad apps.

Kelly also presented this information at the PAC-TE conference this past October to a welcoming audience of higher education professionals.



DECEMBER GRADS

We would like to congratulate our seniors who will be graduating this December: Angela Klaczak, Jena Moyer, Taylor Phillips, and Luke Redding. We celebrate with these individuals as they take what they have learned from Messiah and go out to share their love of teaching.

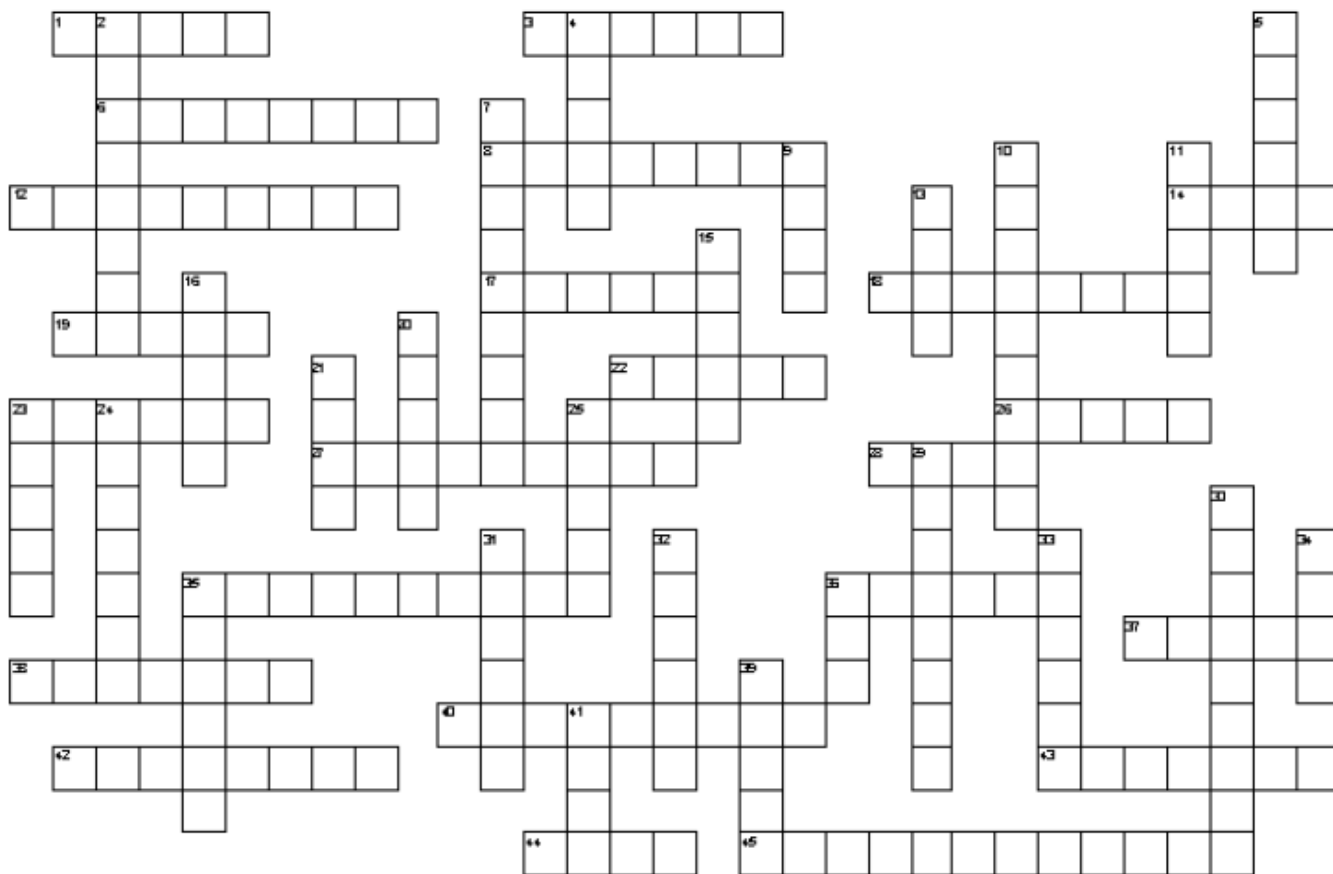
Best wishes graduates!!



SOME CHRISTMAS FUN



Sing a song of Christmas with this festive crossword puzzle! The first two students to submit all the correct answers will win a sweet treat from the Education Department!



ACROSS

- 1 I Heard the _____ on Christmas Day
- 3 Thou Didst Leave Thy _____
- 6 Go Tell it on the _____
- 8 Home for the _____
- 12 It's the Most _____ Time of the Year
- 14 O _____ Night
- 17 The _____ Days of Christmas
- 18 Oh, Come, All Ye _____
- 19 In the _____ Midwinter
- 22 Have a Holly _____ Christmas
- 23 _____ Wonderland
- 26 I Saw _____ Kissing Santa Claus
- 27 Good _____ Men Rejoice
- 28 O Christmas _____
- 35 _____ is Coming to Town
- 36 _____ Bells
- 37 I'm Dreaming of a _____ Christmas
- 38 _____ the Red-Nosed Reindeer
- 40 O Little Town of _____
- 42 It Came Upon a _____ Clear
- 43 The Little _____ Boy
- 44 _____ the Halls
- 45 I Want a _____ for Christmas



DOWN

- 2 O Come, O Come _____
- 4 The _____ and the Ivy
- 5 _____ from the Realms of Glory
- 7 _____ Roasting on an Open Fire
- 9 Let it _____! Let it _____! Let it _____!
- 10 God Rest Ye, Merry _____
- 11 When a _____ is Born
- 13 Do You _____ What I _____?
- 15 I'll Be Home With _____ On
- 16 Pretty _____
- 20 We Wish You a _____ Christmas
- 21 Jingle Bell _____
- 23 _____ Are You, Christmas?
- 24 Feliz _____
- 25 We Three _____
- 29 Grandma Got Run Over By the _____
- 30 Rockin' Around the _____ Tree
- 31 Away in a _____
- 32 _____ Bells
- 33 Hark the _____
- 34 The First _____
- 35 _____ Night
- 36 _____ to the World
- 39 All I Want for Christmas is my Two Front _____
- 41 I'll Be _____ for Christmas

