

Newsletter --

Southeast Texas P-16 Council

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Kids Kollege

Next Saturday, Dec. 4, is the kick-off of our Kids Kollege project. I am proud to say that all of the higher education institutions (IHEs) in the Golden Triangle are participating: Lamar State College-Orange, Lamar State College, Port Arthur, Lamar Institute of Technology and Lamar University.

We have had a hardworking, talented and visionary committee working on it.

We had to make some changes from our first visions because of limited resources. Two are worth noting. We were originally going to hold it on all the IHEs on the same day. It didn't take long to realize that we didn't have the manpower to coordinate such a wide-spread effort. The compromise was to hold it on the Lamar University and LIT campuses – essentially in one place, for the first event.

The second compromise was similar. We were going to invite all the school systems to the event. Since we could only handle about 250 students. That meant each middle school (the event is for 7th and 8th graders) was going to have a very small quota of students to attend. We also did not have the resources to keep up with that many schools. We decided to aim for 7 school systems for this first of, hopefully, many events.

Not that I am apologizing. Given the excitement from the IHEs, the business community and the ISDs, I think this is going to be revolutionary.

Revolutionary is what it is going to take to bring Southeast Texas into the top ranks of career producing metro areas. A gradual change is essentially staying even. A moderate change can put us behind the curve for decades.

There is some evidence that change is coming. As we note on our web site. 36% of the schools in the Golden Triangle were ranked as exemplary. This was almost exclusively elementary schools. But soon, all of those elementary students in exemplary schools

will be passing into middle schools and high schools bringing their talents, skills, study behaviors,..... and expectations.

The business community has been very active in helping the education community reach for change. Note though, that the business community has the most to gain or lose here. If businesses want talented, problem solving, articulate, workers in the future, they need to articulate that need. Let the ISD's know of their future needs. Let students know that they are pulling for them to be successful in their pursuit of a career-ready education.

Events such as Kids Kollege lets the business community get eye level with students and tell them we're in this together.

In the end, students will rise to what is expected of them. Expect too little. Hide that expectation. Sit back and let others deliver the message. The result will be a feeling of among the students that they are not expected to accomplish much. Many, maybe even most will meet that expectation.

This is the real goal of the P-16 effort. Set and show high expectations. Then make sure there is a ladder there students can use to climb to that level.

If you can only deliver the high expectations, and don't have the resources to build the ladder, at least, give students the instructions on how to build a ladder.

The second derivative of change.... Continued

Last month we moved Rip Van Winkle up to 1990 and put him to sleep again for 20 years to see if things are changing more rapidly than they did back at the end of the 18th century.

But the real question is how fast is the pace of change changing? (yes what is the second derivative of the curve for you math teachers). So, I am assuming you fell to sleep on Jan. 1, 2005 and you just woke up today. Almost six years of peaceful slumber. Would your world have change very much in that time?

Instead of citing all the new inventions, I thought I would look at it from your language and a few of the new words that everyone learned since the beginning of 2005. Would you be able to catch on to what they were saying when you woke up?

Remember the start of 2005 When you fell asleep? Flags were still flying at half mast in countries around the world for the tsunami victims. When you fell asleep, there was still drama about who would be the next president of the United States. Congress let the voting stand and George W. Bush started his second term.

A couple of other quick news notes you missed. US intelligence officials confirm that its search for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq ended in futility. Star Trek : Enterprise finally ended its 18-year run on television. Sorry you missed the finale.

But, glad you woke up, welcome to the new world of **mouse potatoes**. I can't wait to show you all the new **add-ins** I have for **Firefox**. **Firefox** –you know the web browser. Sorry. You missed that too.

I suppose you missed most of the **gastric by-pass** controversy. Gosh. You probably missed all the **biodiesel** and **renewable fuels** flap, too. Us folks from the **sandwich generation**, our memories are just so fried.

But, just wait, I want to show you some **YouTube** videos of what you missed. **YouTube**, you know the video site.... You missed that, too? Dang, your rehabilitation is going to be harder than I thought.

What? What happened to your **MySpace** account? This is going to be hard. **Facebook** is all the rage now. **MySpace** is moving on to other pursuits. Tell you what, I will **Skype** some friends and we can... **Skype**, you know the internet phone **app**. **App**, it's short for ... never mind.

This is going to be worse than **Katrina**. **Katrina** you, know the... sorry. Where are you from? New Orleans??? Sit down, we have to talk. Were you living in New Orleans when you fell asleep? Living in ... Orange, TX? We really have to talk. Seems like a pair of ladies are following you around. **Katrina** and **Rita**. Nasty gals. It was 2005, the year of the **perfect storm**. Only **Ike** was bigger.... **Ike**, the hurricane.

We'll do this later. When this is over, I am surely going to be your **BFF**. **BFF**, you know, best friend forever? Don't you text? No? That's okay, there's other **social media**. **Social Media**, you know like **Flickr**. The *photo sharing* site. **Photo sharing**. Come on, you sure you didn't fall asleep in 1905?

They did have **social bookmarking** sites back then didn't they? **Del.icio.us**? You think you heard of it? Well at least we're getting somewhere. **Diigo**? No that was in 2006. Sorry. Surely you've heard of Google's **Blogspot.com**? Google. That's right. Google took it over. You know, talking to you is harder than **Sudoka**. It's a game... Never mind.

Let's just say it's tougher that understanding **derivatives**. No, not calculus, the **Bubble** kind. I'm talking about the **housing bubble**. **The Great Recession**. You know **Too Big to Fail**, **the banking crisis**. . You know, no **trickle up**, no trickle down. **Toxic assets**. **Jingle mail**? **Homeowners under water**? **Sub-prime**? **Alt-A**? The **stimulus**? **Stimulus**. They tried to keep it from being a depression.

Quantitative easing ? Staycation? Don't worry, you're not alone. *You know about Government Motors*, maybe? How about Recessionistas? **Cash for Clunkers?** **Shovel-ready?** **Madoff?** **Robo signes?** **The Tea Party?** Sorry. This is a lot bigger than the old meaning. **Death panels?** **Deathers?** **Birthers?** **Tenthers**. As in the 10th Amendment? **Warmists?** **Punked?** **Waterboarding?**

Who's the new president? **Barack Obama**. What? Sounds like a muslim?. He's not but he is the first African American president. Catch your breath, I didn't mean to startle you. It's pretty apparent there's been a few changes since you started napping. Just listen and see if any of these words mean anything to you: **Sexting?** **Podcasting?** **DWT**. You know **driving while texting**. **Cyberbullying?** **Carbon footprint?** **Wardrobe malfunction?** **WOOFs**. (Well off older folks). A **plutoid?** Pluto is not a planet anymore. **The Mars Rovers?** **Water on Mars?** **Water on the moon?**

Friend, unfriend? They are now verbs. Remind me to discuss this with you. You can get in a lot of trouble fast. **Octomom?** **Vvuzelas?** **Green collar jobs?** **Webisode?** **Back-channel?**

You can learn about all this quickly, maybe on **Twitter**. You know **tweets**, **peeps**, the **Twitterverse**, **microblogging?** Say, you're a teacher aren't you? I bet they have a **Moodle** course on this. **Moodle**. It's an on-line.....maybe we'll just use **TeacherTube**. We have a lot of catching up to do. Don't get me started on the **Race to the Top**.

Did I tell you they have **3-D TV** now? Better than **Blue-Ray**. **Blue-Ray**,..... never mind, I have a tricked out computer with a **quad-core processor** and **two terabytes of disk space**, I can download some files for you for your **Kindle**. No **Kindle**. **Nook?** Well many of them are **PDF's with flash videos** – it will be easy, you can read them on your **ipad** – just put **sticky notes** on the pages you want to discuss

What's this? Oh, that's my **pocket video camera**. I use my **iphone** to watch the videos.

What's **Wikileaks?** We need to talk. Tell you what. I'm doing an **virtual conference** tomorrow. You can pick up a lot there. Meanwhile, I have this **massively-multiplay game** I'm into....

Lagniappe

Since I have a lot to do to get ready for the budget crisis, here's a few Lagniappe items I have been storing up"

- **Solve the budget crisis :**
<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2010/11/13/weekinreview/deficits-graphic.html>
- Middle-income families are increasingly being squeezed by the cost of early education; the average family of four with two young children spends 29% of its monthly income on early education and care.
http://icw.uschamber.com/sites/default/files/ICW_EarlyChildhoodReport_2010.pdf

Enrollments are up. The Sloan surveys reveal that the number of students taking at least one online course grew from 1.6 million in fall 2002 to 5.58 million in fall 2009. Online headcount enrollment – individual students enrolled in one or more online courses – now account for almost a third – 29 percent – of the 19.34 million full-time and part-time students of all ages enrolled in public, private/non-profit, and for-profit degree-granting colleges and universities in the United States.

The average person born in the latter years of the baby boom held 11 jobs from age 18 to age 44, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. More than three-fifths of these jobs were held from ages 18 to 27.

<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/nlsoy.nr0.htm> The average person was employed during 77 percent of the weeks from age 18 to age 44. Generally, men spent a larger percent of weeks employed than did women (84 versus 70 percent). Women spent much more time out of the labor force (25 percent of weeks) than did men (11 percent of weeks).’ Of interest

- Europes boundaries – one map per century
http://www.disclose.tv/action/viewvideo/5482/2000_Years_History_in_Europe/
- List -- Where to get and how to produce e-books

Be sure to check these daily

Wired.com –This Day in Tech. <http://www.wired.com/thisdayintech/>

A line-a-day diary on Twitter of a late 1930’s farm girl’s life.
http://twitter.com/genny_spencer

NASA’s Image of the day <http://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/imagegallery/iotd.html>

Want to be part?

We are currently seeking volunteers to work on the various P-16 program if you are interested call us a 409-880-7639 or email steve.buser@lamar.edu

This newsletter was sent by the Southeast Texas P-16 Council to educators, school board members, elected officials, businesses and others interested in education in Southeast Texas.

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