

Conversations: Keeping Our Promises to Kids in 2008

Teaching, Learning, Leading: Quality Defined

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1996 National Teacher of the Year

A square logo with a dark red border containing the lowercase letters 'mb' in a light red, serif font.

Part one:

Adjusting my world

Poem

by Virginia Satir

I believe
The greatest gift
I can conceive of having
From anyone
Is
To be seen by them
To be understood by them
And
Touched by them
The greatest gift I can give
Is
To understand
And to touch
Another person
When this is done
I feel
Contact has been made

Top Ten (or so) Lessons for Me!

Some important reminders

Lesson #1

Laugh often, long and hard at myself!

A square logo with a dark red border containing the lowercase letters 'm' and 'b' in a serif font, positioned in the bottom left corner of the slide.

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Lesson #2

We do not see things as they are,
we see things as **we** are!

Check my disposition

1. I feel much better now that I have given up hope.
2. I've given up my search for truth and am looking for a good fantasy.
3. I'm not perfect. Parts of me are excellent

Lesson #3

I swear to Mary Beth that I
will not whine ever again!

Lesson #4

QTIP!

Quit Taking It Personally



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Lesson #5

It really *does* matter how we talk to and about each other.

The nature of relationships among the adults in a school has more to do with the success of the students in that building than any other factor.

Roland Barth

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Lesson #6

Know how to learn
wherever I am
and whatever I am doing

Things I Learned Last Week

Ants, when they meet each other, usually pass on the right.

Sometimes you can open a sticky door with your elbow.

A man in Boston has dedicated himself to telling about injustice. For three thousand dollars he will come to your town and tell you all about it.

Schopenhauer was a pessimist but he played the flute.

Yeats, Pound and Eliot saw art as growing from other art.
They studied that.

If I ever die, I'd like it to be in the evening.
That way, I'll have all the dark to go with me, and no one will see how I begin to hobble along.

In the Pentagon one person's job is to take pins out of towns, hills and fields, and then save them for later.



Lesson #7

Be kind, for everyone is fighting a great
battle

Lesson #8

Where is the truth?

Look at the following list:

- Cow
- Bed
- Horse
- Chicken

Which doesn't fit?

So What?

Part Two:

Adjusting to OUR world

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Mindset List 2011

Students entering college last fall were born in 1989

1. What Berlin Wall?
2. They have never 'rolled down' a car window
3. They have grown up with bottled water
4. 'Off the hook' has never had anything to do with a telephone
5. American rock groups have always appeared in Moscow

Mindset List 2011

Students entering college last fall were born in 1989

6. Thanks to MySpace and Facebook, autobiography can happen in real time
7. The space program has never really caught their attention except in disasters.
8. They get more information from Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert than from the newspaper
9. They're always texting 1 n other. If you want to keep the language from changing, U R 2 l8

Did You Know?

A video by Karl Fisch

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What Do You Know?

Your job is to identify the ideas in the video which will have the most impact on schools as we currently know them?

WHY?

What drives what we do?

Demographics
Culture/Society

Economics

Global Issues

Technology

Government and Politics

Now What?

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Given our knowledge of the speed of change, what now?

How do we set priorities around change?

But first,

Do we really believe all kids can learn?

Where is the evidence that we believe that radical statement?

If we are being honest when we say that all kids can learn, what are the promises we must keep to our kids in 2008 and beyond?

Gene Wilhoit

What promises will we make to our kids
based on this question?

“What does moving from compliance to
transformation mean to public
education?”

Scott Palmer

“What promises can we make to our kids about NCLB?”

Jason Kamras

“What promises will we make to our kids about results?”

Betsy Rogers

“I underestimated the culture of failure in a school. This group of students have been failed by a public school. I had to get in there with them.”

What promises will we make based on Betsy's honesty?

What silences can we break, so that we not only make promises to students, but that we can keep them and prove that we believe all kids can learn?

Let's build a new and different kind of
sandbox for all of us to play in...

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What about your sandbox?

- A real sandbox means a place where things can be done over and over again, where two or more people have more fun than one and where building castles is only natural.
- A sandbox implies fun along with work.
- Playing in a sandbox means constant change and collaboration.

TEACH BETTER. LEAD BETTER.
LEARN BETTER.

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Lesson #9

- I know that my role as Teacher of the Year will be a part of a wonderful process of growth, some frustration and a whole lot of learning.

Lesson #10

We can,
whenever and wherever we choose,
successfully teach all children
whose schooling is of interest to us;
we already know more than we need to do that;
and whether or not we do it must finally depend on how
we feel
about the fact that we haven't so far.

Ron Edmonds

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It Is I Who Must Begin

It is I who must begin
Once I begin, once I try-
here and now,
right where I am,
not excusing myself
by saying that things would be easier elsewhere
without grand speeches and
ostentatious gestures,
but all the more persistently
--to live in harmony
with the "voice of Being," as I
understand it within myself
--as soon as I begin that, I suddenly discover,
to my surprise, that
I am neither the only one,
nor the first,
nor the most important one
to have set out
upon that road.

Whether all is really lost
or not depends entirely on
whether or not I am lost.

Vaclav Havel