



Nea Community Learning Center

500 Pacific Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501 (510) 748-4008 x 130

NEA O NNIM NO SUA A, O HU - He who does not know can know from learning

Lead Facilitator Report

December 2013

Plusses (+)

- 1) Well attended Lower Village and Upper Village information nights and tours, recent new enrollees;
- 2) Site visit report (attached) by AUSD very positive; 3 recommendations offered
- 3) Nea Governing Board discussing adding a sibling preference to admission policy

Challenges Inspiring Changes (Deltas: Δ)

- 1) Addressing enrollment and learner retention is the number-one identified priority of the entire Nea team. All activities, including communication, lesson and event design and planning, and seminar enrichment happen with an awareness of learner retention and recruitment.
- 2) The PTSA and self-directed parent committees are intentionally working with admin at both villages to perpetuate and create opportunities that support learner retention and recruitment.

Highlights

1. Nea Public Relations Focus Group Convened

- a. Led by Brendan Doherty, Nea Governing Board member (parent)
 - i. Initiative: Increasing Nea's positive presence in print media

2. Lead Facilitator Phones Homes

- a. Beginning the week of Nov 23, 2013, personal calls to families asking for:
 - i. Feedback for Lead Facilitator
 - ii. Feedback to inform Nea programs and operations
 1. Calls to be made through Winter Break
 2. Initial results have been positive overall with feedback that includes:
 - a. Praise for new hires and hopes for high rate-of-retention
 - b. Requests for increase in facilitator communication with families and on-time grade-book and website updates
 - c. Continue to refine Illuminate platform; glitches are reduced and consistent access to Benchmark results are appreciated

3. Professional Development December 2013

- a. Nea Team
 - i. Facilitator-led trainings in:
 - 1. The use of Grammarly (plagiarism, grammar and mechanics check site for learner's writing submissions)
 - 2. Creating Performance Tasks and Constructed Response items for SBA aligned school-wide Benchmarks

4. Charter Renewal

- a. AUSD Site Inspection visit report presentation held on December 10, 2013. The PDF of the AUSD PowerPoint presentation and the report is linked in Dec docs.
- b. Request by AUSD site inspection staff is for the **renewal** of Nea's Charter for the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2019.
- c. The site inspection staff recommends for the next five years that Nea:
 - i. Frequently monitors credentials and compliance with credential requirements
 - ii. Reflect upon the effectiveness of the use of the Tree on student learning
 - iii. Reflect on rigor in Upper Village seminars
- d. Questions from AUSD board trustees to the site inspection staff included needing clarification on ii. and iii. Responses from site inspection staff included that the Nea Tree seems to enhance the learning goals for learners and that the academic programs are sound and rigorous, but that staff would like to see Nea reflect on these things so that Nea can "take it to the next level"

5. Special Education and English Language Development (ELD)

- a. Nea's Special education coordinator, Katie Struzynski, has proposed that Nea consider creating alternate paths to graduation (and diplomas) for learners with IEPs and 504s that mitigate their success along Nea's typical graduation path
- b. Susie McKee, Nea's ELD facilitator, joined in on this initial conversation in consideration for learners for whom English is a second language

6. Lower Village (LV) News

- a. LV Trimester 1 ended and Parent-facilitator conferences are going well, featuring a new, cooperatively developed standards-based report card; report card development was led by Jana Chabre, K-2 House Lead.
- b. Michelle Song was accepted to very competitive Professional Development opportunity at Columbia to help lead the implementation of their Writing Project across K-5. Michelle is the 3 -5 House ELA Lead.
- c. Meetings with BASE and Island High leaders to monitor their student's inappropriate behavior in the park adjacent to the black-top are going well; resolution and procedural agreements have been reached and climbing structure access to resume on January 6th
- d. LV Trimester 2 electives will include two courses (Robotics and Tinkering) that are offered at Upper Village (UV) for learners in Grade 5, supported by UV BoA Me learners
- e. Afterschool Support sessions attended by invitation and are very effective

7. Upper Village (UV) News

- a. Facilitators collaborated to address underperforming learners and how they might be better served. Ideas included:
 - i. Refining unit design to be in chunks by week
 - ii. Increasing the occurrence of hands-on learning experiences in seminars
 - iii. Incentivizing achievement
 - iv. Refining learner behavior expectations in the Tree
 - v. Attendance follow-up for tutoring sessions
- b. The result was the creation of learner survey to be deployed next week to get feedback on what inspiration, support and incentives they desire

8. Learners

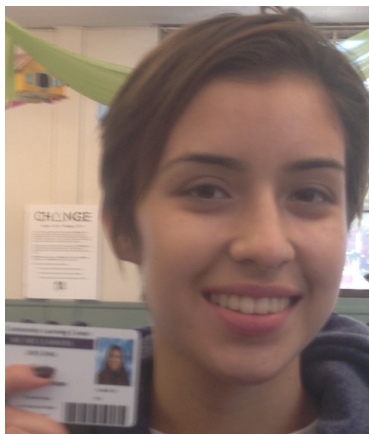
- a. 60 Chromebooks and 2 Carts Arrived
 - i. Nea Learner Tech Team unpacked and stowed Chromebooks
 - ii. Learners used them during *An Hour of Code* campaign
- b. December Nea Principle: **Compassion**
 - i. Learners are focusing on Random Acts of Compassion:
 1. Cut hair for *Locks of Love*
 2. Numerous fundraisers for victims of Typhoon Haiyan
 3. Poinsettia Project (UV) and Reading Project (LV) for seniors at Elders Inn
 4. LV learners created a video about Compassion linked in Dec docs

9. Fundraising

- a. The PTSA has exceeded its Support Nea Now (SNN) campaign goal of \$45K as of December 11, 2013
- b. Nea science has received donated materials and equipment totaling more than \$10K
- c. Current grant writing efforts are underway to enhance the after-school tutoring programs at both campuses (snacks and other incentives)



Poinsettia Project



Locks of Love