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Steve's Sound-Off

December 2015

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

I'd like to express my sincere appreciation for everyone's hard work in making 2015 a successful and transformational year. Together we are improving districts, schools, and classrooms all over the world. Wishing each of you a very happy holiday and a productive new year!

~Steve

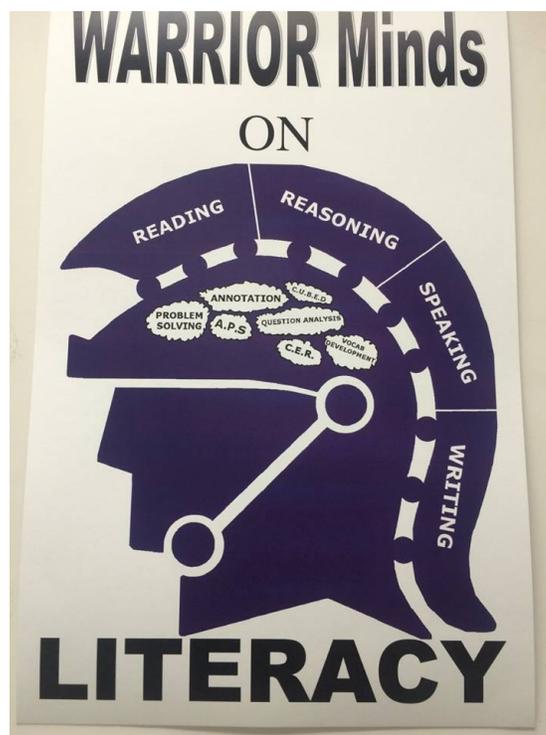
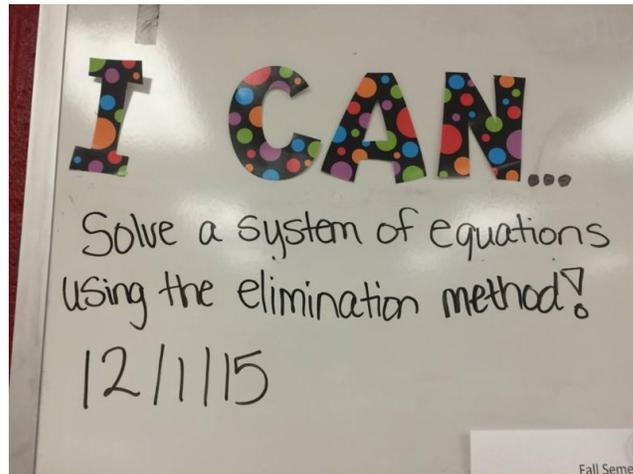


Visit to Riverside High School

Principals participating in the third year of EES' *Building School Leadership Capacity* project in West Virginia visited Riverside High School in Belle, West Virginia this December to see leadership strategy come alive in practice.

In small groups, the cohort of principals met with the school's academic teams as they shared data walls and assessments and answered questions about student engagement and motivation. As the principals moved about the school, they captured examples of best practices from collaborative instruction and distributive leadership to scheduling and student leadership via EES' iLead 21 program. The cohort of principals reported that it was a valuable experience to see so many ISLLC standards in place and observe outstanding leadership in action.

Many thank to Riverside High School for hosting and helping change mindsets from "I wonder..." to "I Can!"



Global School Alliance

Lene Jensby Lange, Head of the Global School Alliance (GSA) and Founder of Autens Future Schools in Denmark recently published an article on India Today concerning how classrooms can be reinvented to nurture a sense of creativity in the next generation.

"School buildings across the world are rapidly turning into museums of early last century learning. Not because they change, but because they don't. Meanwhile everything in them is about to change. Traditional, industrial-style school design with long corridors of similar classrooms and identical desks in rows models a learning culture that is no longer relevant.

HOW DO WE LEARN?

What does engaging contemporary learning look like? We do in fact have

very accurate knowledge of what works. When a person is engaged in meaningful work, which they can relate to, preferably collaborative, experiential and hands-on, working on the border of their competencies and enjoying the process, powerful learning can take place. Schools today need to be educating children for a changing global world in which most future jobs have not yet been created. Make no mistake; being able to memorize a lot of facts is not going to cut it. Our children need to become independent thinkers, emphatic collaborators, innovators and powerful communicators with a lifelong motivation to learn."

Click for [full article](#)

International Opportunities

- We are looking for certified teachers to teach kindergarten in Dailian, China starting Fall 2016. Interested persons please send a resume and any questions about this exciting opportunity to Michelle at michelle@edwardsedservices.com!
- Do you have an innovation that improves the art of teaching? Consider submitting it to the International Convention on Inventions in the Classroom sponsored by the [Khaitan School](#) in India.
- WANTED: A qualified educator to serve as principal of [The Sagar School](#) for a 2-3 year contract. The successful candidate will be distinguished by his/her integrity, personal vision, moral standards, dignity, patience, energy, and flexibility of approach.

For more information about these opportunities, please contact Michelle at michelle@edwardsedservices.com.

Events

[2016 National Conference on Bullying & Child Victimization](#), February 21-24, 2016 at the Doubletree Hotel at Seaworld in Orlando, Florida. This conference brings together the most knowledgeable and internationally renowned keynote presenters into one forum to provide the highest quality professional development possible in one conference.



National Youth-at-Risk Conference, March 6-8, 2016 at the Hyatt Regency

in Savannah, Georgia. This conference is designed for all school and community personnel interested in fostering the well-being of youth at risk



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All the best,

The ED Educational Team
Edwards Educational Services, Inc.

The logo for Edwards Educational Services. It features the word "edwards" in a large, white, lowercase sans-serif font, with "educational" in a smaller, white, lowercase sans-serif font below it. Underneath "educational" is the word "SERVICES" in a white, uppercase sans-serif font. A thick orange horizontal bar is positioned below the "ed" part of "edwards". The entire logo is set against a solid blue background.

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