





**Creating Empowering
Learning Experiences**



**Educator as
Master
Learner**



**Learner-Driven,
Evidence
Informed**



#LIASCD

@gcouros



"Change will come our way. We can go through it or we can grow through it. We grow when we seek out solutions rather than let obstacles hinder us."

-George Couros



“Stories are easier to remember because stories are how we remember. When facts become so widely available and instantly accessible, each one becomes less valuable. What begins to matter more is the ability to place these facts in context and to deliver them with emotional impact.”

Daniel Pink

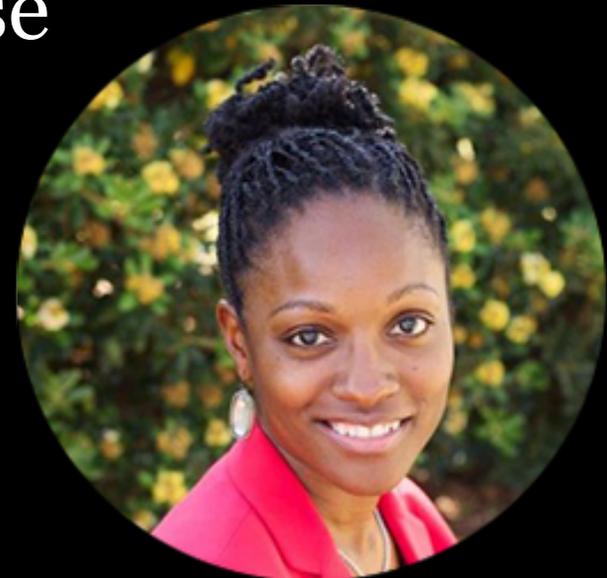
Laying the Foundation for Innovation in Education



How do we move from “pockets” of innovation to a “culture” of innovation?

“Students should have rich, relevant, and authentic experiences at school, across the board.”

Sanée Bell, Ed.D
“Be Excellent on Purpose”



A quick recap of the last few years...



4Livs

@4Livs



Being a leader today is like
being a referee.

We are all somebody's kid.

Is this how the
2021-2022
school year felt?



EDUCATION DECISION MAKING FLOWCHART

IS THIS BEST FOR THE
LEARNER?

Yes!

No!

Is it easy?

Don't Do It!

Yes!

No

Make it Happen!

Identify Barriers

Find Solutions

Make it Happen!

GEORGE COUROS

Bring every
conversation back
to the following:

**“What is best for
this learner?”**



The smartest person in the room,
is the room.

Dave Weinberger





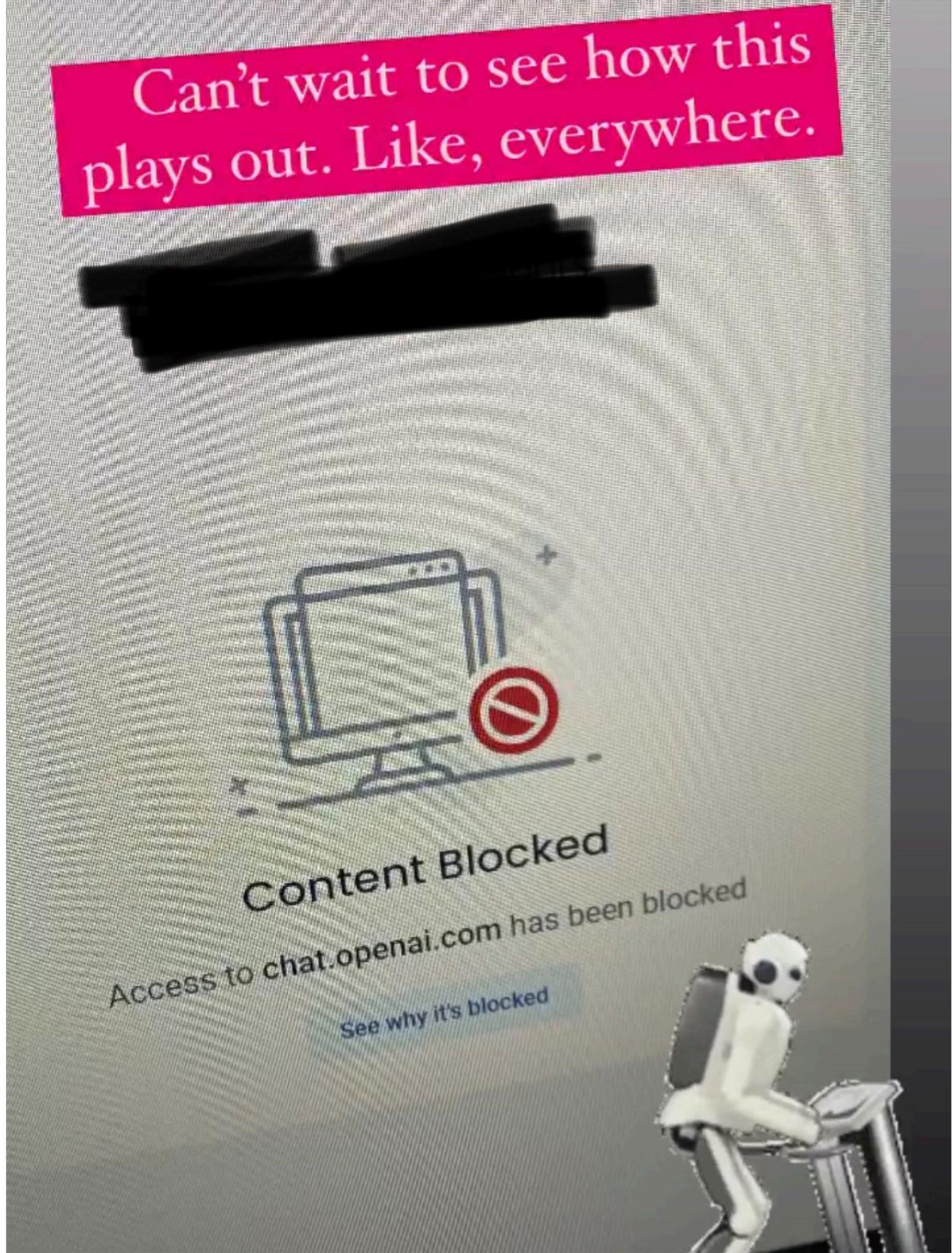
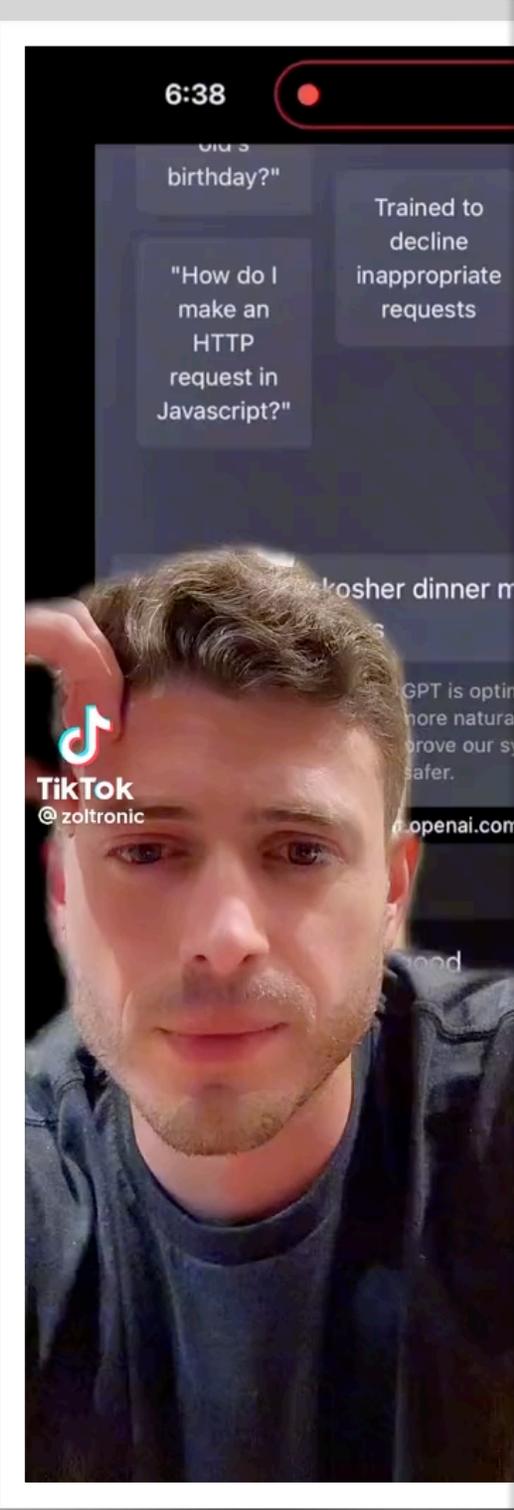
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“Transformational leaders don't start by denying the world around them. Instead, they describe a future they'd like to create instead.”

Seth Godin



When we have access to all of the information in the world, how do we go beyond “**knowledge**” and develop “**wisdom?**”

Knowledge is knowing that a tomato is a fruit.

Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

- Miles Kington

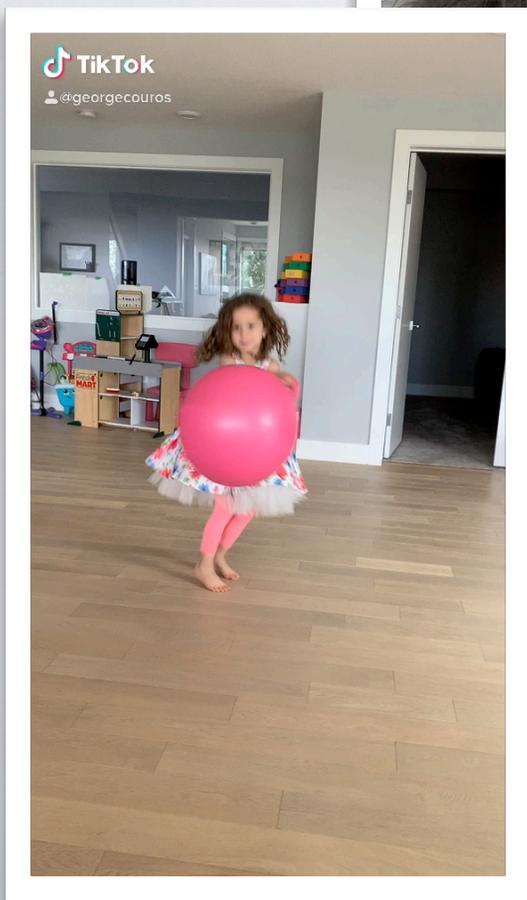
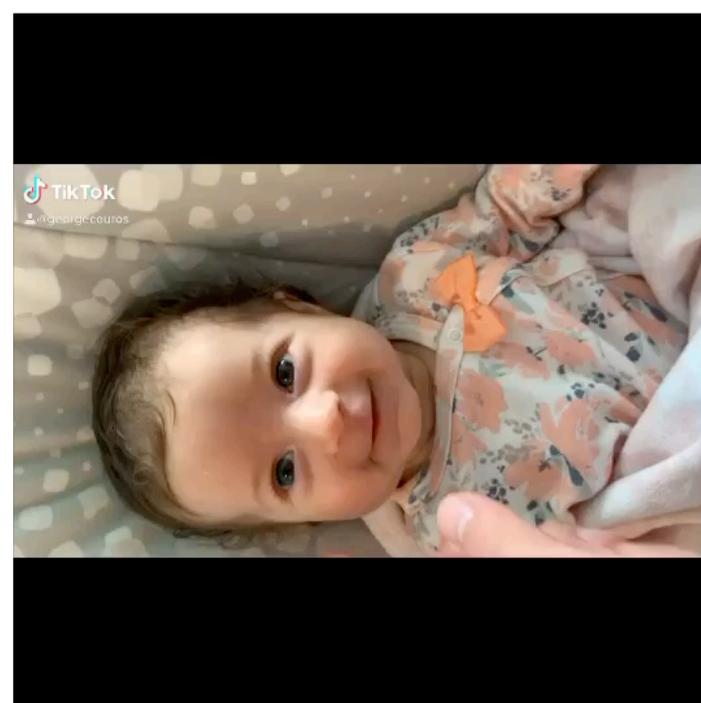


Wisdom starts with curiosity.

Do our students leave school more curious than when they started?



About Me



Hopes for School

The Innovator's Mindset Podcast



Learners will feel welcome and valued in school and the classrooms.



We will start by focusing on the strengths and passions of each learner.



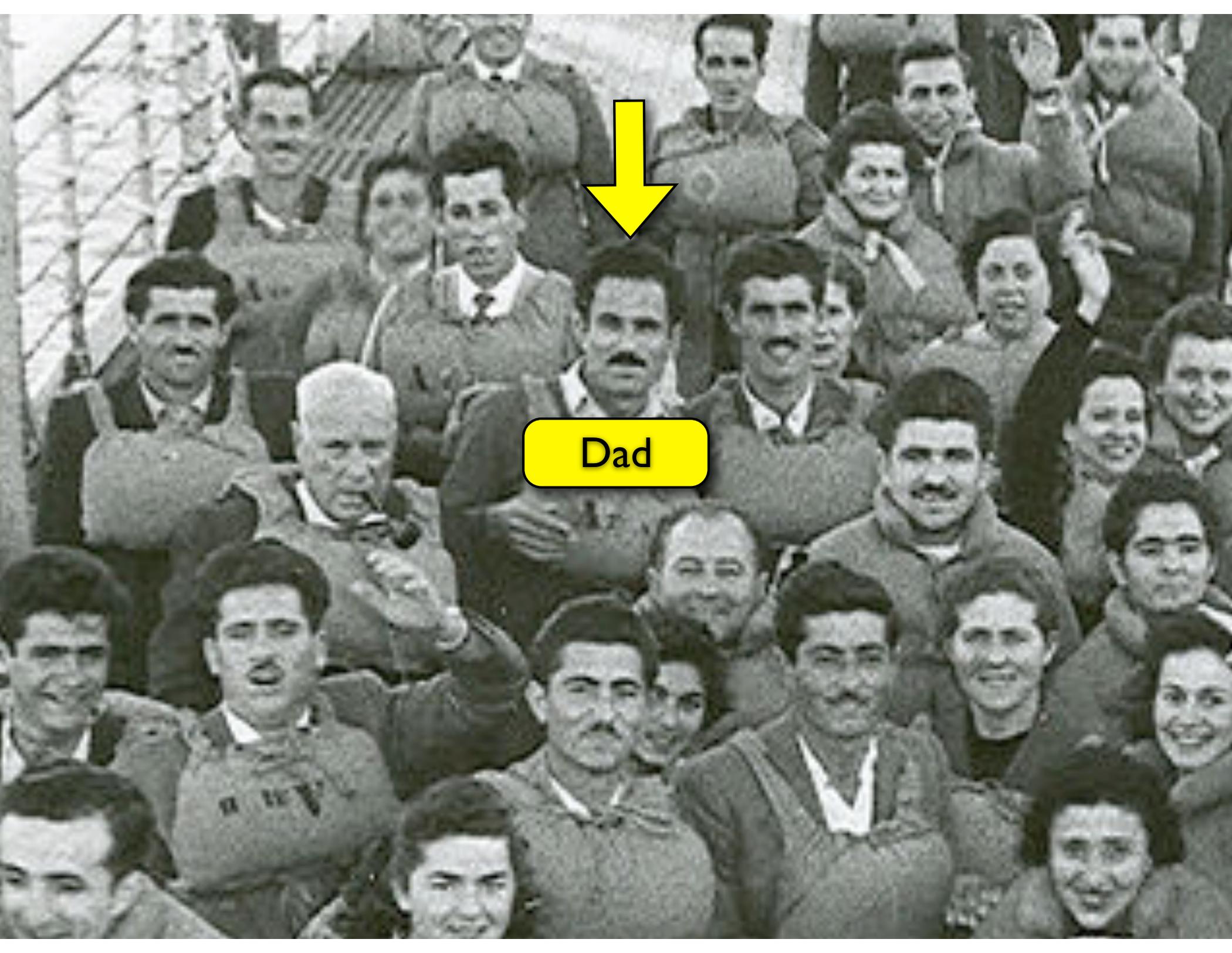
Learners will feel that their contributions are necessary to the success of the class and school as a whole.





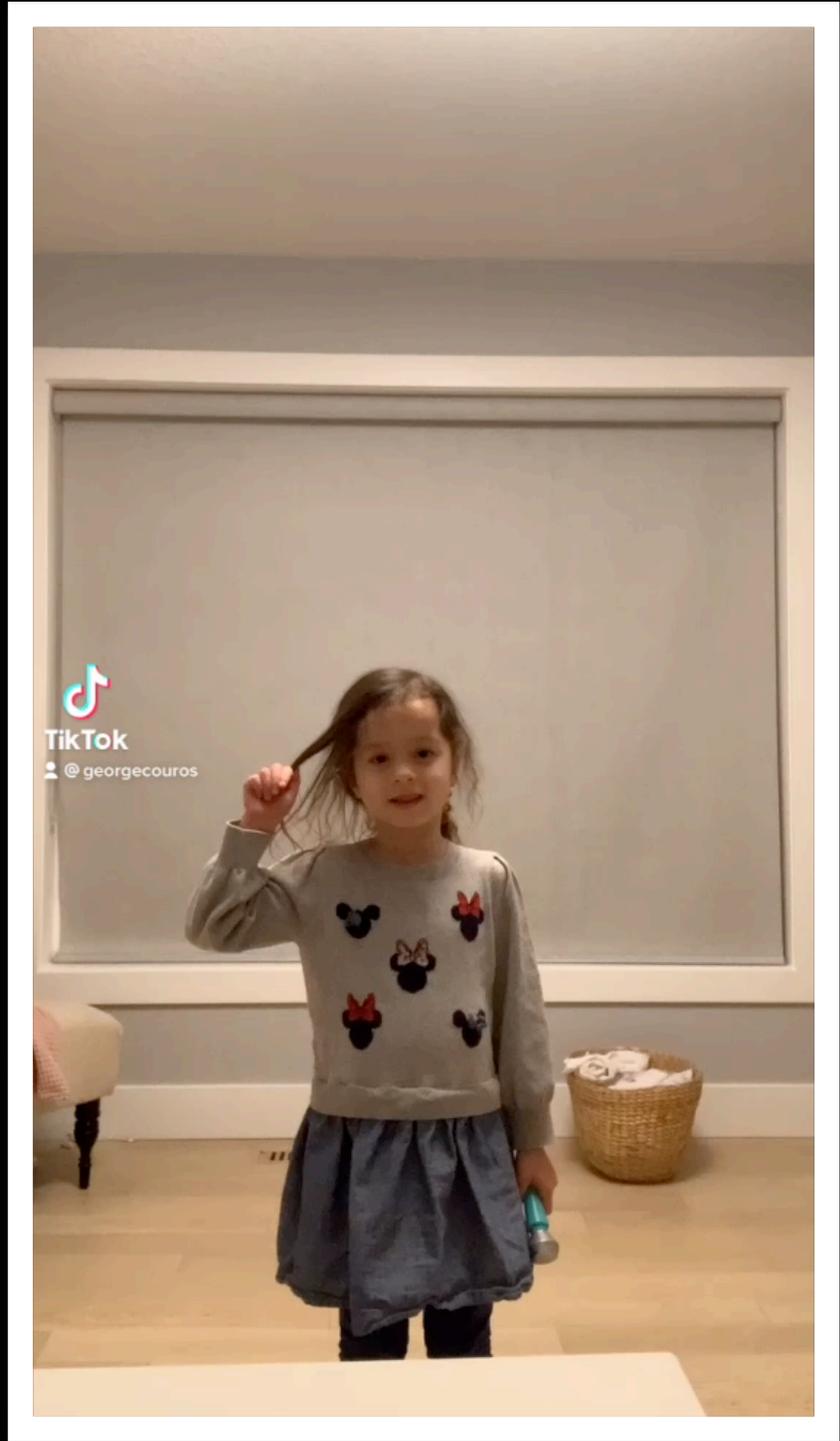
Pier 21, 1958





Dad





Think Different











THE INNOVATOR'S MINDSET



Belief that abilities, intelligence, and talents are developed so that they lead to the creation of new and better ideas.





Daniel Hodge

@hodge_dv

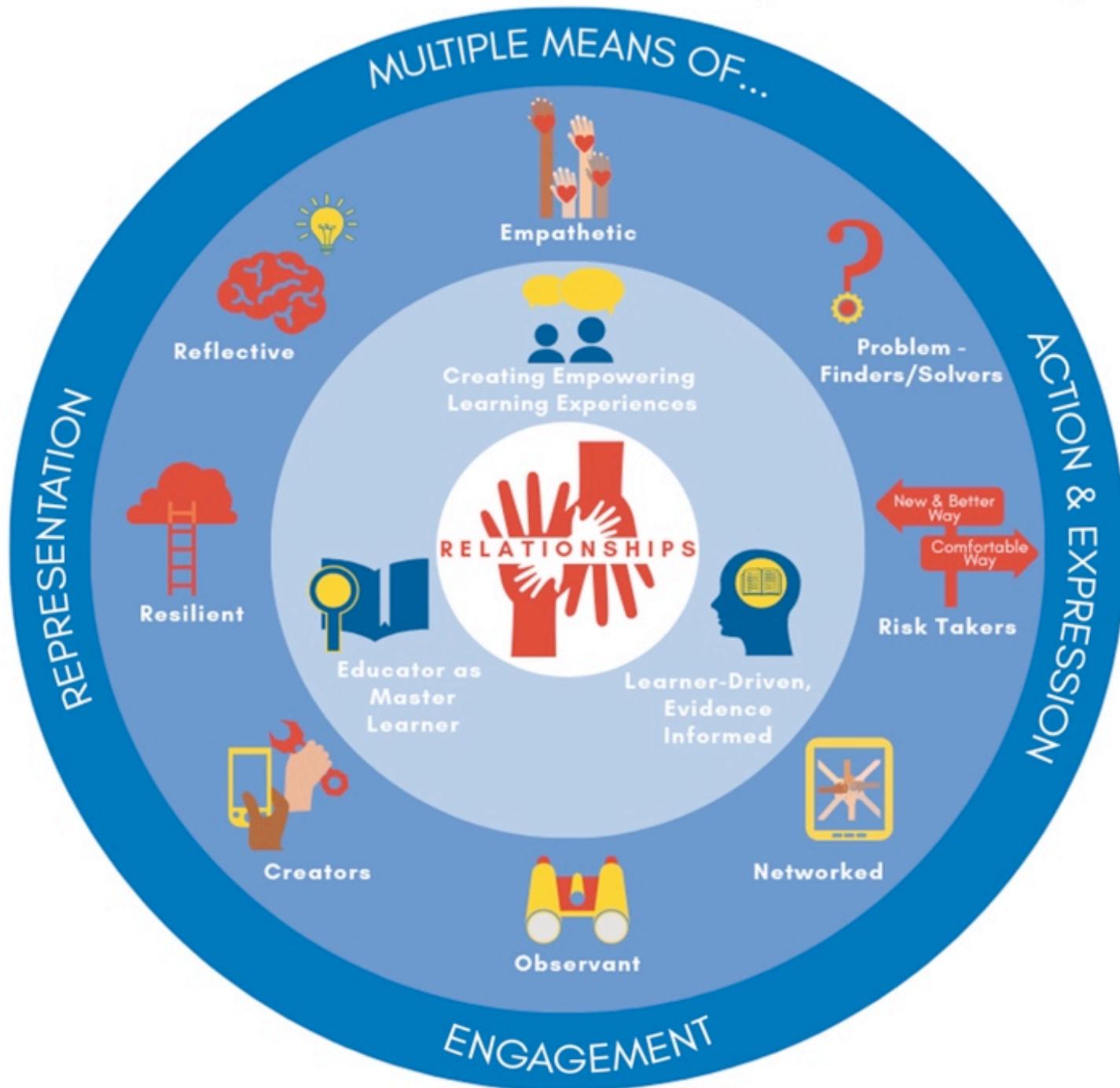


Today my students listed about 20 things they actually like about remote learning, and we quickly turned the list into changes I need to make to my classroom next year.

7:18 PM · Apr 20, 2020 · [Twitter for Android](#)

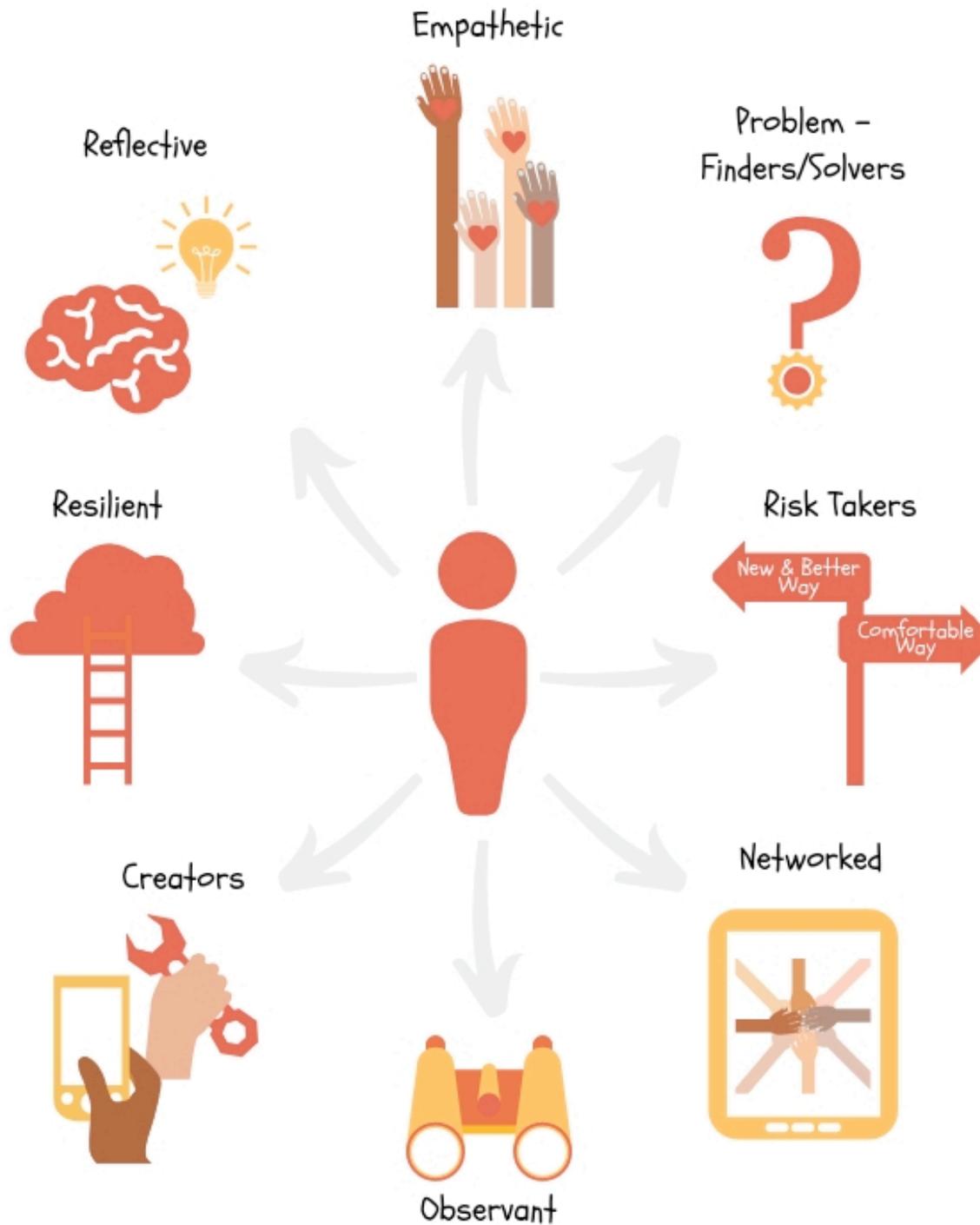
374 Retweets **2.8K** Likes

The Core of Innovative Teaching and Learning



#InnovateInsideTheBox

8 Characteristics of the Innovator's Mindset





**Creating Empowering
Learning Experiences**



**Educator as
Master
Learner**



**Learner-Driven,
Evidence
Informed**

RISK

MOVING FROM A COMFORTABLE
"AVERAGE" IN PURSUIT OF AN
UNKNOWN BETTER.

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Jump!





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Evidence
Informed**

Focus Questions

#BrainWriting

What is one thing you want to learn today? Or, what is one big question you have?

What is one thing you want to try moving forward?

tiny.cc/LIASCD



**Share a takeaway to Hashtag
#LIASCD on what you learned
today in video form.**

tiny.cc/LIASCD





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**Learner-Driven,
Evidence
Informed**



**Master Learner,
Master Educator**



vision

Parkland School Division is a place where exploration, creativity and imagination make learning exciting and where all **learners** aspire to reach their dreams.



Four Questions to Consider on using ChatGPT in Education

What are some of the negatives and positives of ChatGPT?

What are some ways that ChatGPT can be used in
our everyday lives?

How can we use ChatGPT in our current roles
to make our lives easier and improve learning?

How can we help students utilize ChatGPT
for their learning in and outside of school?

George Couros

Learning for your students.

Learning about your students.

Learning from your students.

Learning for your community.

Learning about your community.

Learning from your community.

Parent Blogging Night

Tips from one of our parents in the community from her experience

“Be aware of what our children are
doing on the internet

Be on sites with them and teach as they
go.

Be examples with our own digital
identity.”

Carlene Oleksyn



“This is so much better than when we
were kids!”

Learning From Your Students

**Phillip Sossou
Drew all 411 Fellow
Graduating
Students**



“Our class has been kind of divided, Having these pictures helps us to embrace our diversity...I was trying to show everyone in a positive light.”

Phillip Sossou

Table Conversation:

What are some ways that you already do the following well that you can share with others:

Learning for your community.

Learning about your community.

Learning from your community.



**Learner-Driven,
Evidence-Informed**

Learners

~~"Students~~ who feel valued
in the present are
empowered to grow now
and in the future."
George Couros



Data-Driven
vs.
Learner-Driven, Evidence-Informed

The most important research we can
do as educators will always be to
know the learners we serve.

5 Questions to Ask Your Students To Start the School year

What are the qualities that you
look for in a teacher?

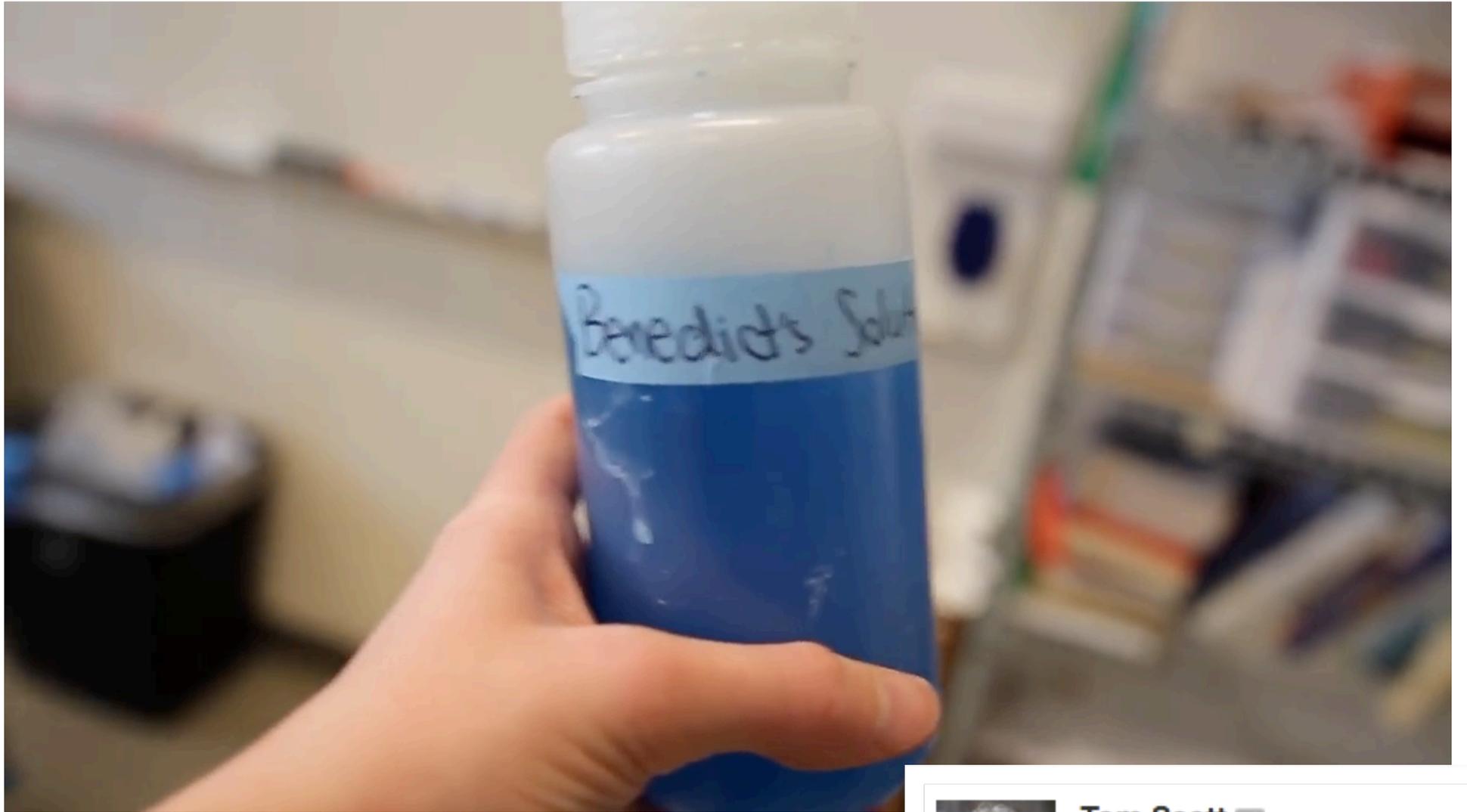
What are you passionate about?

What is one BIG question you
have for this year?

What are your strengths and
how can we utilize them?

What does success at the end of
the year look like to you?





Tom Scott ✓



Subscribe

779,056

#INNOVATORSMINDSET

The curriculum tells
you "what", not
"how." The "how" is
the artistry in
education.

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Creating Empowering Learning Experiences

#INNOVATORSMINDSET

"ENGAGEMENT" IS MORE ABOUT WHAT YOU
CAN DO FOR YOUR STUDENTS.

"EMPOWERMENT" IS ABOUT HELPING
STUDENTS TO FIGURE OUT WHAT THEY CAN DO
FOR THEMSELVES.

GEORGE COUROS

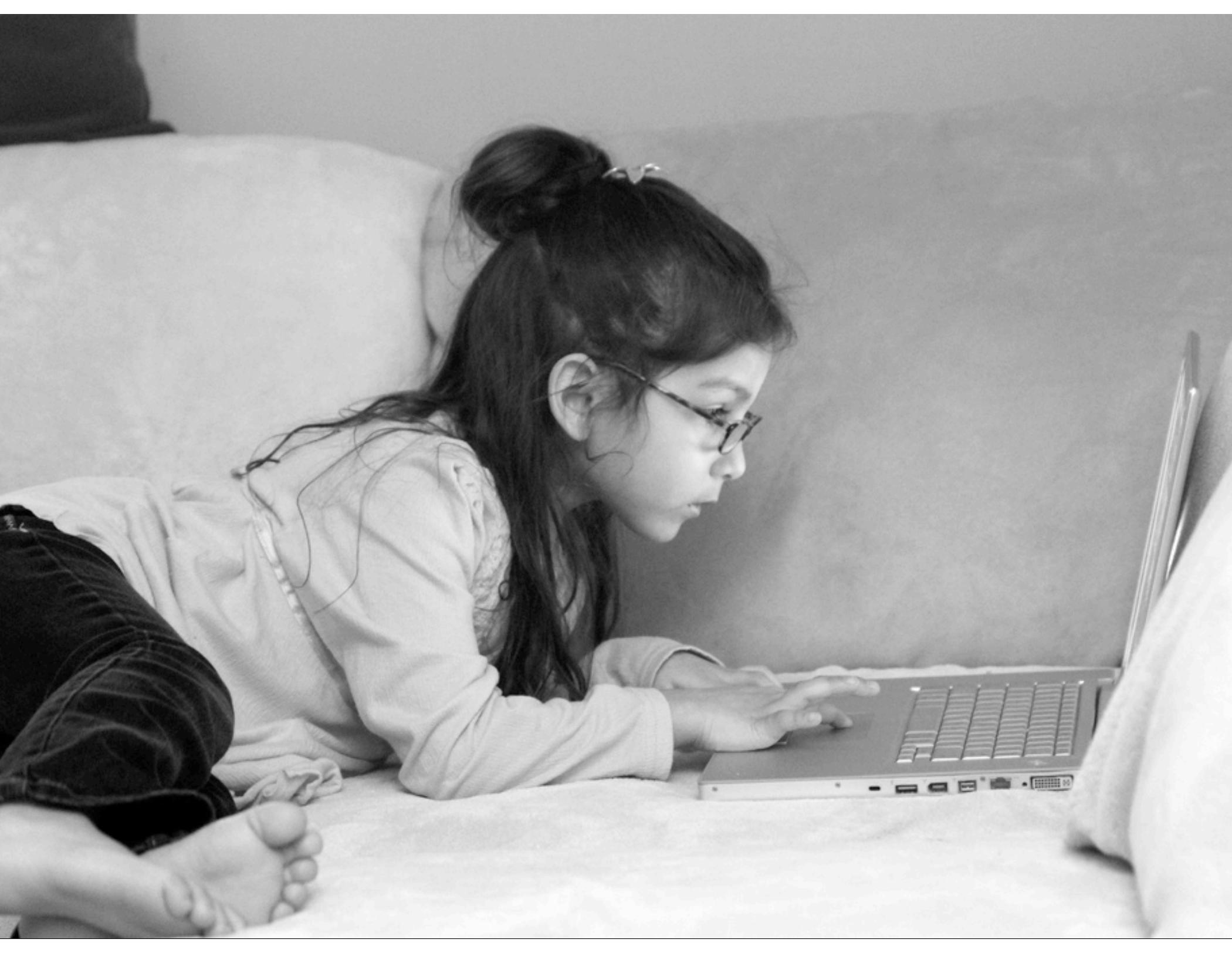
Engagement vs and Empowerment

- *Listening*
- *Reading*
- *Observing*
- *Consuming*



- *Speaking*
- *Writing*
- *Interacting*
- *Creating*

Providing opportunities for voice and choice in learning is how we create learning experiences that empower learners.







Alec Couros

January 8 at 5:53pm · 🧑🏻



Day four learning Toxicity (after only a couple of weeks ever playing a drum set). She's almost there.



Send

Save Now

To:

Subject:

You're a Big

B *I* U *F* *rT*





If you memorize information, it doesn't mean you understand. If you understand, you will also have memorized.

#DeeperLearning



184 Days of Learning

Sharing the learning of Parkland School Division

[HOME](#)

[ABOUT THE 184 PROJECT](#)

[BLOG LISTING](#)

[WRITE FOR THE 184 PROJECT](#)

[CALENDAR OF WRITERS](#)

[RSS](#) 



[← Day 7: Tanya Paterson, Teacher \(Connections for Learning\)](#)
[Day 9: Emilie Keane, Associate Superintendent \(Learning Services\) →](#)

Day 8: Maddisyn, Student (Millgrove School)

September 13th, 2012 · 14 Comments · Early Years · [Edit](#)

Make Your Mark and Make it Matter

Today I watched a live video stream with Peter Reynolds; he is the author of the “The Dot” and “Ish”. He told us to make our mark and make it matter! This made me think of the paper blogs that we are writing in class and how I am making my mark with my classmates. I also wonder if everyone realises that their writing is making a mark with me and that it means as much to us as it does to them. I hope everyone gets a chance to read “The Dot” because once you do; everything will seem a little bit different than it did before. I hope everyone on the whole world

To search, type and hit enter

CATEGORIES

Select Category ↕

RECENT POSTS

- [Day 12: Shauna Wray, Assistant Principal \(High Park School\)](#)
- [Day 11: Brian Hauptman, Director \(Transportation\)](#)
- [Day 10: Kelly Wilkins, Deputy Superintendent \(PSD70\)](#)
- [Day 9: Emilie Keane, Associate](#)

The legacy of an educator is not based only on what they do.

A legacy in education is based on what students do *because* of what educators **empower** them to do.



**THIS
BULLIED
TEEN'S
APP**



**HELPS
KIDS
FIND LUNCH
BUDDIES**



Mari Copeny ✓
@LittleMissFlint

3 days until my annual back to school event. We are a little over \$5k away from my goal on my gofundme.

Help me get to my goal and stuff 1,000 backpacks for Flint kids.
gofund.me/299ea13b



Tweet your reply

Table Conversation:

What are some ways that you empower staff, community, and ultimately students, in their learning and leading?



RELATIONSHIPS

“Do I ensure that my staff utilize a variety of instructional strategies that take into account the different learning styles, ability levels, and social-emotional needs of my students in student-centered, culturally responsive, culturally relevant, and equitable learning environments?”

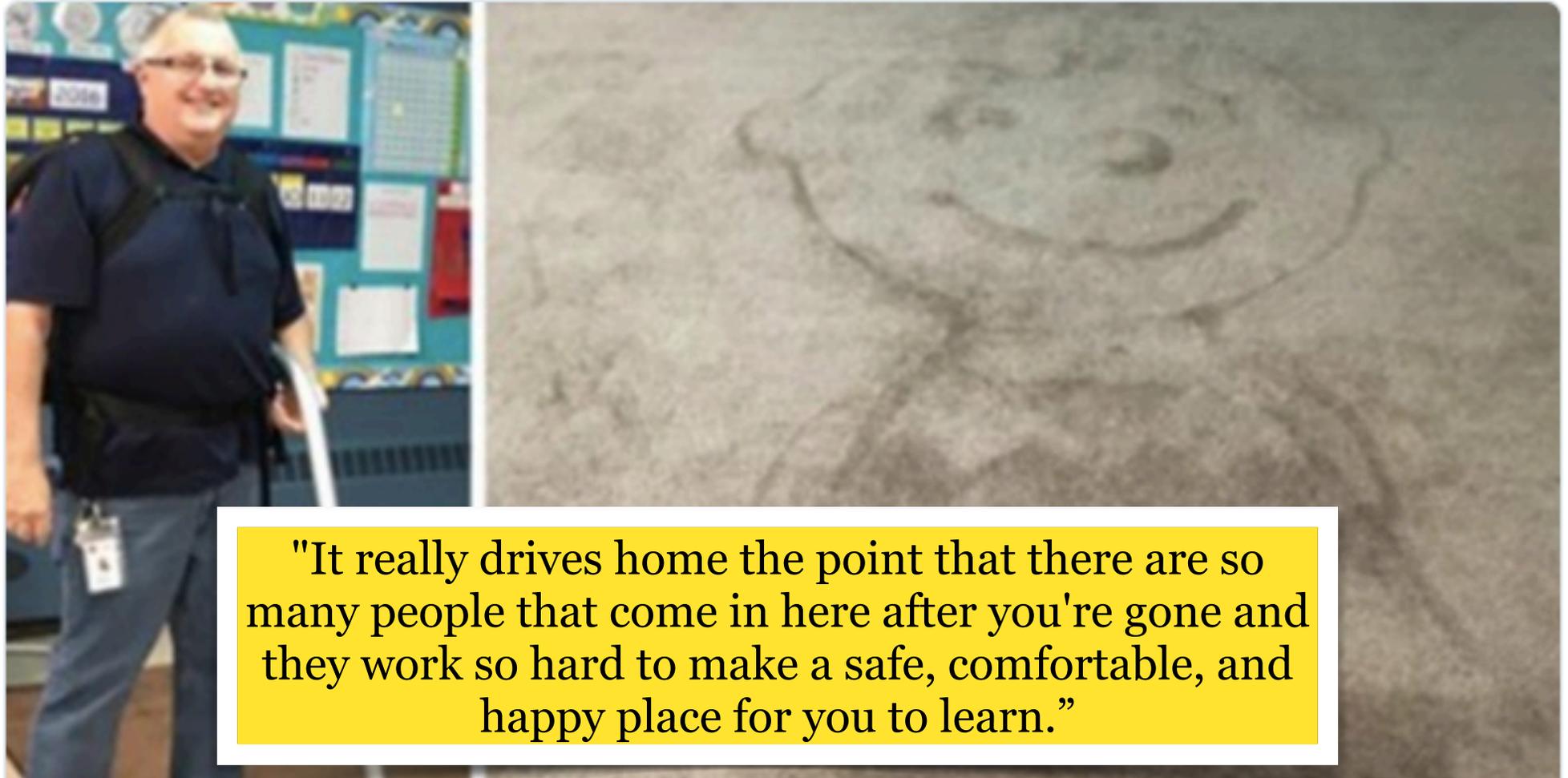
Baruti K. Kafele





“...researchers out of Ohio State found the effect of social capital was three times greater than financial investments on math scores and five times larger on reading scores.”

Night Janitor Vacuums Art Into the Carpet for Elementary School Students



"It really drives home the point that there are so many people that come in here after you're gone and they work so hard to make a safe, comfortable, and happy place for you to learn."

Night Janitor Vacuums Art Into the Carpet for Elementary School Students

The kiddos love seeing what design awaits them each morning.

cosmopolitan.com

School Teacher vs. Classroom Teacher





Heather Thompson Day

@HeatherTDay

Following



I had a student who was late to class come up to me afterward.

“I’m sorry I was late.” He said. “My mom died this morning & I didn’t know where to go, so I came here.”

& that was the day I decided to treat every single student as if I have no idea what they’re going through.

3:05 PM - 10 Apr 2019



David Theriault

@davidtedu

Following



After 25 years of teaching I've realized that my favorite thing to say, when a student walks in late, is this:

“I'm glad you're here.”

5:04 PM - 13 Apr 2019



**A TEACHER'S INFLUENCE DOESN'T STAY
IN SCHOOL. IT GOES OUT INTO THE
WORLD AND CANNOT TRULY EVER BE
MEASURED. EVERY STUDENT YOU
INSPIRE TO DO SOMETHING GREAT GOES
ON TO INSPIRE OTHERS. THERE IS NO
LIMIT TO YOUR IMPACT.**

George Couros

#BecauseofaTeacher





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Table Conversation:

What are some of our best strategies for building relationships within your own communities?

What has challenged you?

What has been reaffirmed?

What will you do moving forward?

Moving Forward



everyday.aotearoa



Avoid: Asking kids what they want to be when they grow up

Try: Asking them what they love about being a kid





retirement community



retirement community

What has challenged you?

What has been reaffirmed?

What will you do moving forward?

Join George's email list
and get today's slides!



Moving Forward

Resiliency Through Adversity

Communication is crucial.



“Social media is like water. You can either
let us drown, or teach us to swim.”

Student



Mr Sauce
@ikongshulsboy



Following

Something for @gcouros from #MadisonLead
Great day! #madisoncubpride



RETWEETS
17

FAVORITES
22



Follow

low

S.

Am
@gc

FAVORIT
5

7:18 AM

FAV
7

7:05

We need to make the positives so loud,
that the negatives are almost impossible to hear.

What if...

Every teacher tweeted one thing a day they did in their classroom to a school hashtag and took five minutes a day to read each others' tweets?

What would that do for learning and school culture?

@gcouros

What has challenged you?

What has been reaffirmed?

What will you do moving forward?

Change is an opportunity
to do something amazing.



If you want to inspire meaningful change,
you have to make a connection to the heart
before you make a connection to the mind.

When I pick up trash . . .
on the beach . . .



When you have a compelling reason,
you can learn anything.

Join George's email list
and get today's slides!

