California Association for the Gifted 53rd Annual Conference

The California Association for the Gifted 53rd Annual Conference will be held in Palm Springs during the weekend of February 27. I am beyond excited to share that teachers from all 4 schools representing a variety of grade levels and subject areas will attending the conference. We also have 4 school administrators who will join participate in this professional development.

The title of the conference is “Cut to the Core— Past, Present and Future Trends in Recognizing and Responding to All Students”. The goal of the conference is to support teachers’ professional development in differentiation in Common Core State Standards for all students. The BHUSD team will be exposed to the new Depth and Complexity thinking prompts, how to identify gifted students, using technology and meeting the socio-emotional needs of gifted students. We will also see various ways to ‘raise the bar’ for all students. The conference includes observations of demo lessons with discussion sessions after. A wonderful aspect of this conference is that many of the presenters are classroom teachers who use these practices daily.

There is also a parenting component to this conference, if you have the time, perhaps we’ll see you there!

The CAG website has many resources for parents. We are Region 8, the Mission Region.

The National Association for Gifted Children is another wonderful resource with reliable and useful information. I frequently visit their Information and Publications page. On this page teachers, parents and administrators can find basic information about the needs of gifted students, the need for specialized education as well as various publications. One article, Myths about Gifted Students, was a starting point for my own self-reflection. After reading the article you may want to, consider the following: What parts of this article challenge your beliefs? What parts of the article validate your beliefs? How does this impact your parenting? How can the district support you and your child in this area? I’d love for you to share your thoughts with me.

Cal RUSD is reviewing proposals for professional development in differentiation of instruction within the regular classrooms to meet the needs of GATE students while increasing academic rigor for all students and using the Common Core Standards. Once the proposals are reviewed and found to be satisfactory, they will be submitted to the board for final approval. Stay tuned, more to come!

If you are interested in doing your own research, some of the most cited authors are Carol Tomilson, Susan Winebrenner, Sandra Kaplan, Dina Brulles, and James Kulik. Free Spirit Press has webinars, that last about 1 hour. Carol Dweck a psychologist from Stanford has an interesting video on Youtube where she describes mindsets for motivation. For state and GATE programming information, consider the CDE.