

Discussion questions for March 2010

Main interview:

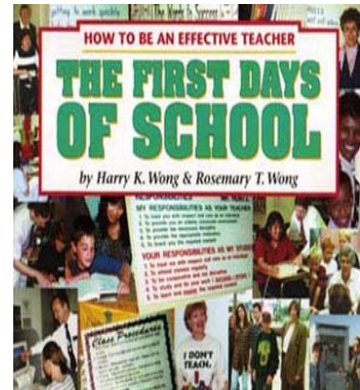


1. Dr. Wong points out the value of structure and organization during the first days of school. How does your school (or districts) do during the first days? How much student confusion is there during the first days? Are the school procedures (lunch, walking in the hall, washroom breaks, etc) sufficiently known by the students?

2. Dr. Wong says that ineffective schools rely too much on "programs" and not enough in building a positive culture. Do you agree?

3. Dr. Wong believes many professional development programs are a waste of time. Define what makes an effective professional development program in your mind.

4. Dr. Wong is a strong advocate of coaching (as opposed to mentoring). Discuss if your school is effective on coaching new teachers.



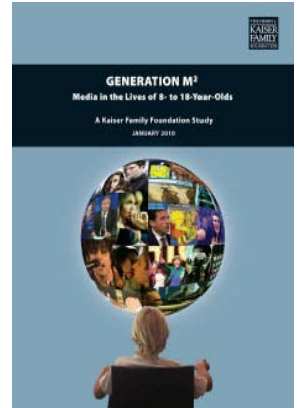
The Learning Point:

5. The Learning Point this month focuses on "the Quality School Leadership Identification Program - a standardized hiring procedure based on best practices and identifying talent. Describe your hiring process and how effective it is. Visit the Learning Point web site and learn about the QSL-ID. (Go to the page from [here](#))



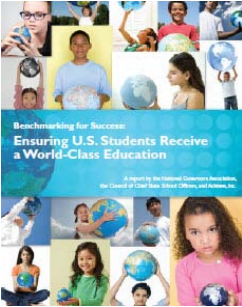
Updates:

6. The Kaiser Foundation released a report titled Generation M2 (access it [here](#)) which paints a disturbing picture of how much the 8 to 18 uses media. Obviously, they are spending less time engaged in better activities. What (if anything) can or should be done?



7. The TAPsystem (visit the web site [here](#)) blends several radical approaches into a school reform model. Discuss the concept of three classifications of teachers - career, mentor, and master. What does this model have to offer you?

Discussion points:

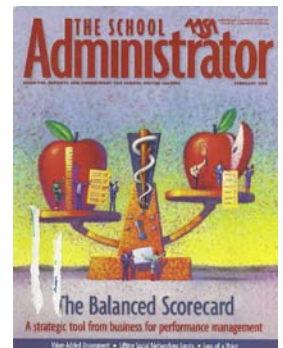


8. There is a strong push for national (common) standards. Do you agree with this push? Would anything change in your district if and when common standards are adopted? Look at the common standards (in progress) [here](#)

9. Investigate "Gizmos" (learn more [here](#)) Is this online simulation the future of internet technology? Is this something you want for your school?

Articles:

10. Is the balanced scorecard something you wish to add for your school district? What are the benefits/ disadvantages of adopting that system? (Read about it [here](#))



Final word:

11 Dr. Fullan identifies seven lessons on change. Do you agree when he says you can't mandate what matters? How do you "sell" what is vital and important to you to others?