

## WinkWorld May 2012

Hello Friends, in this issue of *WinkWorld*, I will share:

May is when we honor and celebrate teachers.

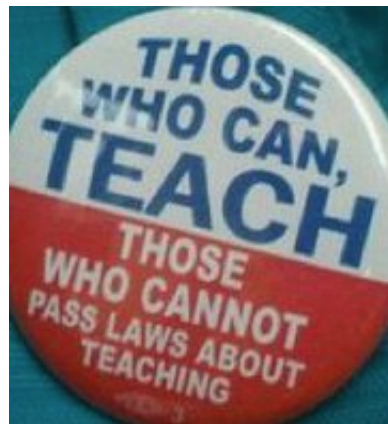
31 Ways of Saying **Thank You** to a Teacher.

<http://www.edutopia.org/teacher-appreciation-2012-tip-1>

To honor teachers, Le Putney and I will give a free eBook of *A Vision of Vygotsky*, to the first 5 teachers who respond via email to [news@joanwink.com](mailto:news@joanwink.com) with 100 words honoring one of their own former teachers. I will share the winners and their short paragraphs in the next *WinkWorld*.

### *Teacher-Bashing Must Stop*

I am so tired of teacher bashing, and it almost always comes from people who could never make it for a day, much less a week in a classroom.

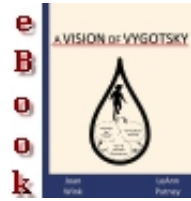


Several years ago, I wrote:

Recently, in a far, far away place, an older gentleman stood up, shook his finger in my face, and said, "And, *you people*, over there at that university better get to work fast and fix schools." This outburst came when I was invited to speak about education to a mostly-male civic group. My presentation had been well received, but during the question and answer period afterwards, it was clear that this man spoke from a *majority* perspective. I was definitely the *minority*-in multiple ways. After the club meeting ended, several sought me out to continue the barrage of teacher-bashing. I also noticed that four more of them shook their finger in my face as they talked to me.

When I fly on planes, it seems that anyone who sits next to me is an authority on education, because he or she has been to school. For years, when the stranger next to me asked what I did, I said proudly, "I am a teacher." I have learned not to do this, as I get no peace during the flight.

Now, when people ask me what I do, I have one of two answers. If I want privacy, I tell them I am a professor. Apparently, not many want to talk to a professor, and thus I happily get to read or write during the rest of the flight. However, if I feel like listening to someone, I respond that I am a rancher's wife. Almost everyone has nice things to say to a rancher's wife. Yes, both statements are true. In addition, yes, I am still a teacher.



This teacher-bashing must stop. The sudden interest in education and educational reform is having a deadly impact on educators who are now the scapegoats for all social, economic, and political ills of our society. The result is that education is held hostage; administrators are held hostage; teachers are held hostage; students are held hostage; learning is held hostage. Indeed, our very future is held hostage.

To read the complete version, go to:

<http://www.joanwink.com/openletter.php>

During this tough time of top-down mandated testing, testing, testing, I believe it is harder to be a teacher now than ever before in my lifetime. And, what must it be like to a student, and particularly a student living in poverty?

[Click here to see a recent cartoon from branchtoon.com](#)

However, I still find joy in the *Most Surprising Places*, some of which are highlighted in this edition of *WinkWorld*.

- Abydos
- TESOL
- Ameera, Hannah, and Karen
- Project Implicit
- Global Education Reform Movement is Here
- Steve Krashen, KOTESOL
- Just Stuff
- FVR (Free Voluntary Reading)
- Books for Teachers
- Social Media
- Welcome to the World
- New Angels
- Notes from the Real World
- Prairie Pedagogy

**Abydos**

Abydos Conference  
[Conference Overview](#)

My Keynote *Critical Pedagogy Through Words and Images*  
<http://www.joanwink.com/sched.php>

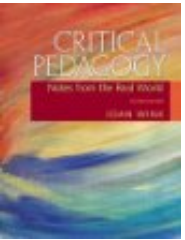
Joan and Friends



View of Dallas from my hotel window



TESOL



[Critical Pedagogy](#)  
Joan Wink

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*Scaffolding: What, Why, and How*

Chris Roe and Joan Wink

<http://www.joanwink.com/joans-schedule/>

**Ameera, a little girl, and her teacher, Hannah, and Hannah's professor, Dr. Karen Swanson of Mercer University in Atlanta**

I often receive emails from people, whom I have never met, and students in graduate classes, who have been assigned some of my writing, but this unexpected email from Karen (Dr. Karen W. Swanson of Mercer University) and Hannah gave me so much joy.

Karen had assigned my book, *Critical Pedagogy: Notes from the Real World*, to her graduate class. Hannah, a teacher, was in her class and simultaneously teaching children in Atlanta.

*First*, in her email to her professor, Dr. Swanson, Hannah reminds us of the Dr. Seuss book, *Horray for Diffendoofer Day* (1998) ([click here to order](#)) [Watch on YouTube](#) which she connected to *Critical Pedagogy: Notes from the Real World* ([click here to order](#)).

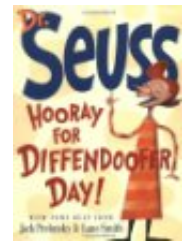
*Second*, Hannah tried to implement some critical and creative learning activities in her own classroom of children. See what Ameera created from this assignment.

Third, enjoy the email, which Hannah sent to her professor, Dr. Swanson.  
[Click here to read \*The Bubble Story\*](#)

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that everyone has.*

Margaret Mead

And, speaking of joy, you are sure to find it at the Whole Language Umbrella Summer Institute, *Reclaiming Joy in Teaching, Learning, and Research*, <http://www.ncte.org/wlu/institute> St. Louis, MO, July 19-20. This is the time when I am returning from teaching in Mallorca. I can hear the voice of Yetta Goodman saying, "Can't go to all of the dances."



[Hooray for Diffendoofer Day!](#)

Dr Seuss, Jack Pre...



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## **Project Implicit: What are your biases?**

[implicit.harvard.edu/](http://implicit.harvard.edu/)

## **Global Educational Reform Movement is Here: What We Can Learn from Finland**

And, what can't be learned from Finland:

<http://www.pasisahlberg.com/blog/?p=84> Thank you Pasi Sahlberg and

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet>

Thank you, Valerie Strauss, Larry Ferlazzo, Cornel West, and Pasi Sahlberg (hear their voices here).

Finland takes 3 things very seriously: equity, teachers, and assessment. Finland avoids standardized tests.

<http://www.pasisahlberg.com/blog/?p=68>

Finland (more)

<http://larryferlazzo.edublogs.org/2012/03/24/very-good-interview-on-finlands-schools/#.T24N78dGnAU.facebook>

The Best Resources to Learn About Finland's Education System

<http://larryferlazzo.edublogs.org/2010/12/27/the-best-resources-to-learn-about-finlands-education-system/>

What the US Can Learn From About Education Reform

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/post/what-the-us->

[cant-learn-from-finland-about-ed-reform/2012/04/16/gIQAGlvVMT\\_blog.html?wprss=rss](http://cant-learn-from-finland-about-ed-reform/2012/04/16/gIQAGlvVMT_blog.html?wprss=rss) answer-sheet

## **Stephen Krashen**

Plenary KOTESOL International Conference 2011 This takes about 45 minutes and is worth every second.

<http://bit.ly/lm8irx>



## **Just Stuff Hanging Out On My Desktop**

*A Great Idea: Book*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YhcPX1wVp38>

*Handheld Computer for Every First Grader in the US?*

The US is purchasing 2,443, F-35 supersonic jets. IF we purchased 7 less jets, we could give handheld computers to each first grader in the US. aarp.org/bulletin, March 2012, p. 3.

*The Benefits of Bilingualism: It just keeps coming.*

Why are dual language programs effective and popular?

Crawford and Adelman Reyes (with good Krashen tossed in, too).

[http://languagemagazine.com/?page\\_id=3666](http://languagemagazine.com/?page_id=3666)

*The Benefits of Bilingualism*

[http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/18/opinion/sunday/the-benefits-of-bilingualism.html?\\_r=2&src=ISMR\\_AP\\_LO\\_MST\\_FB](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/18/opinion/sunday/the-benefits-of-bilingualism.html?_r=2&src=ISMR_AP_LO_MST_FB)

## **FVR (Free Voluntary Reading)**

Maurice Sendak

[http://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/09/books/maurice-sendak-childrens-author-dies-at-83.html?\\_r=2&hp](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/09/books/maurice-sendak-childrens-author-dies-at-83.html?_r=2&hp)

Let's go for a wild rumpus!

*Where the Wild Things Are*  
[Click Here to Order](#)



### **Books For Teachers**

*Planting Seeds: Embedding Critical Literacy into Your Classroom Programme* by Susan Sandretto with Scott Klenner  
[Click Here to Order](#)

### **Books for Teachers and All School Reformers and Politicians**

*Finnish lessons: What can the world learn from educational change in Finland?*  
By Pasi Sahlberg [Click Here to Order](#)

### **Social Media**

I continue to try to improve with my sharing on social media. On Facebook, I share personal and professional; on Google +, I share only professional ideas, which I tend to duplicate on Twitter and on LinkedIn. I'd like to take up 'retweeting:!' A new goal for me.

In addition, two great blogs.

*Living in Dialogue with Anthony Cody*; here, Anthony interview Yong Zhao.

[http://blogs.edweek.org/teachers/living-in-dialogue/2012/05/yong\\_zhao\\_in\\_conversation.html](http://blogs.edweek.org/teachers/living-in-dialogue/2012/05/yong_zhao_in_conversation.html)

*Bridging Differences* with Deborah Meier and Diane Ravitch  
<http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/Bridging-Differences/>



[Finnish Lessons](#)  
Pasi Sahlberg



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## Welcome to the World

Mace Jack (SD), Cael (ND), Haddie (Ethiopia), Anson (Turlock & Yantai, Shandong, China), Alice Carlyn (FL)

## New Angels

Janice (IA), Maurice (CN)



## Notes from the Real World



Beautiful Boys of Boise





"Three 'Lil New Mexicans," this probably is not the best descriptor of them anymore.

GOAL!



Goalie!



WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE  
STORY AND PICTURES BY MAURICE SENDAK

[Where the Wild Things Are](#)  
Maurice Sendak

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### *Soccer in Boise*

Apparently, some years Garrett's soccer team does better, and other years, Austin's team does better. This year, Austin's team-not so good, and Garrett's team this year-mighty fine. Now, I was not there, but the way I hear it, Garrett (age 6) tends to kick 5 to 10 goals per game. Recently, he complained to his coach that he wanted to play defense, like his big brother, Austin(age 9). The coach finally agreed, but told him that he had to score 3 goals first, which he promptly did. As per their agreement, Garrett finally got to go stand in front of the goal net and play defense. . . until suddenly a very high kicked ball started coming towards him. He ran out from the goal about 5 yards just as the ball and both teams were barreling towards him. You guessed it, he kicked (not blocked) the ball, and it went sailing over all of the children's heads and landed in the far goal net. Apparently, he is an offensive player.

## Prairie Pedagogy

People often ask me what the prairies are like. It is a land of extremes: extreme heat, extreme cold, extreme wind. This is why the weather has primacy, as it very much dictates each day. The following children's book captures the Northern Plains.

*If You're Not From the Prairies*

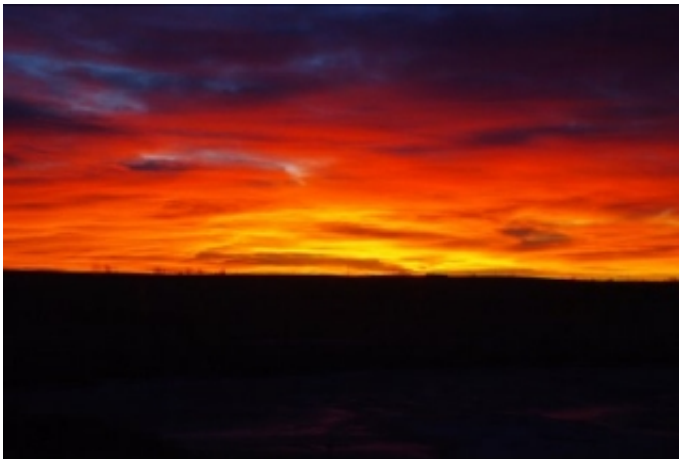
By David Bouchard and Henry Ripplinger

[Click Here to Buy](#)

Here is a photo of a recent grass fire not far from here.



Here is a photo, which Lisa took from our living room window: Extreme beauty.



As with all community cultures, we sometimes use our own unique language, prairie-ese: "You betcha," "crik" (not creek), "How'd you winter?", etc.

The other day, when it was a bit "breezy" (50 MPH), I met a local, and he said to me, "The winds are pretty much humpin' today." And, I understood and agreed.



*If you're not from the prairie . . .*

[If You're Not From The Prairie](#)  
David Bouchard, He...

Buy from [amazon.com](#)

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**And, here comes the summer.**

YouTube: Summer Learning

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ahhj3wxxkdM&feature=email>

### **Donations**

Thank you to those who have donated to WinkWorld through the donate button and to those of you who have bought your Amazon books by clicking any book icon on *WinkWorld* or [www.JoanWink.com](http://www.JoanWink.com)

All money is used ONLY to help defray the monthly expense of *WinkWorld* web creation and maintenance. For years I have paid myself, as I felt it was part of my contribution to others, who have given so much to me. Now, that I'm retired, my plan is to continue to share via this forum. I prefer not to support *WinkWorld* through advertising, nor by charging the readership of *WinkWorld*. Therefore, I have decided upon the donations option, and all donations go directly to our magical web wizard, Denise of Cyber Connect Techs. Thank you in advance.

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