



## Mark your calendars!

**Edcamp 2013 has been scheduled!**  
**Saturday, October 26th**  
**Oakland University**

**Galileo Learning Summit**  
**August 9th, 2013 8:30 am-3:00 pm**  
**Fraser High School**

### South Macomb Students and Faculty Members Plan Together

On January 29, approximately 80 students, teacher leaders and administrators from six South Macomb County school districts gathered at Fitzgerald High School to extend their collective efforts to create culturally responsive school communities where all students experience success. Thanks to Professors Anthony "Tuf" Francis and Emery Petchauer for joining our team. Their input in the planning process and their work with the students and adults helped identify and respond to a series of "essential questions" that launched an important dialogue leading to the development of action plans by each district team.

*Professors Petchauer and Francis lead student discussions.*



Examples of these strategies contained in these plans include:

- Have student/staff interaction meetings in order to continue dialogue and ask staff and students to invite other students who don't always have a voice
- Plan and implement informal monthly ice breakers where students and teachers get to know each other
- Incorporate more student and staff recognition: implement bi-weekly lunch recognitions celebrating a selected group of students, security, secretary, custodian
- Provide positive feedback to students on their efforts-academically and behaviorally.
- Make teachers more available to students and parents: teachers can provide more time before and after school and check e-mail on the weekends

*South Lake Students and teachers collaborate on the essential questions.*



Teams will reconvene on May 14th to further develop this remarkable and unique project, which can be replicated by other schools and school districts.

**Keeping Up with Podcasts**—Check out the most recent podcasts on our website at [www.oakland.edu/galileo](http://www.oakland.edu/galileo)

- Susan Ohanian, freelance writer, shares her passionate opposition to the Common Core Standards (Vol6, Ep 12)
- Roberta Stanley, Director of Federal Affairs for NSBA, focuses on the criticism of public education, specifically on the American Legislative Exchange Council, or ALEC (Vol 6, Ep 13)
- Kathleen Cushman, author, reminds us that students provide valuable insights for effective teaching (Vol 6, Ep 14)
- Barnett Barry, CEO & Partner of CTQ, discusses his new book on Teacherpreneurs (Vol 6, Ep 15)



*My Style*  
**Of Teacher Leadership**

Connecting and Reflecting to Enhance Teacher Leadership  
By Chris Stanley, Fraser Public Schools



As a teacher in the classroom, I challenge my students to think deeper than they've ever thought before on a daily basis. Students take on the risk of thinking in new ways, and soon find themselves acknowledging the power of facing a challenge and achieving more than they previously thought possible. As a teacher, we demand this level of learning, so why is it that we, as teachers, do not always require the same of ourselves? Teacher leadership requires deep thinking, and I have found the most powerful way to embrace this has been through connecting, reading, and sharing with others.

In order to lead, one must read! This Galileo mantra couldn't be more true, as real leadership demands professionals to create their own professional development through the power of words from other leaders. Ten years ago, one would have to have purchased hundreds of books in order to build their extensive professional library, but through the power of social media, I have created my own vast personal learning network through Twitter. Never before have I had a wealth of knowledge at my fingertips than through networking with thousands of other educators who share the same passion. Twitter is a place where teachers can celebrate their passions and collaborate together to continuously evolve education. In one week of reading articles, blogs, journals, and watching videos, I received years worth of professional development. Not only am I able to read the most important journals in leadership and education, but I'm also able to have a conversation with the author! The importance of keeping up to date with the latest readings on leadership will allow one to challenge themselves and to think in new ways, and Twitter has a wonderful community that lets leaders tap into the infinite knowledge of other leaders with ease. Through connection, educators learn from each other.

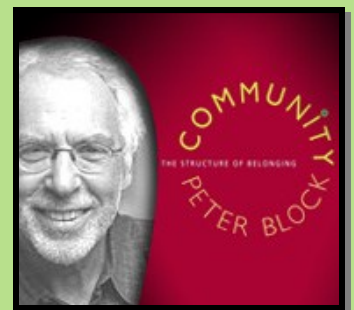
Professionals are also able to learn from each other through the art of reflection. There may not be a more important piece to teacher leadership than this, and, sadly, most educators are not doing it enough. A teacher leader must make time to reflect and share upon his or her teaching experience. A leader understands that this is a part of teaching, as it is one of the most crucial pieces to our art. Reflection allows one to see what went well and how it could be better. It proves that there is always room for improvement, and that the work of a teacher is never done.

A major side effect of sharing one's reflections is new ideas. Many educators who I have seen reflecting on their practice always seem to spark innovative ideas in others, for what they don't recognize is that they are often sharing an amazing method of teaching without even realizing it. If every teacher shared their reflections, new methods of teaching could happen. Imagine the new methods of teaching that could arise if every teacher shared their reflections. Reflection is a contagion for new ideas; share the knowledge!

**BOOK TALK** *with Kay Cornell, Education Consultant*

COMMUNITY, THE STRUCTURE OF BELONGING BY Peter Block

Peter Block is no stranger to those of you who are fascinated by organizational change, and this book is nothing short of inspiring. Building on his premise that too many of our communities are fragmented and defined by deficits, Block talks about ways to transform our communities to be places of possibility, generosity and hope. Chapter titles include: Insights Into Community; The Small Group Is The Unit of Transformation; Questions Are More Transforming Than Answers; and Bringing Hospitality Into The World. This is the book for all who want to make our communities better places in which to live and work. I couldn't put it down!



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