

John Barell featured at 2004 NDASCD Annual Conference

John Barell, from New York, will be our special guest for the 2004 annual conference of the North Dakota ASCD. Barell, a teacher turned educational consultant, believes many students have become too passive in their learning. According to him, students just accept information and facts as presented in textbooks, classes, and the media. What they need are many opportunities to question, think, investigate, and draw their own conclusions from the world around them.

Drawing on anecdotes from educators and his own life, Barell describes practical strategies to spur students' active learn-

ing such as maintaining journals on field trips, using questioning frames and models when reading texts, engaging in critical thinking and problem-based learning, and integrating inquiry into curriculum development and the classroom culture.

Barell's ideas were recently published in a book by ASCD titled, *Developing More Curious Minds*. Copies of his book will be available at the conference.



John Barell

Inside
Roundup

President's Page
page 2

Book Reviews
and Recommendations
page 2

NDASCD Membership form
page 3

2004 NDASCD Annual Conference

April 1-2, 2004

University of Mary, Bismarck

Theme: "Professional Standards and Assessments in Education"

Keynote speaker: John Barell, New York

- ⇒ Registration: \$30.00 (NDASCD members pay **only \$15.00**) Please identify yourself as a North Dakota ASCD member at the door
- ⇒ All sessions will be held at the University of Mary
- ⇒ A block of rooms has been set aside at the Bismarck Doublewood Inn. Please mention the "Harold Schafer Institute for Educational Leadership" for the special rate (i.e., state rate) for the conference—block held until March 20, 2004

Young Minds at Work *Elementary Technology Education*

By Deb Follman

“Ready, set, go! How many feet did your airplane go? Is that further than your first test flight? Do you need more weight? How about the wingspan? Is there anything you have to do to make it fly better?” Those are just a few of the problem solving questions you may hear from a second grade teacher as her students are working on their technology projects at Sweetwater Elementary School in Devils Lake.

Teachers from Sweetwater have had the opportunity to attend Technological Literacy Workshops for two summers with national elementary technology consultant, Kim Weaver, at Valley City State University. The workshop focused on innovative ways to integrate and enhance their present math, science, social studies, and language arts curriculums with project-centered technology activities.

Oftentimes the term technology is used in the same con-

text as computers. Teachers learned that computers are only one form of technology though. Technology Education can be described as integrated, experience-based instruction designed to use an investigative, design-and-construct, problem solving approach. Students have the opportunity to discover, create, solve problems, and construct by using a variety of tools, machines, materials, processes, and computer systems.



Moms get involved with using recyclables to build race cars.

The integration of the technology supports the curriculum
(Continued on page 4)

President's Page

Justin J. Wageman



I hope everyone is staying warm through a tough cold snap that has some reporting that North Dakota is colder than the South Pole. It is sure to be warmer by April 1-2, 2004, though, when we hold our annual NDASCD conference at the University of Mary in Bismarck.

Last year, the NDASCD Board voted to make the spring conference our annual meeting. This year is a particularly important year because we will be holding elections as officers' terms are expiring. I want to make a special invitation to you to attend our elections. This is your opportunity to become involved in NDASCD and its future as a key educational organization in North Dakota. Our board meeting will be held Thursday evening, April 1, 2004, from 7:30-9:00 p.m. A social is planned after the board meeting.

Our keynote speaker and session presenter will be John Barell from New York. Barell's book by ASCD, *Developing More Curious Minds*, is a practical guide to assist in the current efforts by K-12 and higher education to nurture and provoke students to critical thinking, problem solving, and civic-mindedness. Barell's keynote address will be Friday morning from 8:45-10:00 a.m.

Following the keynote will be several concurrent sessions on Friday morning. Remember that our conference is a collaborative event with two other major organizations (viz., North Dakota Association of Teacher Educators and North Dakota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education). This is a unique time for educators K-16 to interact. There is sure to be a topic of interest to you. Concurrent sessions are scheduled 10:15-11:00 a.m. and 11:00-11:45 a.m.

Book Reviews and Recommendations



Developing More Curious Minds—book by John Barell

If you ever feel that students are too passive in their learning and too ready to accept any information as "fact," then here's a book that explains how you can address those concerns in daily instruction. Guidelines for how to design and assess an inquiry-based curriculum are included, with tips on how schools can become communities of inquiry, where educators and students work together to solve problems and become active citizens.

A study guide for this book is also available for no charge at the ASCD website (www.ascd.org)

ISBN: 0-87120-719-2
Stock number: 101246S25
(ASCD Premium Member book, 2003) 6" x 9", 244 pages. \$21.95 ASCD members or \$25.95 nonmembers

This book will be available for sale at the NDASCD Annual Conference.

Our conference ends on Friday afternoon with a luncheon and awards ceremony. Each organization hands out awards to honor individuals for their contributions and accomplishments. The conference is only \$30.00. However, here's the best part: North Dakota ASCD members receive a 50% discount this year for attending. That is only a registration cost of **\$15.00!** I look forward to seeing you at our annual meeting.

P.S. A reminder that additional articles and content for this issue of the newsletter, as well as previous issues, are available at www.ndsu.edu/ndascd



Developing More Curious Minds—audio by John Barell

From ASCD'S 57th Annual Conference. Inquisitiveness is the beginning of meaningful learning. However, our educational systems and curricula do not foster students' inquisitiveness and our society does not, in general, promote cultures of inquiry. Often, we even punish those who question authority. Learn about a wide variety of strategies to help students become more self-directed and responsible for their own growth: inquiry-based activities, teacher modeling, text-based questions, journals, long-term inquiry units, and questioning assumptions about schooling. This session explores implications for school renewal and professional development. (ASCD audio, 2002)

Stock number: 202197S25

Order from ASCD. \$12.95 for ASCD



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NDASCD Membership Application

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*Dues provide for North Dakota ASCD professional conferences, publishing newsletters, and maintaining an Internet website (www.ndsu.edu/ndascd).

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Mail this form along with your check payable to North Dakota ASCD to: NDASCD, Justin J. Wageman, 155C EML Hall -NDSU, Fargo, ND 58105-5057 or Fax to: 701-231-9685

Important note: Membership applies to the North Dakota ASCD affiliate only and does not include membership in the international organization ASCD located in Alexandria, Virginia.

(Continued from page 1)

lum and provides meaningful activities to help children retain and synthesize information. Some of the exciting technology projects happening at Sweetwater in-



Students use tools in the building process.

clude third graders building a scaled replica of the Mall in Washington D.C. for social studies; fourth graders building flying bugs created from Styrofoam meat trays (with wheels and small motors and then attached to an electrical power pole, they actually fly) for science; second graders building planes and tested for flight distance as part of a literature unit study; first graders building sailboats which are powered by a box fan and timed as they move along a water-filled rain gutter for the concept of sink and float in science; and third graders building a car out of recyclable “junk” complete with wheels and axels, which must be built well enough to go down a race track without “Egbert” the driver, a real egg, breaking.



Parents involved in the design process.

These projects offer all children a chance to showcase their talents and use their knowledge to do real-world problem solving. It has also provided opportunities for increased parental involvement as parents are invited in to help their children design and construct. Some classrooms integrate technology projects throughout the year with each of their units of study, while others prefer to focus their activities throughout the month of January, in preparation for the annual Tech Night Open House. The classrooms and hallways are “buzzing with action”



It's building time and dads love to help with this part.

on the evening of Tech Night. Students excitedly demonstrate their projects and may even acquire the assistance of adults to improve a project. Parents are very impressed with their children’s work.

Sweetwater School was recognized nationally last year as a recipient of the Program Excellence Award for Elementary Schools sponsored by the International Technology Education Association. Technology education projects have become so popular that fourth grade teacher Tracy Trogstad has designed and offered a summer school class, Engineering For Children, for the past two summers. Elementary children spend 2 hours each day for 4 weeks designing and build-



First graders take a break from sawing and drilling wood.

ing projects such as carnival rides, elevators, and bridges. The class has been filled with K-4 grade students each summer so it is evident that these projects are not only educational, but challenging and enjoyable also.

Deb Follman (Deb.Follman@sendit.nodak.edu) is principal of Sweetwater Elementary and Vice President of NDASCD.



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