



Local news

February 17, 2010

Statistics: Other nations passing us by, early childhood education the key

Related Photos

- Bill Millett commended Enid for its passage of a \$99.5 million bond issue last week as a "heck of a statement" that "Enid gets it."



Discussion

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COMMENTS

candace wrote:

I agree about parents needing to step up and be the one to help their children succeed. I'm a proud parent of a three year old and she is wonderful! I've put a lot of time in helping her learn. At age two she could sing five nursery rhymes and her abc's. Now at age 3 she can sing a lot more songs, she can identify the letters, spell and write her first name, count to 20 in english and to 10 in spanish! Our children are little sponges they pick up on everything and they're ready to learn!!!

February 21, 2010, 9:37 PM

dinorikki wrote:

to TAT: as a public school teacher turned SAHM, I couldn't AGREE WITH YOU MORE. Parents expect so much, but they don't sit with them to do homework, they complain that they have homework. They are more concerned with their athletic activities. It is mind numbing how the very parents that complain that teachers don't do enough, and that the school system doesn't do enough are the very parents that are no where when their child needs help with math. They are not around when their child chooses MTV or Playstation over doing their studies. Who does their spelling words with them? I could continue forever. There is another dimension to this as well. If parents take the time out of their busy lives to be, well, PARENTS, they would find that they have less discipline and attitude issue from their kids because their kiddos would feel VALUED. From this value placed upon their kiddos comes success, respect and a general willingness to achieve. Tat you put it perfectly, you want better schools? Become better parents!!!!!!!

February 19, 2010, 1:26 PM

edcry wrote:

I agree. We do need better parents. What is involved in becoming a better parent? Or, should we go beyond the 'better parent', and suggest that parents have better educations, and realize that education does not end either at the high school level or the college level. Life-long learning does not end. Better parents is expressed in higher levels of cognitive development: that's why other countries out-rank us. Previous generations were better educated; more incentive; more motivation to see succeeding generations perform at higher levels, which perpetuates an educated culture.

February 19, 2010, 12:32 PM

CWC wrote:

What's next?

Will this town follow a dictatorship?

Eyes to see, ears to hear, and a mind that thinks, the public school system is not defined by who own it as in the PUBLIC largesse , but rather by two features: universal access and accountability to the public for results.

The other word "public money that flows to the praxis projects for these few, whom blind people on such theory that under demise wisdom' , under a public manafesto called unbounded liberty, another caprice again follows, this time now, on Global platform of competing, ' Beware'.

Thus read as follows 'Trace the money back to its source', and not follow the money.

The latter would imply that this is what to be expected by the whole of the people living here in Enid, but not so, is it the former that applies?

Which is not a ' democracy', but a collapse withing the social system locally .

'Wisdom and goodness to the vile seem vile: Filths savour but themselves.'

-William Shakespeare

February 19, 2010, 12:08 PM

TAT wrote:

The problem is not that children are not in school enough. We do not need to extend the day. We do not need to force three year olds into school. What we need is parents that value education. That is the biggest difference. In many of the other countries, parents push education. They expect their children to learn. They work with them. They expect good behavior and tolerate nothing less. In other countries, you don't have the cultural barriers we do so. Some countries do not allow children who do not succeed to continue. Want better schools? Get better parents

February 19, 2010, 9:17 AM

A mom wrote:

I would like to see further studies done to compare how many mothers stay home with their children during the first very formative years in those other countries and the resulting positive impact. If you choose to have children then one of the parents needs to make the commitment to be at home and be responsible for teaching them right from wrong, self-discipline, etc. I think you will find the children that have had that opportunity do quite well. I'm not saying you can't be a single mom and do it, there are exceptions to every rule. However, the point is those are EXCEPTIONS!!! Choosing to have children and raising them YOURSELF is far more important than having a new car or whatever else the 'second income' is spent on because both parents want to work because they 'want things' more than their children's need and education. That is one of the major differences in our society, and the fact divorce is just too easy and so there are far too many singles out there raising children alone. We need to make our CHILDREN our priority in ALL walks of life!!! THEY ARE THE FUTURE!!!

February 18, 2010, 1:06 PM

Concerned wrote:

I wish someone would take a look at the time these other countries require the children to be in school. Also the requirements and the length of the school year. Also the discipline these other countries require!!

February 18, 2010, 12:07 PM

Derby wrote:

1. Children are NOT being taught; they are being indoctrinated.
2. Morally, children (girls) are now being told they must accommodate male bodies in their bathrooms in the schools.
3. Pharmaceutical companies demand that female children be vaccinated with a drug that has caused the illness and death in 1600+ people.
4. Children are over-vaccinated, and there is research to demonstrate the impact this is having on their overall health.
5. Money does not educate the mind: proper, balanced, untethered instruction does.
6. Intelligence, performance, and accomplishment are punished in this nation (don't want the child next him to feel 'left out', so the educational system makes sure everyone is on an 'equal' level.)
7. These pep talks don't accomplish anything. The system has to be abolished and a new system established that takes us back to teaching the basics and making kids

use their brains to problem-solve, instead of using instruments to do their thinking for them.

8. We need to get the teacher/politicians out of the schools. If they want to brainwash others with their own political rants, let them do it on the street corner, where ADULTS have the POWER to refute and reject political speeches.

9. Quit trying to sexualize the teaching process. I think any educated, informed adult knows exactly what this infers. Think: predator in White House staff.

10. Quit forcing children to learn, and show that learning is enjoyable (not fun!). Learning has intrinsic rewards.

February 18, 2010, 12:01 PM

Sandra Olson wrote:

I would be interested in the studies and statistics regarding early childhood education's impact on the future of our country, compared to improving education in the areas of science and technology.

February 18, 2010, 9:41 AM

KaiB wrote:

Let's get real. For four decades we're been throwing money into the education system - and the result has been failure. Our problem is not a function of cash, but rather one of sloth. We demand nothing of our children (and their parents, when we can find them). The welfare society we've developed has created a mindset which allows us to rely on the government to cure our ills and slowly, but surely, forget the concept of individual responsibility.

February 18, 2010, 7:47 AM

Brandon Dutcher wrote:

Mr. Millett's view is quite mistaken, as this article ('French Preschool Wrong for Oklahoma') makes clear: <http://bit.ly/dnncSo>

February 18, 2010, 12:13 AM

Tools



By Cindy Allen, Managing Editor Enid News and Eagle

— Local city and business leaders heard some sobering statistics Wednesday about how other nations are passing the United States by; however, more investment in early childhood education is the nation's key to becoming an intellectual global leader.

Bill Millett, a consultant with Scope View Strategic Advantage of North Carolina, was in Enid Wednesday leading a forum on economic development and the role early childhood education plays in work force development. Greater Enid Chamber of Commerce has identified work force development as a key strategy to economic

growth in Enid.

Millett's message was clear. Other countries are quickly surpassing the United States in building their "knowledge infrastructure." And, the United States can only hope to catch up by focusing on providing young children opportunities to start gaining knowledge at a very early level.

"Fifty years ago, we were a cocky lot (in the United States)." Millett told the group of about 75 business professionals. He talked about how that all changed in 1957 when the Soviet Union started winning the space race.

National and military leaders understood that by the Soviets launching the first satellite into orbit, and then beating the United States in putting a man in orbit, the U.S. was at risk in the area of national defense.

The consequences are not much different today, Millett said. The United States' complacency in building its knowledge infrastructure has put the country at economic and security risk, he said.

"America is under assault again," he said, and the country and our government continues to be complacent about it.

Millett said the United States has fallen dramatically in its rankings for college graduates, going from the No. 1. nation to No. 8.

Developing nations such as China and India have sheer numbers on their side. Those two nations have as many college-educated young adults as the United States has students.

"No longer do we have the best educated work force in the world," Millett said. "We don't have any students to waste."

He commended Enid for its passage of a \$99.5 million bond issue last week as a "heck of a statement" that "Enid gets it."

He also commended Enid's Smart Start program through Community Development Support Association, and he pointed out Oklahoma has a strong ranking in early childhood education. He complimented the partnership between The Methodist Commons home and Enid Public Schools in working together to add 4-year-old programs at the facility. The program includes residents of the home helping with the program and providing interaction with the young students.

These factors are key in creating long-term economic viability, he said. Students today will be competing globally, not locally or regionally or even nationally.

"Enid kids will be competing with kids growing up on six different continents" for jobs in the future, he said. "Right now, we're outnumbered and out-taught."

He said the future work force will have to have creative and collaborative skills. They will need to be able to innovate. He also said they will need more training in math and science.

“The charge is not to teach kids particular skills, but to teach them particular ways of thinking,” he said.

Funding of early childhood education programs needs to be a priority of local and state coalitions, he said.

What is the economic payoff of providing quality early childhood education?

A good early childhood education start leads to more success in elementary, secondary and post-secondary schools. These students have a better shot at higher-paying jobs.

“We create tax generators versus tax consumers,” he said.

Local news

- **Enid's Blockbuster closing, liquidating merchandise**

The company reported deep fourth-quarter losses and plans to close more than 500 stores.

February 25, 2010



- **CDSA builds an energy-efficient home affordable to lower income families in Enid**

One of the goals of Community Development Support Association is finding better housing for Enid's low- to moderate-income families.

February 25, 2010 1 Photo



- **Meeting slated to discuss bond issue in Drummond**

Drummond Public Schools will host a public meeting today for voters who will decide the fate of the district's bond issue Tuesday.

February 25, 2010 1 Photo

- **Former deputy is guilty on 5 counts**

February 25, 2010

- **Chillin' for a cause**

February 24, 2010

- **Home-based business expo coming to Enid**

February 24, 2010

- **Wilkinson announces for judicial post**

February 24, 2010

- **COMING UP: In Thursday's Enid News & Eagle**

Be sure to read the following stories in Thursday's News & Eagle:

- **Drummond Public Schools will host a public meeting Thursday for voters who will decide the fate of the district's bond issue Tuesday.**
- **CDSA goes green with energy efficient home.**
- **Courtney Chelf's work ethic turns into success on the court**

... plus state lawmakers expected to haggle over a federal health care plan, Trial continues for former Garfield County deputy Lanzy Lamar Coker and first home-based business expo on tap for Saturday.

February 24, 2010



- **Local leaders meet with Pentagon officials during chamber's D.C. trip**

Airspace and education were two of the prime topics for discussion Tuesday when local leaders met with Pentagon officials during the annual Greater Enid Chamber of Commerce trip to Washington, D.C.

February 23, 2010 1 Photo



- **Plans seeks to stabilize state energy revenue**

With much of Oklahoma's budget woes attributable to a precipitous drop in energy prices, House Speaker Chris Bengtson on Tuesday unveiled a plan to stabilize the volatile revenue source.

February 23, 2010 1 Photo

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