

Friday Reflection

9/13/2019

Our mission statement articulates, “students will achieve 21st century core competencies”. Critical thinking, creativity, communication and collaboration are often identified as foundational 21st century skills to transcend technological advances and shifts in the coming world. In an odd way, I watched our school community embrace these important skills in the midst of Homecoming Week, which is generally focused on celebrating the past.

For starters, orchestrating a spirit week like homecoming requires a great deal of communication and collaboration. ASB challenged teachers to lead the way in dress up day participation. Teachers fully accepted the challenge and collaborated with colleagues on either the red team or black team. Teachers believed students would be more willing to participate in spirit activities if they saw their adult models take risks. That seemed to play out as the week progressed and brought a vast assortment of fun with lunch games, dress up days and of course the assembly today.

One event this week featured communication, collaboration and even creativity. It was our first (in a long time) powder puff football game between the junior and senior classes. Several of our most athletic girls showcased their skills, more importantly, their commitment to working together for cause. It came down to the final minutes of the game when the juniors scored a touchdown and an extra point to win. It was impressive to see the girls play so hard and well on both sides, even more impressive to see how they handled the outcome with composure and class.

During the powder puff experience, ASB students videoed to prepare a piece for the assembly today. Arianna Juarez sat me down to preview her work, and I realized that this young lady was starting to master Final Cut Pro, an industry standard editing software. Talk about critical thinking, creativity, communication, and collaboration. This short, 3-minute video demonstrated it all. It will play today as a nice video, but not everyone will appreciate the time and skill required to produce that piece.

Another obvious communication event occurred quietly in a Senior English classroom as seniors presented speeches, reporting on interviews conducted with a variety of career professionals. Students learned a great deal about different opportunities down the road, but more importantly, they gained experience gathering, organizing, and delivering information.

Yet another glowing 21st century moment for me occurred as I observed some Pre-Calculus classrooms. I watched students collaborate to solve real questions related to card playing probability. As they worked in their groups, I watch creativity, critical thinking, communication, and collaboration all play an important role in determining outcomes. Wow, what are the chances? Pretty high I think at Tustin High School.

Go Tillers!

Dr. Jon Tuin

Tustin High School Principal