Happiness exists in action …telling the truth and saying what your truth is, and … in giving away what you want the most.

(Eve Ensler)

TED Talks

www.ted.com

You may have already found and enjoyed the delights of the TED website, but if not then be sure to visit the above link. You will find a wealth of fascinating, inspiring and thought-provoking presentations from great thinkers around the world.

TED stands for Technology, Entertainment, Design. It started out (in 1984) as a conference bringing together people from those three worlds. Since then its scope has become ever broader.

The annual conference now brings together the world's most fascinating thinkers and doers, who are challenged to give the talk of their lives (in 18 minutes).

TEDTalks (www.ted.com/index.php/talks) “… began as a simple attempt to share what happens at TED with the world. Under the moniker "ideas worth spreading," talks were released online.

Today, TED is … best thought of as a global community. It's a community welcoming people from every discipline and culture who have just two things in common: they seek a deeper understanding of the world, and they hope to turn that understanding into a better future for us all.

More than 200 talks from our archive are now available, with more added each week. These videos are released under a Creative Commons license, so they can be freely shared and reposted.

Do Schools Kill Creativity?

www.ted.com/index.php/talks/ken_robinson_says_schools_kill_creativity.html

We're sure many Starlink readers will love this excellent TED presentation by Sir Ken Robinson. It is thought provoking, amusing – and very inspiring!

As the description says, he “makes an entertaining and profoundly moving case for creating an education system that nurtures (rather than undermines) creativity”

Creativity expert Sir Ken Robinson challenges the way we're educating our children. He champions a radical rethink of our school systems, to cultivate creativity and acknowledge multiple types of intelligence.

Why don't we get the best out of people? Sir Ken Robinson argues that it's because we've been educated to become good workers, rather than creative thinkers. Students with restless minds and bodies – far from being cultivated for their energy and curiosity – are ignored or even stigmatized, with terrible consequences. 'We are educating people out of their creativity,' Robinson says. It's a message with deep resonance.

Thank you to our colleague Robyn Stratton-Berkessel for the heads up on this one! You can learn more about Robyn and her work at www.positivematrix.com

If you visit the TED website, you will no doubt find many of your own favourite talks.

Here are just a few of ours:

Daniel Goleman: Why Aren't We All Good Samaritans?
www.ted.com/index.php/talks/daniel_goleman_on_compassion.html

Malcolm Gladwell: What We Can Learn from Spaghetti Sauce
www.ted.com/index.php/talks/malcolm_gladwell_on_spaghetti_sauce.html

Ben Dunlap: The Story of a Passionate Life
www.ted.com/index.php/talks/ben_dunlap_talks_about_a_passionate_life.html

Benjamin Zander: Classical Music with Shining Eyes
www.ted.com/index.php/talks/benjamin_zander_on_music_and_passion.html

Eve Ensler: Finding Happiness in Body and Soul
www.ted.com/index.php/talks/eve_ensler_on_happiness_in_body_and_soul.html

If their eyes are shining, you know you're doing it … Who am I being, that my children's eyes are not shining? … My definition of success is about how many shining eyes I have around me. (Benjamin Zander)
Communication Information Network

www.comminit.com

On this website you will find a huge collection of articles and resources on a very wide range of social and economic issues.

The Communication Initiative (The CI) network is an online space for sharing the experiences of, and building bridges between, the people and organisations engaged in or supporting communication as a fundamental strategy for economic and social development and change.

It does this through a process of initiating dialogue and debate and giving the network a stronger, more representative and informed voice with which to advance the use and improve the impact of communication for development.

Map of the Future Affecting Education

www.kwfdn.org/map/

This is a fascinating site, providing a useful starting point for conversation about the design and development of education for the future. Although the site and the map are based in the United States, the trends and drivers it outlines are essentially global in nature. It is very relevant for educators everywhere!

As the home page says:

It could be video games. Bioengineering. Or health care. All of these forces and more are explored on the KnowledgeWorks Foundation and Institute for the Future 2006-2016 Map of Future Forces Affecting Education.

Look around the map. Explore it. While we’d never suggest that this map contains all of the answers and perfectly predicts the future, it does offer a clear point of view based on countless hours of research, analysis and expert opinion. Think of the map as a provocative tool, as the beginning of a movement, or, at the very least, part of a good conversation. Join in. And help us shape the future.

FRANK: A “Wired Awake” Magazine


As the website says, this is a wired awake magazine for young women. It is a free electronic publication, which will also soon become a print magazine. There is an online subscription form, and back issues are also available for download.

From the website:

FRANK (meaning: honest, open, to the point) was created by Karen Miles, Katie Delaney & Jessica Kiely - to provide young women with valuable and independent information to help them make their own informed choices related to career, relationships, personal growth, the environment, as well as fun stuff like entertainment and fashion. There are so many mixed messages, dodgy marketing and women’s magazines out there claiming to help chicks when in reality most of their messages are empty and stupid!

FRANK is a FREE magazine, currently distributed by email, soon to be in print. FRANK is run by volunteers and is published through The FRANK Team, a socially responsible company who helps schools, universities, colleges, councils, corporates and organisations to inspire and develop young people and grown ups.

Let’s be frank. Imagine young women having access to an ad-free, intelligent, thought provoking magazine that’s cool, creative, inspiring and fun! There’s currently not a lot on offer, most women’s magazines spill over with diets, celebrities, stereotypes, and ‘glossy’ supermodel ads. And frankly, we’re over it.

FRANK magazine will eventually be a print magazine with distribution Australia-wide! If you’d like to support FRANK in some way we’d love to hear from you!

Contact FRANK’s editor Jenna Templeton by phone on (02) 9966 4333 or email: jenna@frankteam.com.au
www.designshare.com/Research/brainbasedlearn98.htm

This is a fascinating article, discussing the implications of brain-based learning for the design of effective learning environments. A very useful starting point for discussion about any learning environment in which we are engaged – whether for young people in schools or for adults participating in professional development activities!

As the article says:

Embracing the concept of "place" and placemaking – as opposed to space design – is critical to understanding the way in which design principles for optimal learning environments are intended to be approached.

When designing for optimal learning environments, design must be approached in a holistic, systemic way, comprising not only the physical setting, but also the social, organizational, pedagogical, and emotional environments that are integral to the experience of place.

Reducing these design principles to "physical" design solutions negates the potential for creating authentically brain-compatible learning environments.

This point can not be stressed strongly enough. Designing successful brain-compatible learning environments will require us as educators and design professionals to transform our traditional disciplinary thinking and challenge us to think in much more interdisciplinary ways – just as cognitive scientists have had to do to address the complexity of brain research.

New Look Health Web Site for Young People

www.somazone.com.au

Somazone is one of Australia’s most popular health websites for 15–25 year olds, covering a wide range of health, relationship and wellbeing topics. The website has recently undergone a facelift, but still retains the features and information that has made it so popular with young people, including:

- Hundreds of questions from young people answered by health professionals about sex, drugs, relationships, body image, mind health and harassment.
- Stories from young people talking about their lives.
- Downloadable fact sheets written by health professionals.
- A comprehensive database of youth-friendly services across Australia. (Is your service listed?)

Would you like to help young people by answering questions on Somazone?

Somazone is looking for some extra health professionals to help keep up with answering the questions posted by young people. In particular, they’re after GPs, community and practice nurses, dieticians, pharmacists, psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, and AOD, mental health, sexual health and relationship counsellors. If you are a health professional interested in answering questions for Somazone, or know of someone who might be, email somazone@adf.org.au.

Somazone: The place to go when you want to know
PO Box 818
North Melbourne VIC 3051
(03) 9278 8100
somazone@adf.org.au
www.somazone.com.au

(Source: AYIN mailing list, with thanks to Ann Collyer from the Australian Drug Foundation)

WorkVentures Connect IT

http://connectit.workventures.net.au

On this website you will find criteria and application forms to access very low cost (from $250) computer packages for nonprofit organisations, schools or disadvantaged families.

(Packages include hardware, software and modem or network cards.)

WorkVentures Connect is in the business of turning ex corporate and government PCs and peripheral equipment into affordable systems for disadvantaged families, schools and not for profit organisations around Australia. WorkVentures has been successfully partnering with corporations, state and federal governments for over 20 years and together we have been trying to bridge many of the social problems facing our communities.
We have updated the HumourAdventure® page on our website to include additional information about our HumourAdventure® at the Zoo program and about the program as it applies for schools.

To learn more, visit: www.bjseminars.com.au/humor.html

Or contact us by phone on (03) 9758 2528 or by email: info@bjseminars.com.au

Occasionally I go A.W.O.L when I attend a professional development workshop and my mind wanders. I end up Absent With Leaving.

I may think about what’s for tea tonight, or the DVD I watched yesterday or the screenplay I’m working on. Or a hundred other random thoughts may zoom around in my head.

When I run our ‘Pozitive Kidz are happy kidz’ workshops for primary schools I notice that some teachers in the room go A.W.O.L.

I wonder whether it’s due to stress or whether this is the only time in the day teachers get a chance to rest. Or perhaps they may have had a difficult time with the children before I arrive and they need a break. Or it may be a sign of something more serious – they may have actually lost their passion for teaching.

And if you lose your passion for what you love doing, you need either to find a way of reigniting that passion or you’ll eventually have to leave and do something else.

When I use this technique it usually snaps me back into the present time and keeps me focused.

Once in a while I don’t want to come back – or my brain refuses to cooperate and return. But the result of that bit of disobedience is that I’m punished.

I end up confined to barracks, contemplating the missed opportunity to learn something new that could make a difference for me.

There is something to be said for living in the present, being aware of those little bubbles of happiness when they occur, rather than looking back on them later with pointless nostalgia. (Terence Blacker)