



Cohort B—Halloween Edition

09/30/2011

Coming Soon!

The decision has been made. Knott's Scary Farm is happening Sunday, October 9th. So far I (Paul) have half a dozen firm commitments and twenty-something maybe's. All you on the fence, let me know what I can do to turn those maybe's into absolutely's! I'll get a final head count on the afternoon of Friday the 7th so we can figure out carpools and such.

As Principal McGann at Chaparral suggested during today's fire drill, keep your eyes, ears, and hearts open—as we explore casual social gathering ideas. A handful of us have enjoyed happy hours and fine comedy at our campus pub. So far, everyone I've met is super cool, and I can't wait till even more people start showing up!

On October 7, we'll join forces with Cohort A at Tokyo Table in Diamond Jamboree. They have all kinds of food and drink deals during happy

hour. Other ideas in the works are food truck Tuesdays, and of course lunch between classes on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Don't forget about Pontea's meditations on Mondays at 4:30 at the top of the hill in the middle of Aldrich Park! Check out [the details at www.friends4serenity.com](http://www.friends4serenity.com)

There will be some form of barbeque/pizza party on October 20 to replace the opening bbq we were supposed to have at the start of the semester. This will be with absolutely all credential students—multiple and single subject!

And remember, all the student reps (especially our own Stephanie Kim) will soon be busy planning our killer Halloween costume party. It'll be on campus during our lunch break on Friday, October 28.

Stephanie said she was going to put together a spider costume. Will it be scarier than the fearsome Camel Spider pictured below? What will you and everyone else come up with? Hopefully, our November newsletter can be filled with pictures of our creative costumes instead of these random internet images!



Hope You Were There

...in cyberspace, on our Google Group! The Google Docs Calendar that Quyen set up takes care of business with such seriousness that there is no need for one in the newsletter. You can check it anytime! Even on your smartphone! Confused? No idea what I'm talking about? Just ask Stephanie,

Quyen or myself. We're still down a student rep (volunteers, anyone?), but between Stephanie, Quyen, and myself, we will manage to keep everyone up to date. All we need is a gmail address for everybody. For those last couple of stragglers, get on board fast! You're missing out!

:-D > T-T

Jobs! Sweet, sweet jobs!

All this talk about teacher layoffs and recessions can get a bit disheartening, especially as we're just starting down the road towards a teaching credential. But fear not, jobs are there, in California and beyond! It's a big world!

I'm excited about this link a friend sent me last week about jobs in Taiwan. At the moment, it looks like a new teacher with a credential and a Master's could bring in about \$2600 a month in a country where the cost

of living is cheap, cheap, cheap! Plus Taiwan is a tropical island.

Even better, you can start in October, February or August. Here's the link:

www.seriousteachers.com/Job_details.asp?idemploy-er=9687&idjob=200215&pag=1

Please send any other good news or encouraging words my way for next month!

The screenshot shows the 'Serious Teachers' website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Teachers Join Free', 'Serious Teachers International Alliance of Teachers & Employers', and 'Post a Job'. Below this, a sidebar on the left contains links like 'Teachers Join', 'Post a Job', 'Job Board', 'Adjust Profile', 'Contact Us', 'Private Job Board', 'Serious Forum', 'Earn with US', 'Employers Panel', and 'Find Teachers'. The main content area features a job listing titled 'Government School Full-Time English Positions (Taiwan, Taipei Taichung Chiayi)'. The listing includes a 'Teach Taiwan' button and a 'Dear teachers,' message. The text describes the opportunity, mentioning that the package value is over NTS 80,000/month and that the school offers round trip tickets. It also lists job details such as 'Position Type: Full Time', 'School Type: Public Elementary and Junior High Schools', and 'Job Location: Taipei, Hsinchu, Taichung and Southern Cities in Taiwan'. A 'Teach in China' button is visible at the bottom of the listing. On the right side, there's a 'Featured Teachers' section with a profile for 'Mina Vaneveld' and a 'Search Images' button.

This Issue's Coolest Candidate



Our very first Coolest Candidate was selected based on a combination of snaps and general awesomeness.

Meet Pontea—pronounced pawn tee, not pawn tay uh—Dianati. She moved here from Iran at the age of 12, at which point she had to learn English, among all other challenges involved in immigrating to the United States. Talk about a steep real-time

learning curve! In class last week, we talked about obstacles created by language barriers. Some of us remembered annoyances like the elderly in foreign countries rattling away to us when we clearly didn't understand their language. Pontea described sounding out the country "Niger," learning about our no-no n-word while making a phonetically sound attempt at pronouncing the word in front of her class.

Listening to her now, you'd never guess that this upbeat young lady was not a native English speaker who used to be, understandably, anxious and worried a lot. In fact, when she went down hard in Physical Education class last Friday, she handled the accident gracefully, and even hobbled her way to her Monday meditation spot on a still very injured ankle a few days later. Dedication?

She credits meditating with helping her overcome her old behavior of incessant worrying, and is eager to share the joy with the rest of us. "I

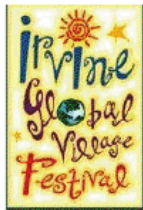
want to teach it to anyone else who wants to learn. You are all welcome to come and join when you are feeling stressed or if you just want to try this meditation thing out," Pontea says. I tried it out this week. It went by fast, I definitely felt more relaxed, and it didn't hurt a bit!

"Find something you are passionate about and you never have to work a day in your life," Pontea philosophizes. "This is teaching for me. I love kids and I've always felt that I had a special connection with them. Teaching is just passion and fun and all the work is worth the enjoyment I get around the little gems."

Well said, Pontea! We all know you'll make a great teacher, and wish you the best of luck this year and beyond!

In The Community

Last but not least, there is still time to get in on this sweet volunteer event that our coordinator, Christina Giguere, came across. “This would be fun to do with a few friends, practice your read aloud skills, and even put on a resume. The person in charge is one of our alumni!” Christina says.



Volunteers Needed

Yvonne's Young Learners Academy is looking for enthusiastic teachers and students of education to volunteer 2 hours at the Reader's Theater Booth at the Irvine Global Village festival on Saturday, October 1st, 2011. The event will run from 10 am – 6 pm.

The booth will be located in the Kids Village of the festival. As a volunteer you will have an opportunity to interact with children and their families as they read through engaging scripts from Shakespeare to Aesop Fables. You will also help the children create simple props to use as they read through their scripts.

If you are interested in volunteering for this event please complete the following steps:

1. join the events temporary yahoo group - click on the link below
<http://web.me.com/ymansouri/Site/Contact.html>
2. click on the YAHOO GROUPS JOIN NOW button in the left bottom corner of the page
3. follow the prompts to join the group
4. In the left hand corner of the groups page click on Calendar
5. Go to the event date October 1
6. Click at event and then in the filed TITLE type your name
7. In the field TIME click the time you can start and your duration
*Please note that if there are four people signed up for a two hour time slot please try to volunteer in the next available two hour slot.
8. If you have any special note or message you want to leave you can add it to the notes tab
9. Send me a private email with your contact information at v_mansouri@hotmail.com
10. Click save

Reader's Theater is a well-known, proven, research-based strategy that has become really popular in the last couple years as a way to practice and perfect student's fluency and speaking skills. It is a great way to help develop imagination, increase language skills and improve the expression of ideas through drama, writing, art and oral presentation!

We greatly appreciate your commitment to the education of young children in our community! Thank you.

Sincerely,
Yvonne Mansouri
MAT/Credential Teacher
UCI 2005
Owner Yvonne's Young Learners Academy



That's it for this month, folks. Remember, if you have any nominations for next month's coolest candidate, or ideas about anything at all related to teaching, shoot us an email!