

JEI

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May Days: Time for Work and Play

It's already May, and as the school year comes to a close, it's an especially important time for students to focus on the tough work ahead.

May, however, is an interesting month, bringing to mind flowers in bloom, sunshine, butterflies, and (for some) baseball season in full swing. It is also chockfull of holidays around the world: Mayday is both International Workers Day, and an ancient European festival in which children dance gleefully around maypoles. For Mexico, May 5th commemorates war victories, whereas in Korea and Japan, May 5th is Children's Day. Such holidays seem to hold opposing themes: work and play.

In Los Angeles, a former social studies teacher has been elected president of the teachers' union. Los Angeles Unified School District, the second largest in the nation, has a 31,000-strong union comprised of guidance

counselors, nurses, and school psychologists. Alex Caputo-Pearl's election, says the *Los Angeles Times*, stems from a general dissatisfaction with increasingly larger class sizes and teachers preparing students for multiple-choice tests. Caputo-Pearl is concerned that, because of this, all-too-important curricula are being cut. In a recent radio interview, he criticized tests that cannot accurately assess proficiency in skills like critical thinking—such as reading, writing, and speech—and in art.

What to do, then, when schools are focusing less and less on cognitive development, but only on test scores? We want to also make sure that we provide students with skills necessary for comprehending the real-life implications of what *is* being taught. This is no small crisis, especially as these skills are a must for students adapting to Common Core State Standards, which focus not on "teaching to the test," but on true understanding and mastery.

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A Paradigm Shift in Education

By **Gil Choi**

A few weeks ago, I was at the annual National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) conference in New Orleans, mostly to research the different math programs, as well as a few online learning programs. The NCTM conference is the biggest event of the year for those in the field of math education. I was able to get a glimpse of the latest developments in math education, and also learned some cool facts, such as how the ancient Babylonians used base-60 number system and how Egyptians used fractions.

Throughout the conference in which the Common Core was the main theme, the words I kept hearing at the seminars and from the many education companies at the exhibit halls were *personalized learning*, *diagnostic/assessment system*, *prescriptive learning*, *individual pace*, *flipped learning*, *mastery learning*, and so on.

Most of those expressions are quite familiar to us at JEI, and probably

to many parents as well. If I may explain, STEM is an acronym that stands for science, technology, engineering, and math, which is the focus of education in the future. Flipped learning includes several meanings: it transfers the ownership of learning from teachers to students; it makes learning—not teaching—the center of the classroom; and it personalizes learning for each student. It sounds a lot like the Self-Learning Method, doesn't it?

Many years ago, JEI developed the Self-Learning Method (SLM), which enabled individualized learning for each student based on an accurate and comprehensive diagnostic system. JEI has helped millions of students achieve their learning potential with the SLM over the last thirty-some years. It seems that the rest of the world has finally caught up.

The sweeping changes in the education industry are made possible because of new technology: online curriculum, assessment tools, iPads, and more. The new technology makes it much



Gil Choi, Senior Vice President of JEI Self-Learning Systems, Inc.

easier to personalize learning based on specific needs. On one hand, the latest developments make me very happy, as everyone is now saying what JEI has been preaching for many years. I also regret that JEI is still relatively unknown and that we are not getting the credit for being pioneers in this style of learning.

Nevertheless, this is good news for all parents and students—that what JEI has been advocating for, all along, is now the trend in education. Most importantly, it can give students a better chance to succeed. With any hope, JEI will soon be at the forefront of this paradigmatic shift in education, and get the recognition it deserves.

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Encourage academic growth in your children by enrolling in JEI.

LIKE us at <http://www.facebook.com/jeilearningcenter> for a chance to win an Amazon Kindle Fire HD Tablet when we reach

2,000 



Briefs

Polio Outbreak

The WHO is reporting a 2014 public health emergency. Polio, an often fatal childhood disease, is currently widespread in 10 countries, including Pakistan, Syria, and Camaroon. All polio-afflicted countries are being ordered to vaccinate before travelling internationally, and India is requiring such travelers to be vaccinated 6 weeks prior to entering.

(www.npr.org 05/2014)

A Study on Students' Sleep Needs

Maryland has commissioned a study on how sleep affects academic performance. Sleep-deprived kids tend to suffer from depression and obesity, and, not surprisingly, are involved in more car crashes. The study's central focus is on what time of day students are most alert in class.

(www.educationnews.org, 04/2014)

Apple Stores offer Free Field Trips

Every fall and spring, Apple stores host what they call a "Showcase Field Trip" for K-12 students and teachers. Students can bring in a project they are already working on, presenting it to their classmates and the Apple store team. Or they can participate in a "Create Field Trip" and build their own project, using Apple technology. Rather than simply advertising Apple products, the trips foster students' creativity by getting them excited about what they are learning and how they can bring their classroom lessons into the real world. Also, teachers can take ideas and practices from the field trips to establish more interactive classrooms. Each trip accommodates a group of 25 students and lasts from an hour to 90 minutes. Registration is open through May 30th.

(www.eschoolnews.com, 04/2014)

(May Days: Time for Work and Play continued from page 1)

Critical thinking and art. One is work, and one is play, right? Not exactly. They are more closely related than you might think. There is a popular website, primarily for adults, called Lumosity.com. Lumosity offers cognitive games that are meant to improve mental acuity. JCI, too, has also developed Brain Safari, an enrichment program that, through lively activities, builds foundational cognitive skills, helps kids navigate the physical world, and fosters purposeful creativity. But unlike Lumosity, JCI stresses childhood development, the first ten years being the most crucial. It's based on the philosophy that both critical and creative thinking is intertwined, and that the combination will help any student excel at any subject. In this way, one might call JCI's Brain Safari "the enrichment program to end all enrichment programs."

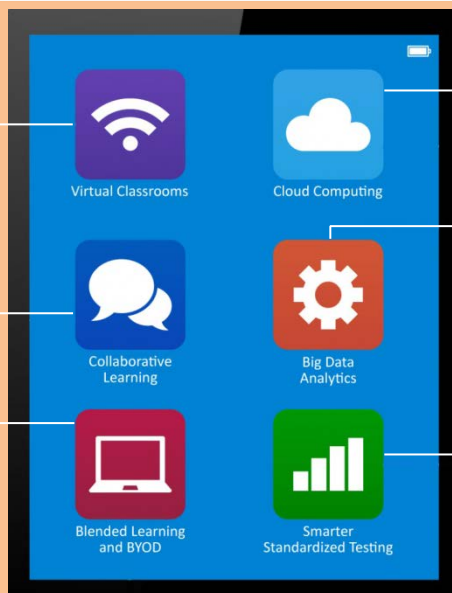
As we celebrate work and play this month, we are also celebrating the human brain. So happy Parents' Day, happy Teachers' Day, and—above all—happy Children's Day.

FUTURE TRENDS IN K-12 EDUCATION

Today, 250,000 students are enrolled in some form of virtual school. This will increase, as students and teachers will collaborate online with mobile devices, laptops, and tablets.

Classrooms will include a wider range of technology to improve teacher-student interaction and collaboration among peers, which will mean the use of interactive whiteboards and strategically-designed furniture.

A blended-learning approach will incorporate game-based activities on mobile devices, and will likely include cloud computing, mobile learning, and even 3-D printing.



School districts will use cloud-based storage for all administrative functions, reducing costs and promoting efficiency.

The rise of "big data" and sophisticated learning analytics will be central to student performance, and will enable educators to develop more personalized learning. Additionally, "big data" will more precisely assess and adapt to student needs.

Learning and analytical skills, rather than content memorization, will be the focus of future test-designers who view competency-based learning and assessment as a major improvement. These tests will become more and more sophisticated as technology advances.

Student of the Month



Congratulations to Malissa Cha from JEI Learning Center in Great Neck, NY! Malissa is an 8th grader who recently took the SHSAT and received a score high enough to be accepted into Stuyvesant High School. She has been taking JEI classes since the 4th grade. Currently, Malissa's performance in math has been excellent in both school and at JEI.



Math Olympiad Grand Prize Winner!

Out of 1,000 contestants, 7th grader Andy Seongkyu Kim, from JEI Learning Center in Vancouver, Canada, achieved the highest score at the JEI Math Olympiad on March 15, 2014. JEI is happy to have been able to conduct a quick interview with the Grand Prize winner:

JEI: *Were you nervous before the test?*

Andy: No, not really, because if I am, I do really bad. I just took the test like a worksheet that is given out at JEI and tried my best.

JEI: *What was your feeling after the test?*

Andy: It was good. I was happy the test ended and I thought I did well.

JEI: *Do you have any tips and suggestions for other students*



Andy Seongkyu Kim, Grand Prize Winner Math Olympiad 2014

when it comes to math competitions?

Andy: Yeah, don't be nervous, and work on math every day, even if it's only one page.

JEI: *Is Math your favorite subject?*

Andy: Yes, it is. But I also like History and French.

Upcoming JEI Learning Centers

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- Lynbrook, NY
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