



**Dear Academy Members,**

**As many of our stateside members are either gearing up for the 2022-2023 school year or are already in full swing of the new academic year, we wanted to wish all of our members a happy start to the school year! In this newsletter, we are highlighting resources with a focus on reflecting, starting the school year off on the right foot and teaching history effectively. We hope you can find resources to suit your needs.**

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## A Moment for Reflection

Here at the Academy, we value reflection both for ourselves and for our students.

1. For our educators: In the [July 22nd LiberatED Newsletter](#), Dr. Dena Simmons, Ed.D provides reflection questions to help readers find time for joy and rest. One key question that she asks is simple and yet often overlooked, “what will I do for joy today?”

2. For our students: In this [Edutopia article](#), Christine Boatman shares the idea of using a “plus delta” as a strategy to help students reflect on learning activities. For this strategy, she creates a T-chart on the board or on poster paper and places a plus on one side of the T-chart and a delta on the other side. Under the plus side of the chart, students list what went well about an activity. Under the delta side, students list

what could be changed or improved about the activity for the future. In addition, Christine shares examples of activities in which to use the chart and ideas to deepen the reflective process.

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### Starting the School Year off Right

1. This [Edutopia article](#) from Dr. Maurice J. Elias takes a character development and purpose approach to help students start the school year off on a positive note. Dr. Elias provides strategies for students to ask themselves, “who am I” through responding to questions, utilizing kinesthetic movement in classroom wide polls and journaling about their mindsets and beliefs.
2. This [article](#) from New York Times’ The Learning Network authored by Katherine Schulten provides 10 ideas for building community at the start of the school year. One idea is to ask a question a day to engage students. These questions can range from the silly to the deep and introspective. Some sample questions include, “can laziness be a good thing?” and “what can older generations learn from Gen Z?”

She also provides a model of how to incorporate Wordle as a warm-up at the start of class!

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## A Student's Take on Sugar-Coated History

This Learning for Justice article, [“A Student’s Take on Sugar-Coated History”](#), written by K.C.B underscores the negative impact of teaching a “sugar-coated history.” Through the lens of her own personal experience, K.C.B shares the negative effects of teaching a watered-down history to students and provides suggestions for how teachers can lead students through an honest understanding of historical events. As we are striving to include culturally-responsive content in each newsletter, we found this article an important reminder to teach history honestly and to welcome our own vulnerability and potential discomfort in teaching history.

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## Upcoming Webinars

In the upcoming edition of CASEL’s Demystifying Systemic Social and Emotional Learning webinar series, presenters focus on how to continually improve SEL implementation.

**Topic: Demystifying Systemic Social & Emotional Learning: Continuous Improvement**

**Date and Time: September 23, 2022, 11 AM - 12 PM ET// 8 - 9 AM PT**

**Registration Link:**

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/2716432426143/WN\\_\\_bwvdmar6Qmm4rt5tpJrNQQ](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/2716432426143/WN__bwvdmar6Qmm4rt5tpJrNQQ)

**Our second webinar to share is from Second Step. This webinar provides an overview of how SEL supports academic success and provides tools for how you can advocate for SEL in your school or district by promoting the connection between SEL and academics.**

**Topic: Social-Emotional Learning and Academic Success**

**Date and Time: Friday, September 30, 2022, 2 - 3 PM ET// 11 AM - 12 PM PT**

**Registration Link: [https://go.cfchildren.org/WBN-2022-09-30SELandAcademicSuccess\\_LP-Registration-Page.html?\\_\\_gl=1\\*3d1ue6\\*\\_ga\\*MTE2NjE0MzYoMS4xNjYyMDU2MDA3\\*\\_ga\\_RCFK1P818T\\*MTY2MjA1NjAwNi4xLjAuMTY2MjA1NjAwNi42MC4wLjA](https://go.cfchildren.org/WBN-2022-09-30SELandAcademicSuccess_LP-Registration-Page.html?__gl=1*3d1ue6*_ga*MTE2NjE0MzYoMS4xNjYyMDU2MDA3*_ga_RCFK1P818T*MTY2MjA1NjAwNi4xLjAuMTY2MjA1NjAwNi42MC4wLjA)**



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