

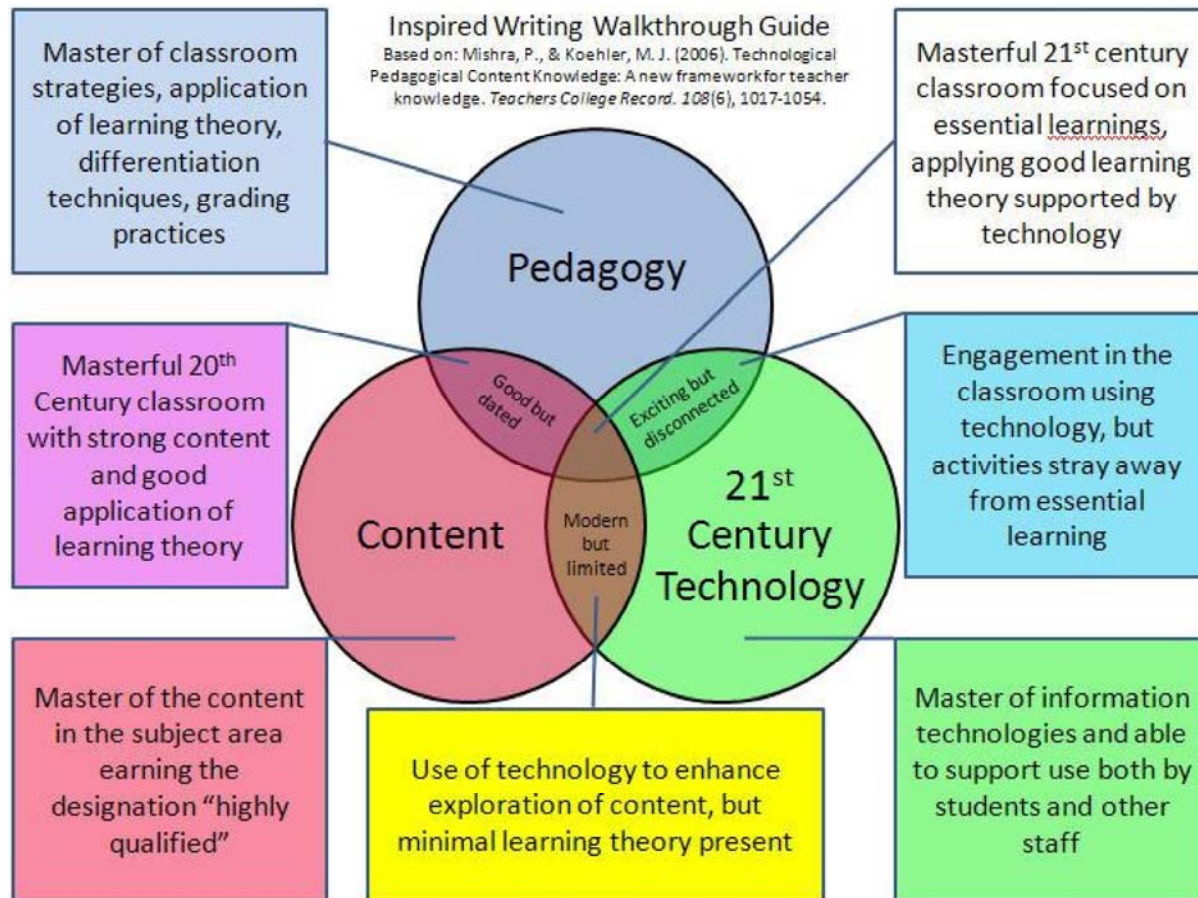
WMLC Perspectives Highlights - July 2015

[View this email in your browser](#)

# Education and Autism: Finding a Balance

By Carl Weber, General Education Teacher

With the new school year just around the corner, I can't help but start brainstorming ways to help our students with their academic success. My work with individuals with ASD at WMLC always has me looking for new ways (as well as revisiting traditional methods) to ensure they are hitting their academic benchmarks and goals. Below is a Venn diagram I recently found that is now hanging above my desk. It addresses the 3 main facets that 21<sup>st</sup> century teachers are looking at when designing their lessons and honing their teaching methods:



Here are the 2 main 'take-aways' I find the most important when looking at the above diagram:

1. With students on the spectrum, asking questions and 'fact-checking' is a very real part of a lesson with them. On countless occasions I have found myself getting into a "question asking battle" with a student, because their spectrum disorder, intellect, and attention to detail is telling them to ask 'why' and 'how'. I quickly realized being a content expert was extremely important. Pulling a fast one with our students at WMLC is a rarity - teachers have to know their stuff! Furthermore, being a content expert is not a parents' responsibility! The above diagram reminds me to make sure that if our students are bringing home any work, to provide them with the resources they'll need to have their 'why' and 'how' questions answered. Please be sure to let us know if this is not the case! The last thing we want is to send our students home with the desire to ask questions without the resources to have them answered!
2. I think it's safe to say technology is here to stay - especially for our students. For our friends, technology can be a huge asset to their classroom experience, as well as a potential detriment to their learning. The sensory aspect of students on the spectrum

plays a huge part in why the interactive approach technology inherently uses is so valuable when it comes to engaging them. Judy Endow, an individual with ASD and educational professional, recently wrote an article about her own childhood sensory experiences, and how her mind interpreted or ‘viewed’ said experiences. While reading the article, I could not stop thinking about many of the students we work with at WMLC, along with how these sensory issues can positively and negatively play a part in integrating technology into their lessons. Below is Judy’s website, along with an excerpt from the article:

<http://www.judyendow.com/>

*“I think in colors. My thinking colors have sound and movement. When I hear spoken words my neurology automatically goes for the match. When I was a girl, I heard the saying, “I got the world by the tail.” Immediately, the matching pictures of tail started popping up in my head. It’s like having a personal version of Google Images.*

*The initial picture search produced a variety of tails of animals. Then, there came the images of the ground mist I saw each morning when I went outdoors after breakfast. I assigned the world tail words I heard to this literal tail meaning that enabled me to name the pictures that had popped up in my head.*

*Specifically, I assigned this new tail meaning to the interaction of the sunlight and misty water particles I could see rising up from the earth’s surface whenever I was outside. For most of my life, I thought this literally was the earth’s tail.*

*Furthermore, I thought that people were somehow able physically to grab onto this tail and when they did so they indeed had the world by the tail! I had often tried to touch these sparkles, but now I had a new mission. I wanted to actually catch this tail so I too might have the world by its tail! I am glad this was the 1950’s because children played outdoors many hours.”*

- Judy Endow, “I See In Colors”

Keep in mind that our students/your child may also *see in color*. This provides a motive to help us understand why our students prefer the use of technology, as well as why it may be important to limit the use of technology in the classroom and at home. Again, it comes back to balancing our Venn diagram! **The key is adjusting the balance to each individual student.** Mastering teaching strategies ([Pedagogy](#)) by a subject expert ([Content](#)) while using the appropriate amount of [technology](#) is a sure-fire way to help our WMLC kids fit in and shine!



**SOCIAL SKILLS THERAPY**  
HELPING KIDS FIT IN & SHINE

June 2015						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July 2015						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	★	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2015						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June	
8	First day of Camp Connections
15	Parent Orientation Meeting @ Edina
17	Parent Orientation Meeting @ Excelsior
19	Sleepover @ Excelsior (age 8+)

July	
17	Sleepover @ Edina (age 8+)
20	Strategy Central @ Excelsior

August	
13	Client Family Picnic
20	Last day of Camp Connections
21	Sleepover @ Excelsior (age 8+)
24-4	End of Term Parent Conferences

Summer Term

[2015 Summer Catalog](#)

[Summer 2015 Registration Form](#)

[Camp Connections Activity Calendar \(ages 4-11\)](#)

[Kool Connections Camp Activity Calendar \(ages 11+\)](#)

[2014-2015 WMLC Calendar](#)

Contact Mary Wyatt for information regarding registration at [mwyatt@wmlc.biz](mailto:mwyatt@wmlc.biz) or 952-474-0227 x204

Current Clients: Please contact our Social Skills Coordinator, Linda Jones, with any questions or concerns you or your child may have. She can be reached by email at [ljones@wmlc.biz](mailto:ljones@wmlc.biz) or by phone at 952-474-0227

---



*We will be going on an  
outdoor camping adventure!*



## Sleepover August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015



### Tent Camping @ KOA in Jordan

Does your child love outdoor adventures? If so, this adventure is for them! Join us for an evening of tent camping at the KOA located in Jordan, MN. Minimum enrollment is three participants. All are welcome, but advance registration is required.

**Cost:** \$175 + cost of activity/admission fees

[View the Flyer](#)

[Click Here to Register](#)

---



All of our Excellent Adventures have been carefully researched and planned so clients not only have a great time, but also learn and practice social interaction and communication skills in a supported, but natural setting. Minimum enrollment is three participants. All are welcome, but advance registration is required.

**Price Reduced for Remainder of Summer: \$150 + cost of activity/admission fees**

For a limited time register for 2 activities for \$280 or for the remaining 5 activities for \$700!

[View the Flyer](#)

[Click Here to Register](#)

---

## Camp Connections

Day Camp Age 4-11

[Click Here to View Block 3 Camp Connections Information Packet](#)

---

# Kool Connections

Day Camp Age 11+

[Click Here to View Block 3 Kool Connections Information Packet](#)

---

# WMLC Family Picnic

We invite you to join us for an evening of food,  
friends and fun!

**DATE:** Thursday, August 13, 2015

**TIME:** 4:30 to 7:00

**LOCATION:** Lake Ann  
1456 West 78th Street, Chanhassen



- ⇒ Register for 2015-2016 Social Skills Groups
- ⇒ Register for Therapeutic Recreation Activities
- ⇒ Sign-up for Summer Parent/Teacher Conferences
- ⇒ Enter for a chance to win great prizes!

RSVP to Nicole at [nringgenberg@wmlc.biz](mailto:nringgenberg@wmlc.biz) or register at [www.wmlc.biz](http://www.wmlc.biz)

[Click Here to Register Online](#)

---

## WMLC Referral Program





**Clients who make referrals are eligible to receive a \$100 tuition credit...**

*Tell your friends to mention your name when they meet with our Director of Admissions!*

---



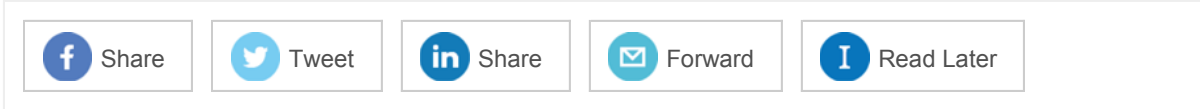
## **Website of the Month**

The recommended website for this month is called Social Quest. Social Quest is an application developed by author and Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) Rosie Simms to improve pragmatic language comprehension and expression in a variety of social situations for older elementary, middle school, and high school-aged populations.

Social Quest uses real life situations and contextual images to present the professional, parent and student with "jumping off" points for discussing the "why" and "how" of social language usage. The app utilizes a problem-solving quest theme in which students navigate various locations and earn "rewards" linked to social competencies.

[Click for  
More Information](#)

---



---

*Copyright © 2015 West Metro Learning Connections, Inc. All rights reserved.*

**Our mailing address is:**

[info@wmlc.biz](mailto:info@wmlc.biz)   [www.wmlc.biz](http://www.wmlc.biz)

Edina Location:  
5215 Edina Industrial Blvd., Suite 400  
Edina, MN 55439  
952-322-7922

Excelsior Location:  
355 Second Street  
Excelsior, MN 55331  
952-474-0227

[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)

---

This email was sent to [nringgenberg@wmlc.biz](mailto:nringgenberg@wmlc.biz)  
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)  
West Metro Learning Connections, Inc. · 355 2nd St. · Excelsior, MN 55331 · USA