

The POINT!



E-Letter of the Western Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies
Vol. 11 No. 6 June 2018



Does school design influence safety?

The design of US schools is in the spotlight following the latest shooting at a Texas high school. Texas Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick said the state's schools have too many exits and entrances, which make them vulnerable to attacks. [The Associated Press](#) (5/20)

Does Limiting Schools' Entrances Make Them Safer?

Gun control advocates panned a Texas official's call to make schools safer by limiting entrances, but architects say such a practice is a common part of comprehensive safety plans. [Read more.](#)

The Emotional Scars Run Deep': Stories From Teachers Who Survived School Shootings

Four teachers who have experienced gun violence at school share their stories. [Read more.](#)

Why School Shootings May Never End in America

School shootings are our new normal, and it may be too late to change that, Peter DeWitt writes. [Read more.](#)

'I Am Scared to Walk Into a Classroom': A Preservice Teacher on School Violence

In light of recent school shootings, elementary education student Rachel Badura says she's worried about taking a job that puts her life at risk. [Read more.](#)

What fact checks tell us about school shootings and guns

PolitiFact-May 24, 2018

Another **school shooting**, this time in Santa Fe, Texas, and plans for a vigil against gun violence in Milwaukee on May 24, 2018, give cause to ...



CEASE FIRE!

IN PROMOTING OUR MISSION TO FOCUS ON LOCAL AND FAMILY HISTORY, WPCSS ANNUALLY PRESENTS TWO \$100 SAVINGS BONDS FOR THE BEST LOCAL OR FAMILY HISTORY EXHIBIT IN BOTH JUNIOR AND SENIOR ENTRIES OF THE LOCAL NATIONAL HISTORY DAY COMPETITION AT THE HEINZ HISTORY CENTER

Soldiers & Sailors Hall!

Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum houses a vast collection of primary and secondary documents and military artifacts. It is their mission to promote the use of these educational items and create an understanding for all groups who visit the museum. They provide a rich learning experience for all people by exploring the deeds and sacrifices of ordinary citizens during extraordinary circumstances.

The Education Dept. 412.621.4253 Tim Neff x 219
<http://www.soldiersandsailorshall.org/education.html>

WWII History & Reading Camp

- See Page 8 -

The Art of the Brick - Carnegie Science Center:

Opens Sat., June 16

Explore the world's largest and most elaborate display of LEGO® art, featuring more than 100 sculptures, including both original creations as well as re-imagined versions of Van Gogh's *Starry Night* and Da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* – all created from LEGO bricks by renowned artist Nathan Sawaya. Discover the famous 20-foot-long T-Rex and examine Yellow, the life-size sculpture of a man opening his chest, exposing thousands of LEGO bricks. Plus, build your own creations made of LEGO bricks in our activity area!

HEINZ HISTORY CENTER

American Spirits

OPEN NOW THROUGH JUNE 10!

Step back in time to an exhilarating era of flappers & suffragists, bootleggers & temperance workers, & real-life legends like Al Capone & Carry Nation.

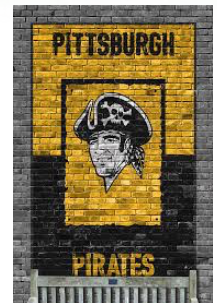
MEADOWCROFT

Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village

Experience 16,000 years of history at North America's oldest site of human habitation. Then tour three recreated villages to learn what life was like for our earliest ancestors.

The Andy Warhol Museum

The most comprehensive single-artist museum in the world, The Andy Warhol Museum illuminates the art, life, and times of one of the most influential American artists of the 20th century. Combining artworks, images, and objects from Warhol's colorful life, the museum takes visitors on a tour of Andy Warhol's personal and professional life—from Andy Warhol the Pittsburgh art student to Andy Warhol the Pop icon. With some 500,000 artworks and objects, the museum is the global keeper of Warhol's legacy.



American Spirits
**THE RISE AND FALL OF
 PROHIBITION**



The Point

Western Pennsylvania Council for the

Social Studies

Richard Williams

President

Leo R. West

Secretary / Treasurer

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Western Pennsylvania Council for the

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c/o Leo West

11533 Clematis Blvd.

Pittsburgh, PA 15235-3105

wlrw@yahoo.com

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We the People CIVICS Summer Institute

A five-day *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution* Summer Institute for 25 middle and high school U.S. history, government or law teachers from Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware will be held at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey, **July 15-20, 2018.**

For additional information about the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution program For additional information about the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution program and to register by completing the Teacher Agreement, go to For additional information click here. Deadline extended to or contact Arlene Gardner at the New Jersey Center for Civic Education at arlenega@sas.rutgers.edu.

Extended Registration deadline: June 15, 2018 (last day to send teacher agreement to arlenega@sas.rutgers.edu)

Join us for Café Scientifique!

Mon., June 4 7–9 pm (Doors open at 6 pm for networking and refreshments)

Admission is FREE Parking is \$5

The Science of Good Journalism

In this chaotic and saturated 21st-century media landscape, everybody needs the skills of a well-trained journalist to be both a better consumer of media and a more responsible creator of media. Discover how to evaluate science-related journalism in traditional and social media at our next Café Sci event.

On June 4, join Emmy- and Telly-award winning screenwriter and television talent Gina Catanzarite as she evaluates the science of good journalism in relation to following the same systematic steps of the scientific method! From literacy, numeracy, and critical thinking to tracing data back to its point of origin, Catanzarite will educate you to not hit “click-like-share” until you’ve analyzed the empirical or measurable evidence presented in a story.

*RSVP to let us know you're coming. **Free to attend, RSVP here!***

**NCSS Professional Learning
Institutes, Webinars, and Events**

Summer Religious Studies Institute • July 10 - July 12, 2018

Washington, DC

[Register](#)

Summer Leadership Institute • July 17 - July 19, 2018

Colonial Williamsburg, VA

[Register](#)

Summer IDM™ Institute • July 23 - July 24, 2018

Washington, DC

*I like to say that arms are not for killing. They are for hugging. -
Betty Williams, peace activist, Nobel laureate (b. 22 May 1943)*

First Native Americans were about 250 Siberians, DNA study suggests

The first humans in the Americas were about 250 people who migrated from Siberia around 15,000 years ago, according to a study published in *Genetics and Molecular Biology*. Researchers collected DNA from 10 members of indigenous groups in Central and South America, 10 Siberian individuals and 15 people from China, looking for information about the original founding group.

[LiveScience](#) (5/10)



Archaeologists discover 81 ancient settlements in the Amazon

A growing body of research suggests that the “pristine” rain forest was actually carefully managed by indigenous people for hundreds of years.

By Sarah Kaplan • [Read more »](#)



10,000-year-old skeleton offers revelations about Britain

Cheddar man (Justin Tallis/AFP/Getty Images)

The recent discovery that Cheddar Man, Britain's 10,000-year-old skeleton, was a dark-skinned man with blue eyes has challenged previous conclusions about race and geographic background, observers say. Researchers had assumed the skeleton, found in 1903 in a cave in Cheddar, England, had fair skin because of where it was found, but DNA studies has countered those conclusions. [Quartz](#) (2/8)



Most Australian Indigenous Languages Came from Just One Place, Research Claims

The Guardian

Most Indigenous languages in Australia likely originated from a remote spot in far north **Queensland** as recently as 4,000 years ago, before slowly spreading across the country, a new study has claimed.

The paper, published in the journal *Nature* on Tuesday, mapped the origins of the Pama-Nyungan family of languages, which encompasses about 90% of the continent. It traced the dominant family of languages back to an area near an isolated place known today as Burketown.

[Permalink](#)



Add a whole new dimension to Social Studies!

Explore the geography of Australia and Africa. Honor the victims of the Holocaust. Bring experiential learning into your social studies lessons without ever leaving the classroom. [Download](#) the Teacher's Guide to learn more!



Those who are in reality superior in intelligence can be accepted by their fellows only if they pretend they are not. Marya Mannes, writer and critic



[How Being the 'Worst' Transformed My Teaching](#)

When helping students who struggle in the classroom, teachers should dig into their own memories of what it's like to fail, writes educator Ryan Sprott. [Read more.](#)

[The Need for Teacher Creativity](#)

Teachers may be in classrooms where it's easy to get bogged down by rules and regulations, but what students need is our passion, writes educator Ashley Lamb-Sinclair. [Read more.](#)



[A Free, Flexible Platform for Inquiry Learning](#)

Bring inquiry-based learning to every classroom with KQED Learn. Inspire students to take active roles as researchers, collaborators, data analysts, and creators. KQED Learn encourages students to reflect, explore contemporary issues and respond with the media they love to use. [Learn more](#)



[Student-run history event highlights '60s culture](#)

Students at a Montana high school recreated key figures, literary icons and historical events from the 1960s as part of a project for their Advanced Placement American Studies class, which integrates history and literature. A centerpiece of the event was a bus that students painted to represent author Ken Kesey's psychedelic bus. [Bozeman Daily Chronicle \(Mont.\) \(5/22\)](#)



[App seeks to discover how languages are born, evolve](#)

[Forbes \(5/21\)](#)

A team of researchers led by Dr. Olivier Morin at the [Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History](#) in Jena, Germany have released a mobile app, [the Color Game](#), designed to study how human languages evolve. Dr. Morin's team identified a problem in how traditional language studies are conducted; participants are often given pre-designated, artificial tasks to be completed in a limited amount of time. Unfortunately, that isn't how language works in the real world.



DYSLEXIA

For many of us, reading is as automatic as breathing. But for the millions of students with dyslexia, reading is a difficult task that poses constant academic and emotional challenges. To simulate the experience of reading with dyslexia, try using this key to decipher the coded statement below.

a=/z/ b=/y/ c=/x/ d=/w/ e=/v/ f=/u/ g=/t/ h=/s/ i=/r/ j=/q/ k=/p/ l=/o/ m=/n/ n=/m/ o=/l/ p=/k/ q=/j/ r=/i/ s=/h/ t=/g/ u=/f/ v=/e/ w=/d/ x=/c/ y=/b/ z=/a/

ivzwrmt drgs wbhocrz rh vcszfhgrmt

Bring civics into elementary-school classrooms

Teaching civics means helping students understand and engage with their communities to become thoughtful and caring adults, writes New York elementary-school teacher Gail Sider. In this commentary, she shares four strategies she uses to engage her fourth-graders in lessons about democracy, current events and other topics, such as voting on classroom decisions. [Education Week Teacher \(tiered subscription model\) \(5/9\)](#)



What We Must Do to Develop Future Citizens

We're in the car driving home, and my fourteen year old son and his best friend are in the back seat, engaged in their usual sports banter. "Did you know Jake Peavy is legally blind?" my son asks his friend, Henry. "What?" says Henry. "A pitcher can't be blind! You're making that up."

But my son is insistent. "No," he says. "He is legally blind. I'm not making it up." He pulls out his phone and types "Jake Peavy blind" into the search bar and starts reading an ESPN article aloud. Henry laughs and asks, "What the heck does that even mean? I mean, can you be illegally blind?" Another quick search and they are both hovering over the device, reading the definition of "legally blind."

These two boys, along with most every other kid across the country, are growing up with search engines in their back pockets, integrating research into their day-to-day conversations, proving their points and investigating where they are more curious.



Can Education Produce More Civically Engaged Students? You Bet, Study Finds

U.S. public schools were founded on the principle that there is a common good in acquiring the knowledge and skills to be effective citizens. But despite that belief—or perhaps because it's so ingrained in our thinking about schools—there just isn't a lot of empirical research to back it up.

Now, **a new study** shows that students who enrolled in a Democracy Prep charter school, which places a specific emphasis on citizenship and voting, had **much higher rates of registering to vote and actually voting** than a control group of students.

Put another way: Yes, schools absolutely can influence students' later civic engagement.



CHOICES • • • **New FREE Curriculum**

Japanese American Incarceration in World War II

Japanese American Incarceration in World War II draws students into the history of Japanese American incarceration in the United States. To better understand this history, students examine U.S.-Japanese relations before World War II, the varied experiences of incarcerated Japanese Americans, and the ways that members of the Japanese American community and others in the United States have remembered and continue to remember incarceration.

[Download Free Unit](#)



Great Supplemental Videos!

Leo West

While surfing the net, a site called *CRASH COURSE* came up. Curious, I opened it and found some excellent videos on various subjects presented in a professional, yet witty way.

What is *Crash Course*? High-quality educational videos used by teachers and learners of all kinds. After 200,000,000 views, it turns out people like this. And the videos aren't just for schools; the majority of viewers, around 60%-70%, watch *Crash Course* without currently being enrolled in an associated class.

These are the series you can currently find on *Crash Course*: Chemistry, **World History**, Biology, Ecology, **US History**, **Psychology**, **Big History**, Literature, Anatomy and Physiology, Astronomy, **Intellectual Property**, **U.S. Government & Politics**, **Economics**, **Philosophy**, Physics, Games, **World Mythology**, Sociology, Computer Science, Film Studies, Statistics, Theater, **Media Literacy**, and **Study Skills**. Courses listed in **bold** would probably be of interest to **social studies** teachers. Try it and share with other subject area teachers.

Click here: <https://thecrashcourse.com/>

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION Western Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

e-mail address _____

School or Institution _____

Position and Grade level _____

Dues: \$10.00 Amt. enclosed _____

Check made out to WPCSS

* **NOTE: Most communication will be handled by e-mail. Please include e-mail address in order to be informed of coming events. Also, check with your school tech director to see if the fire wall will allow you to receive *The Point*, usually about is size 10 mb. Some firewalls reject attachments over 2 mb.**

Send application and dues to:

Leo R. West Treasurer • 11533 Clematis Blvd. • Pittsburgh, PA 15235



SOLDIERS & SAILORS

MEMORIAL HALL & MUSEUM TRUST, INC.



WWII History & Reading Camp

August 6 - 10, 2018

Grades 5 - 8 (2017-2018 School Year)

Fun Activities

Students will engage in a variety of activities which will include, but are not limited to:

- *Interaction with WWII Veterans and re-enactors
- * Hands-on experience with artifacts
- * Tour of the museum's extensive exhibits
- * Daily sampling of WWII era foods



- * Listening to and singing songs from the era
- * Reading interesting stories and Primary Sources
- * Listening to WWII era stories, articles and poetry
- * Writing letters as a WWII soldier and/or recording experiences in a journal
- * Arts and crafts activities

Choose from FULL Day or HALF Day options!

Full-Day Option:

Tuition: \$200 per child

9am - 3pm

Daily lunch and afternoon snack is provided

Half-Day Option:

Tuition: \$100 per child

9am - 12pm

Daily lunch is provided

*Make sure to ask about tuition rates for additional children from the same family.
Register before May 30th to save \$15 off your tuition

For additional information call **Tim Neff - 412-621-4253 x 219** or email tim@soldiersandsailorshall.org

WWW.SOLDIERSANDSAILORSHALL.ORG