

## WHAT IS SOCIAL NETWORKING AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

You have heard all the bally-hoo about our Galileo networking website on the Ning Network, but we aren't getting the participation and extensive conversations in our forums that we'd like to see.

A social network such as ours uses the web to connect like-minded groups together without regard to time or place. These groups are communities that have common interests and share their thoughts, concerns and ideas online in discussion areas, in forums, via photos and blogs.

Social networks are built with Web 2.0 tools. The term, Web 2.0 refers to the technologies that affect the way companies approach web use and how people use the web and was originally coined by Tim O'Reilly in 2004. Where the original Internet (Web 1.0?) was text based, depended upon expensive software and was plagued with slow connection speeds and limited interactivity, Web 2.0 offers web based software and applications through platform based services that are especially helpful to educators.

The power of Web 2.0 enables socialization, collaboration, creativity, authenticity and sharing opportunities for Galileo Leaders and for classrooms around the world.

Log on, and join the conversation at [www.galileoinstitute.ning.com](http://www.galileoinstitute.ning.com). Your voice is important in the conversation regarding teacher leadership.

## *Meadow Brook Series examines the role of teacher leaders in closing the achievement gap*



ABOVE: Mick Beauchamp, Assistant Superintendent at Walled Lake Public Schools discusses the implications of the achievement gap with Brian Blackney (at right) after his presentation to the Meadow Brook Series on November 10, 2009. BELOW: Teacher leaders gathered to process concepts and strategies gained from the seminar conducted by Dr. Robert Martin of Pontiac Public Schools and Ida Turpin and Brian Blackney of Walled Lake Western High School. This group's teacher leaders included (from left): Linda Narlock (Washington Elementary), Kelly Ahearn (Washington Elementary), Geoffrey Harris Young (Grosse Pointe North), and Sandy McNeely (Washington Elementary).





## KEEPING UP WITH THE NEWEST PODCASTS

Recent podcasts have featured insightful conversations about school reform and teacher leadership with Jeanne Harmon, Executive Director of the Center for the Strengthening of the Teaching Profession, and Joellen Killion, Deputy Executive Director of the National Staff Development Council. Both provided valuable insights about the need to re-engineer systems that support shared decision-making and responsibility for student learning. The interview with Susan Ohanian provided a tribute to the recently deceased Jerry Bracey and strong criticism of the national standards movement. Another interview highlighted the exciting work being done by Pontiac Schools Superintendent, Dr. Tom Meridotta and his executive team to "turnaround" and urban school system surrounded by relatively affluent suburban communities. Dr Meridotta and his Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Robert Martin, are alumni of the Galileo Leadership Academy. Finally, we were delighted to speak with Bryn Lawrence, coordinator of the Rochester Schools Transitions Program, which provides the opportunity for post secondary special education students to participate in Oakland University's academic and co-curricular programs.

## FEATURED DISSERTATION:

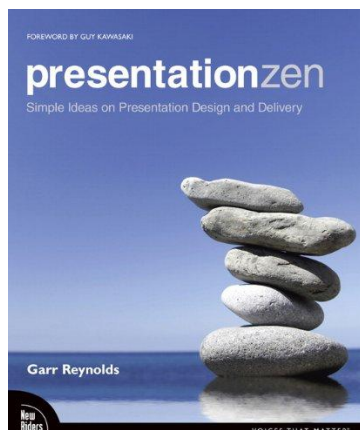
### SUPERINTENDENT MICROPOLITICS IN THE SCHOOL: TEACHER LEADERS' USE OF POLITICAL SKILL AND INFLUENCE TACTICS

By Donald J. Brosky, Ph.D.

This study focused upon the micropolitics of teacher leadership, namely the knowledge of tactics, influencing factors and consequences of teacher leaders' daily political interactions with others within the school setting. The study's purpose was to provide a profile of power by examining teacher leaders' use of political skill and influence in the organizational context of the school environment. The study utilized mixed methods to examine the micropolitical perspectives of K-12 teachers (n = 149) enrolled in a formal teacher leadership program. Teacher leaders identified the degree they used political skill and influence strategies with principals and with colleagues by responding to a questionnaire. Through open-ended questions and interviews, teachers provided their perceptions on how micropolitics affected teacher leadership, their role in the exercise of power and influence in school-based politics, and their use of political skill and influence tactics. The quantitative data identified the areas of focus, namely four dimensions of political skill (social astuteness, interpersonal influence, networking ability, and apparent sincerity) and six influence strategies (ingratiation, exchange, rationality, assertiveness, upward appeal, and coalitions). The qualitative data substantiated those areas of focus. Both quantitative and qualitative data obtained from this study support the assumption that political skill is apparent in teacher leaders and that they are effective in the implementation of political skill when interacting with principals and with colleagues. These data indicate that teacher leaders have the capacity to use political skill and influence tactics and are motivated to use them to attain their outcomes in the micropolitical setting of the school building.

# NOVEMBER BOOK TALK

with Kay Cornell, Education Consultant



## PRESENTATION ZEN: Simple Ideas on Presentation Design and Delivery by Garr, Reynolds. New Riders, Berkley, CA. 2008

Thanks to Pam Shoemaker, Walled Lake teacher and member of the Galileo Institute Advisory Board, for this recommendation. Garr Reynolds has written a book that should be the guide for all of us who do presentations, and he'll change the way you think about and create power point slide shows. From use of white space, placement on a page, use of pictures (as well as great sources for pictures), use of charts and graphs and clear examples of effective slides, Reynolds makes clear that most power point slides presentations are not very good. From the book cover: "Presentation Zen challenges the conventional wisdom of making "slide presentations" in today's world and encourages you to think differently and more creatively about the preparation, design and delivery of your presentations." This book is a "must have"!

## QUESTIONS? Contact

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