

# Kindergarten Shop Class

Except from New York Times article by Julie Scelfo appearing in print March 31, 2011 – page D1 of the New York edition.  
For the full article visit: [http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/31/garden/31kids.html?pagewanted=1&\\_r=2&ref=education](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/31/garden/31kids.html?pagewanted=1&_r=2&ref=education)

**I**N honor of President's Day, Deb Winsor, a carpenter with a workshop in Brooklyn, led a crew in the construction of an 8-foot-wide model of the White House, complete with north and south porticos and two dozen hand-painted windows.

After reviewing the plans with the workers, Ms. Winsor, 50, supervised them as they laid out two-by-fours for the front and back walls and then hammered the studs and plates together with three-inch nails. Next, she watched as some of them raised the walls and sheathed them in plywood while others used an electric jigsaw to cut bases for the portico columns. Finally, one of the carpenters used a screw gun to attach a flagpole to the roof and secure the pediment to the freshly painted facade.

At quitting time, the workers removed their protective headphones, put their tools back in their holsters and cleaned up their work stations. Then they gathered up the wooden toys they had made during break and ran to the door to greet their parents.

"Good job today," Ms. Winsor hollered cheerfully at Oscar Markowitz, a 5-year-old boy with orange hair, flushed cheeks and a big grin, one of a dozen children (including the reporter's son) participating in a weeklong camp she was holding at Construction Kids, her workshop on Flatbush Avenue. "Tomorrow we'll build a log cabin," she added, as a 9-year-old boy walked by on handmade stilts.

Ms. Winsor started Construction Kids two years ago, after she conducted a one-day building project at her

son's preschool and was deluged with requests from parents and teachers for more. And while it might seem like something fairly unusual — teaching young children to use power tools — it is one of about a dozen such programs across the country that allow children to hammer and drill to their hearts' content.

Just as legions of Americans in cities and suburbs have discovered the joys of working with their hands — building their own chicken coops or brewing artisanal vinegars — many are now encouraging their children to do the same, by giving them the opportunity to learn how to handle a hammer as well as they use an iPhone.

"There is an awakening going on for sure," said Doug Stowe, a longtime woodworker and educator in Arkansas, who was named a Living Treasure there in 2009 for his efforts at preserving and teaching the craft. Since he started a blog five years ago called Wisdom of the Hands, named after the program he founded in 2001 at Clear Spring School in Eureka Springs, Mr. Stowe said parents, educators and woodworkers from around the country have been contacting him for advice on starting projects and classes in their communities. •

## Inside this issue...

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Featuring: **Fayette Institute  
of Technology**  
Fayette County, West Virginia

Fayette Institute of Technology Building Construction students, Vince Smith instructor, have designed and built 24 homes on-site throughout the plateau region of Fayette County. These low-maintenance and energy-efficient single family homes are built with a commitment to quality and a disciplined approach to construction.

Home number 24 with 2700 square feet incorporates innovative designs and “green building materials, while exposing students to the latest in construction techniques and building/plumbing technologies. All baths and the laundry room are ceramic tiled, and Brazilian cherry floors are installed in the great room, dining room, foyer, and hallway.

Construction plans are designed and drawn by students in the Computer Aided Drafting program, Gary Chapman instructor, using AutoCAD® 2011, AutoCAD Architecture® 2011, and Revit® 2011. Electrical Technology students, Bobby Franklin instructor, adhere to strict electrical codes in the installation of wiring, data lines, security systems,

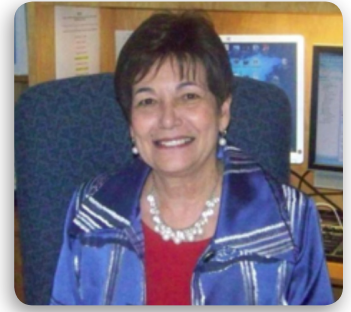
and whole house natural gas generator. Masonry students, Frank Aylor instructor, use earth-friendly concepts in exterior block and brick design and aesthetically-pleasing decorative concepts for entrance areas, fireplaces, and mantle design. Marketing for the community auction of the home is the primary responsibility of the Business Information Technology students, Kathy Perkins instructor, who design the advertising campaign using Adobe® Photoshop as well as MicroSoft® 2007 Publisher.



Thank You

Special thanks to everyone that has provided input of any kind with regard to the Global 21 Performance Assessments for the Spring 2011 testing session. We are so appreciative of the ideas, the suggestions, the corrections, the assistance and the support. Your contribution has helped make this a very positive and productive testing session! Thank you so much.

# DISCUSSIONS WITH DR. D.



All of these April showers are producing beautiful May flowers, which in turn are leading us to the final days of the school calendar. Hopefully, we will produce many “blooming” stars. As I reflect back on my first year with the career technical education family, I am in awe of the fantastic opportunities you are providing to young people and the adults in West Virginia. Our career technical programs are giving our students a pathway to gainful employment and a successful life. The Career Technical Student Organizations, along with their outstanding advisors, are developing “**great students doing great work**” all across our state. I am so proud to be part of the West Virginia Career Technical Education division.

But there is one sad fact in all of this..... not enough West Virginia students are participating in career technical education. There has been a decline over the past few years in the number of students participating in career technical education. This is coming at a time when national research is showing the remarkable achievement of students enrolled in career technical education, along with the realization that those who complete a CTE program are either gainfully employed or are successfully transitioning to postsecondary education.

As career technical education leaders, we need to do more. We **must** be proactive in recruiting more students into career technical education. That means talking with school counselors, parents, community leaders and students to explain the value of career technical education. We need to act now and our voices need to be heard so more students will find success. **Help me spread the word of the importance of CTE!** •

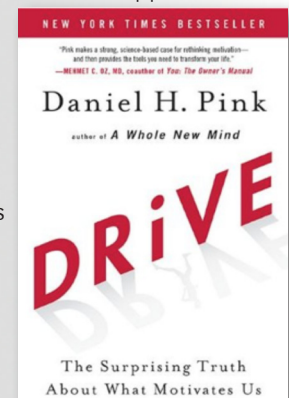
## WHAT IS... DR. GENE COULSON READING? DRIVE: THE SURPRISING TRUTH ABOUT WHAT MOTIVATES US

by Daniel Pink (also wrote *A Whole New Mind*)

“Human beings have an innate drive to be autonomous, self-determined and connected to one another. And when that drive is liberated, people achieve more and live richer lives.”

According to Pink everything we think we know about what motivates us is wrong. He pits the latest scientific discoveries about the mind against the outmoded wisdom that claims people can only be motivated by the hope of gain and the fear of loss. Pink cites a dizzying number of studies revealing that carrot and stick can actually significantly reduce the ability of workers to produce creative solutions to problems. What motivates us once our basic survival needs are met is the ability to grow and develop, to realize our fullest potential. Case studies of Google’s 20 percent time (in which employees work on projects of their

choosing one full day each week) and Best Buy’s Results Only Work Environment (in which employees can work whenever and however they choose—as long as they meet specific goals) demonstrate growing endorsement for this approach. A series of appendixes include further reading and tips on applying this method to businesses, fitness and child-rearing. Drawing on research in psychology, economics and sociology, Pink’s analysis—and new model—of motivation offers tremendous insight into our deepest nature.



# 30 SECOND MBA

In this fast paced world 30 seconds can be the difference between success and failure, so we want to introduce you to a fantastic new online resource entitled "30 Second MBA." This site features an ongoing video curriculum of really good advice direct from the industry "trenches," from people who are making things happen. This month's feature is:

Mike Rowe, Host of Dirty Jobs with Mike Rowe, Founder of mikeroweWORKS

Mike answers the following questions:

1. How do you generate innovation?
2. When was the last time you changed your mind about something important?

Be sure to check out the wonderful advice Mike provides on these topics. Visit the link below:

<http://www.30secondmba.com/user/mike-rowe>

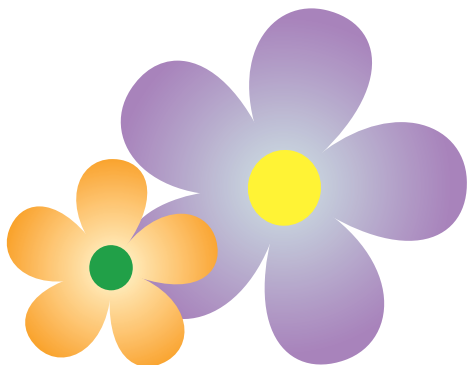
## Fun Factory



## May Flowers



### **Division of Technical, Adult and Institutional Education**



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