PB(L) & Student Workers

Or, How we harnessed the power of students to promote progress and try new things.

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Library student worker culture
The Inspiration

→ New to the position
→ Bored looking students
→ Getting to know a few students and hearing their interests
Project-Based Learning
Project-Based Learning

John Dewey and “Learning by doing”
- *My Pedagogical Creed*, 1897

“PBL is a dynamic approach in which students actively explore real-world problems and challenges and acquire a deeper knowledge.”
- Edutopia
(re)Structuring @Roy
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→ Staff Discussion
  ◆ Are you okay with change?

→ Student Survey
  ◆ Who are you?
Student Survey

What is your major?

What would you like to do in the future? What is/are your long-term goal(s)? (Dolphin training? Underwater basket weaving? Dream BIG!)

Is there a project you might be interested in doing at Roy? (Take your goals, career interests, and major into consideration)

Is there any area of the library in which you are particularly interested?

What are some words you would use to describe yourself? Any fun facts about yourself you would like to share?
Is there a project you might want to do?

- “I would love to make a little video advertising Roy's services, or something of that nature.”
- “Maybe help patrons get to know the library staff better? (myself included!)”
- “any event planning would be great”
- “I was the student that asked why we have to sign the confidentiality form for who checks out books and wanted to know how this law/policy came into being. I would really like to research why this is!”
- “It would be interesting to see how the library could be made more energy efficient or environmentally friendly, or to see how to get students to be more invested in caring for the environment”
Implementation

Let’s Get Started!
Personally meaningful with educational purpose

1. A need to know
2. A driving question
3. Student voice and choice
4. 21st century skills
5. Inquiry and innovation
6. Feedback and revision
7. A publicly presented product

Laramer & Mergendoller (2010).
“Seven Essentials for Project-Based Learning.”
Educational Leadership 68(1).
Projects

➔ Inventory scanning and analysing
➔ Movie of the Week
➔ Library space usage data gathering
➔ “Rush Roy” outreach
➔ Book repair
Outcomes

And observations
Outcomes

On-going projects

➔ All of them!

➔ Progress ...

Completed projects

➔ Inventory

➔ Pilot statistics

➔ Movie of the Week
Outcomes, cont’d

→ Better morale of student workers
→ Improved attendance
→ Upperclassmen more engaged
→ Students are coming up with ideas daily!
→ Staff felt renewed sense of purpose and shared authority
Moving Forward...

What to do for next semester

- Create calendar for completion with the students
- Have a list of potential projects for the less motivated/fatigued student
- Do not approach it as a classroom project!
- Projects for daytime students
- Impending renovation...!
Questions?

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Resources

http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational_leadership/sept10/vol68/num01/Seven_Essentials_for_Project-Based_Learning.aspx

Student Questionnaire

http://www.nea.org/tools/16963.htm

“Motivating Project-Based Learning” Blumenfeld, Soloway, et. al.

https://www.edutopia.org/project-based-learning

http://www.cultofpedagogy.com/project-based-learning/