

The Mischief-Makers Reply:
Tight Rope, High Hopes
Viterbo Arts Integration Check-In Circle
June 26, 2014 (Tenneson Woolf)

From Seattle to Wisconsin nice
it's our vice to bring that to the ground,
where the hounds sniff
where the questions aren't stiff,
in the new, sometimes out of the blue
mischief-makers are welcome,
in the search for longing, belonging,
and the inner trouble-maker that gets things done.
Fun.

Are we just dreaming?
Yes, we are. That's our job.
Dreaming, yes!
Scheming, yes!
But not the "just" that is rust
in "just dreaming."
It's juicy, and honest.
The inner heretic is in the center.
Mentor us.

How in the heck!
It's our thought too. Ours too.
What's the glue?
Got a clue?

How can we work with the over-taxed
in over-turning
our own patterns
in a not-so-perfect way.
Perfect!
In a not-so-perfect way.
Perfect!

Why do we have 45 minutes periods?
Why not flow?
And, is subversive part of the essential
qualification?
It's like being on a tight rope with high hopes.
Tight rope. High hopes.

What if the arts came first?
Why not dance above math?
So, back up to the ultimate goal.
Stack up the many ways to support the whole
person.

Mischief-makers, hay makers,
we can do this!

With fists pumpin' and spirit jumpin'.
We can take the courses into a new curriculum.
Into clubs, and plays.
I've never had to advocate the arts to those in the
arts!

Stay -- at home teaching.
Measure creativity, now and then, and what
changes.

In time, rhyme.
In privilege, move to the edge.
In space, give enough to get the under pin,
the under win.

What if we were never in a hurry?
Less scurry.
Ok to be blurry.

And what about art sabbaticals?
Time and resources
to recourse a fundamental commitment.

Art appreciation. Whole person.
Art person. Whole appreciation.

At Viterbo we can plant seeds.
We are a liberal arts school.
We are not for cookie-cutter diplomas.
It is so much better this way.
I have a whole list of what I can do.
You too, right?

I learned at the piano,
on the bench, over the keys,
that there are 88 ways to unlock
what we humans can be, and what we are.

Assess assessing.
And piggy-back on that again and again.

Tight ropes. High hopes.
Mischief-makers. Hay makers.
Fist pumpin'. Spirit jumpin'.
88 ways.
Play it now!