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The Cluttered Desk

Volume 1 Issue 3

“If you have knowledge, let others light their candles at it.” – Thomas Fuller

Welcome to “The Cluttered Desk”, the semi-monthly newsletter of Just Us Teachers. You are receiving this newsletter because you have requested a subscription. If you have received this e-mail in error or would like to discontinue your subscription, please see the instructions at the end of this newsletter

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1, 2, 3 Math Fonts just got better! The original fonts have been improved and refined, and we have added new fonts, including Beans, Counting Tiles, more Clocks, Dice, Dominos and more! Check out **1, 2, 3 Math Fonts** at www.justusteachers.com, the newest way to add graphics to your worksheets, flashcards and posters with no cutting and pasting!

RESEARCH LINKS – PROMOTION/RETENTION

Many of us are making or will soon be making the decision to promote or retain some of our students. It is not always an easy decision to make. Check out these articles on the subject, then let us know how you feel.

Promotion/Retention - Quick Facts

<http://www.ecs.org/html/IssueSection.asp?issueid=94&s=Quick+Facts>

Can Schools Stop Promoting Failure?

http://www.education-world.com/a_admin/admin040.shtml

Why Retention Is NOT the Answer

<http://www.geocities.com/nccds/retention.html>

Taking Responsibility for Ending Social Promotion: A Guide for Educators and State and Local Leaders

<http://www.ed.gov/pubs/socialpromotion/>

FEATURE ARTICLE

Teacher Practical Jokes

By Christopher Norman

Try these practical jokes for a little end-of-the year levity. But if you do, you didn't hear about them from me!

- Reverse digits on students' grades. Wait 5 minutes and announce "Today is Backward's Day!"
- Remove legs from chairs and desks. Comment to students about how much they have grown.
- Stop lesson every 10 minutes and pretend to have a conversation with someone on the P.A.
- Take kids outside for recess. Make them sit down and watch you play on the monkey bars.
- Rearrange the room before school starts. Do it again during lunch. Do it again during P.E.
- Grade papers at your desk. Laugh hysterically every 3rd paper. Moan sadly every 5th. On the 15th, you must either laugh sadly or groan hysterically.
- When children ask if they can go to the bathroom, tell them "Yes, just don't leave the room.
- Spend the first hour of the day speaking a foreign language. Pig-Latin counts.
- Pretend to have forgotten all of their names, call them by names of characters from "Lord of the Rings".
- Hide under the desk. Demand that students pay a toll when turning in work.
- Read "The 3 Little Pigs." Cheer for the wolf.
- When counting, always leave out the number 8.
- Show up late for class. Bring a note from your mom.
- Show up at student's house. Mess up their room.
- Bring blanket and pillow to school. Take a nap while the students are reading.
- OR Come to school in pajamas, lay across desk, pretend to be sleeping when students arrive. Snore.
- Load bus for field trip. Drive to 7-11, buy yourself a Coke, return to school.
- While students are out, sharpen all of their pencils down to nubs. Tell them the "Pencil Fairy" must have come.
- Trade places with another teacher. Answer only to her name.

- Flip lights on and off. Ask repeatedly why they are not working.
- Teach entire lesson facing the wrong direction.
- Go to bathroom. Return with shirt inside-out.
- Superglue students' pencils to their desks.
- Move clock forward 30 minutes. Line up to go home, express worry over why the dismissal bell is not ringing.
- Call students during summer break. Tell them you are still waiting for their homework.
- Every time a student gets out of his seat, yell "I'm telling the Principal!" and stomp out of the room.
- With pen resting behind your ear, exclaim that someone has stolen your pen and demand to know who did it.
- Hand out worksheets 3 levels higher than your grade. Tell them it is a review and counts as a major test grade.
- Toilet paper your own room. Pretend not to notice it is there.
- Move all desks and chairs to the hallway. Sit on the floor and start teaching.
- Have different children stand up at random intervals throughout the day. Sing "Happy Birthday" to them. Change to the Barney Song every 5th student.
- Hot glue lockers shut.
- Sneak out to hallway. Switch everyone's lunches.
- Eat lunch with your students. Complain about your lunch and ask to trade. Keep trading until you get your lunch back.

READER COMMENTS

"I'm telling on you! The Tattle Book was hilarious... but I am still going to try it on my classroom!" Rhonda W., Dallas, TX

MEASUREMENT REPRODUCIBLES

Centimeter Ruler, Inch Ruler, and Protractor

http://www.teachervision.com/tv/printables/0134356500_M1MUTM03.pdf

Sandy Measurement - Use sand to explore capacity.

<http://www.education.com/common/resources/lp/mth/980209km.pdf>

Greater Than, Less Than, Equal To - Students sort rocks by estimated weight, then measure them to check their guesses.

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/lessonrepro/lessonplans/profbooks/greaterthan.pdf>

MEASUREMENT LESSON

Read "Jack and the Beanstalk" and participate in a discussion about size, measurement and giants. LOTS of measurement involved!

<http://youth.net/cec/cecmath/cecmath.21.txt>

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!! Do you have a lesson, link or funny story that you would like to see here? We welcome your submissions! E-mail us at ezine@justusteachers.com

Did you enjoy this issue? Pass it on to your friends and coworkers! E-mail us and let us know your thoughts! We look forward to hearing from you!

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