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The Cluttered Desk

Volume 2 Issue 1

“A teacher who is attempting to teach, without inspiring the pupil with a desire to learn, is hammering on a cold iron.” - Horace Mann

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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Check out **1, 2, 3 Math Fonts** at www.justusteachers.com/Math_Fonts.html, the newest way to add graphics to your worksheets, flashcards and posters with no cutting and pasting!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT – FREE FONT

The new geometric shapes font for 1, 2, 3 Math Fonts is almost complete! This font has a variety of 2- and 3- dimensional shapes, including spheres, cubes, rectangular prisms and a variety of polygons.

We are currently looking for volunteers to test the font for Windows and Mac OS9 and OSX. Use it, abuse it, put it through the ringer and let us know how it can be improved. All respondents will receive the test version within the next week or 2. All who provide feedback will receive the finalized version with all improvements.

E-mail us at mathfonts@justusteachers.com with “Font Test” in the subject line or body of the message if you would like to participate. Thanks in advance for your assistance!

RESEARCH LINKS – LEARNING PLACE VALUE

Learning Place Value in First Grade Through Language and Visualization

<http://www.alabacus.com/pages.cfm?ID=15>

Teaching Place Value and Double Column Addition

http://www.enc.org/professional/learn/research/journal/math/document.shtm?input=ACQ-104912-4912_48#2

The Concept of Teaching Place-Value

<http://www.garlikov.com/PlaceValue.html>

Place Value for Elementary Students

<http://www.sedl.org/scimath/compass/v03n02/place.html>

FEATURE ARTICLE

Teachers vs. Students

By Christopher Norman

Ah, faculty meetings.... Don't you just love them? The camaraderie, the free exchange of ideas, the opportunity to nap...not to mention the chance to learn things that you would never otherwise have the opportunity to be exposed to. Unless of course you happen to have access to a newspaper, the internet, or that enormous green binder that you were given at the beginning of the school year.

At my last faculty meeting, I tried something different... I paid attention! Not to the speaker of course, but to the goings-on around me. Hmm... teachers engrossed in conversation over there...that one is grading papers... oh look, my neighbor is making a doodle of the principal strapped to his desk while she lights a stick of dynamite with her last performance appraisal wrapped around it!

I would have continued my observations, but something important came up. I fell asleep. But I do recall thinking just before I drifted into blissful slumber... OUR KIDS ACT JUST LIKE US!! Think about it. If our students displayed this kind of behavior in class (and they do), we would have a fit (and we do). I guess the difference is that at least we have a good reason for our behavior... gimme a minute, I'll come up with one....

Then I started thinking... are there other ways that we resemble our kids? What are they, and why do we do them? This is what I came up with...

Students talk in the hallway.

Teachers have conferences.

Students think their boss (the teacher) is an idiot.

Teachers objectively discuss the areas of opportunity for their boss.

Students bully the new kid.

Teachers give the "grunt" jobs to the new teachers because that is one of the benefits of seniority.

Students blame their parents for their shortcomings.

Teachers blame their parents too.

Students THINK they are not rewarded enough.

Teachers KNOW they are not rewarded enough.

Students always know how much time is left until the end of the day.

Teachers always know how many days there are until the next holiday.

Students dream of 5 more minutes of recess.

Teachers dream of 5 more minutes of duty-free lunch.

Students pray for their teacher's retirement.

So do their teachers.

Of course, there are many more similarities. But I am late for a faculty meeting, and I can't find my pillow.

VALENTINE LINKS – Check out these links for a variety of Valentine’s Day related worksheets.

Secret Math Message

<http://www.geocities.com/heartland/canyon/8742/vmath.html>

Heart Reproducible

http://www.everythingsl.net/downloads/big_heart.pdf

Valentine Candy

http://www.everythingsl.net/downloads/valentine_candy.pdf

Valentine’s Day Word Search

<http://www.abcteach.com/valentine/valentine1.htm>

FEATURE LESSONS

Valentine’s Day

<http://homepages.wmich.edu/~e1chosay/TaskStream.htm>

Mend My Broken Heart

<http://www.lessonplanspage.com/MathLAAdditionSubtractionMendBrokenHeartIdea23.htm>

Valentine Battleship

<http://www.efes.aps.edu/%20FIELD%20HOME%20PAGE/Teacher%20Resources/Math%20Resources/heartmath.htm>

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!

Past Issues of “The Cluttered Desk” can be viewed at

http://www.justusteachers.com/Ezine_Archives.html

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