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The Cluttered Desk

Volume 2 Issue 2

“Good teaching is more a giving of right questions than a giving of right answers.” – Josef Albers

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.

IN THIS ISSUE

- => SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS – FREE SCREENSAVER, NEW STAFF MEMBER
- => FEATURE ARTICLE – YOU MIGHT BE A TEACHER IF...
- => OVERHEARD IN THE CLASSROOM
- => RESEARCH LINKS – STANDARDIZED TESTING
- => SPRING MATH LINKS
- => FEATURE LESSONS

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 ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW STAFF MEMBER - OK, you may have been asking “Where has the Cluttered Desk been?” Well, we have had slight production delays, all thanks to our newest staff member.

LOGAN DANIEL was born March 2, 2004, at a whopping **3 pounds 9 ounces!** If you just can't resist a newborn baby, go ahead and check him out at

<http://www.justusteachers.com/logan/logan.html>.

FREE SCREENSAVER - But we haven't been completely idle! Check out our free Math Screensaver for Windows at <http://www.justusteachers.com/screensavers.html>. The screensaver features a black background with equations written in white, while a set of base-10 blocks bounce around the screen. Check it out, and feel free to share it with your friends. **IT'S FREE!**

FEATURE ARTICLE

You Might Be a Teacher If...

By Christopher Norman

Very few people will refute the belief that teachers are a unique class of people. But since they share so many attributes with other groups (parents, policemen, mental ward patients, etc.), they are often difficult to define. So, peruse the definitions below and see if YOU are truly a teacher.

You might be a teacher if...

... you have ever removed an eraser from a child's nostril or ear canal.

... you've hired a substitute so that you can catch up on grading papers.

- ... you consider staying in bed until 8 AM “sleeping in”.
- ... you regularly shop at Toys-R-Us, yet you have no children of your own.
- ... you regularly befuddle men by asking “Are you the father of one of my kids?”
- ... you can sense the full moon without stepping outside.
- ... you have spent your entire life in school.
- ... your fingers are permanently stained from overhead projector pens.
- ... you receive a complete, but unmatched set of coffee cups every Christmas.
- ... you want to smack the next person that complains about your 3-month summer “vacation”.

OVERHEARD IN THE CLASSROOM

A student approached her harried teacher to ask for help with an assignment. Without giving the child a chance to speak, the frazzled teacher said “Honey, I can’t help you with that right now!” The student glared at the teacher and shot back “Well, if I am honey, YOU are the BEAR!”

RESEARCH LINKS – STANDARDIZED TESTING

It’s that time of year again... And standardized testing is one of those topics that almost everyone has some kind of opinion on. Some of us hate it, some of us support it, and some of us are just thankful that the school year is almost over. Click the links below and find out what people are saying.

Issues in Education – Standardized Testing -

http://uc.rutgers.edu/focus/index.phtml?Article_ID=851

"No Child Left Behind" After Two Years: A Track Record of Failure -

<http://www.fairtest.org/nclb%20flaw%20fact%20sheet%201-7-04.html>

Education - Mandatory Testing -

<http://www.cfpa.org/issues/education/mandatorytesting/index.cfm>

Standardized Testing - The General Patton of the Testing Wars -

<http://mensnewsdaily.com/archive/s/stix/2004/stix031004.htm>

The Use and Misuse of Standardized Tests -

http://www.ascd.org/publications/ed_lead/200109/holloway.html

SPRING MATH LINKS – Check out this variety of Spring-related Math links.

Spring Themed Math Pages from Kidzone

<http://www.kidzone.ws/math/spring/>

Spring Math Idea Bank

<http://www.mathcats.com/grownupcats/ideabankspringmath.html>

Spring Math Riddles

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/products/instructor/mathriddles.htm#repro>

FEATURE LESSONS

Tantalizing Tangrams – grades 3-5

<http://www.tenet.edu/teks/math/clarifying/clgrd4tangram.html>

Pretzel Probability – grades 2-4

<http://www.tenet.edu/teks/math/clarifying/clgrd3prob.html>

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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