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The Cluttered Desk

Volume 2 Issue 3

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

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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

- => FEATURE ARTICLE – TOP TEN SIGNS THAT YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE A TOUGH YEAR
- => RESEARCH LINKS – GENDER DIFFERENCES IN MATH EDUCATION
- => BACK TO SCHOOL MATH LINKS
- => FEATURE LESSONS

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

And if you haven't had a chance to see it yet, download our FREE SCREENSAVER at <http://www.justusteachers.com/screensavers.html>. No pop-ups, no advertising, just a really cool Math screensaver featuring base-10 blocks! **IT'S FREE!**

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## FEATURE ARTICLE

Top Ten Signs That You Are Going to Have a Tough Year  
By Christopher Norman

Well, the new school year is upon us, and so many of us look forward to this time with cheerful optimism. Though things may not always go your way, you know that you are a teacher for a reason, and that you have a chance to truly impact lives in a significant and lasting way.

However, some years are just a bit more difficult than others. Check out this list of signs to watch out for.

Top Ten Signs That You Are Going to Have a Tough Year.

10. There is a sympathy card attached to your class enrollment list.
9. Your new textbooks arrive, and they are written in Portuguese.
8. Your new teaching partner is a 10 year veteran... of the DMV.
7. The portable building you have been placed in was made by Port-a-John.
6. The superintendent arrives in his limousine to explain the latest round of pay cuts.
5. The cafeteria menu includes such dishes as “Brussel Sprout Gelatin” and “Tofu Surprise”.
4. You have 24 boys in your class and only 1 girl. And they are all scared of her.

3. Your computer is a Light Bright strapped to a typewriter.
2. You open your first paycheck and find that you owe the school money.

-AND-

1. ALL of your students have to visit the nurse after lunch.

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## RESEARCH LINKS – GENDER DIFFERENCES IN MATH EDUCATION

Gender Differences in Math Education

<http://web.csuchico.edu/~ah24/gender.htm>

How Negative Expectancies and Attitudes Undermine Females' Math Confidence and Performance: A Review of the Literature

<http://www.fix.org/jennyg/articles/litreview.html>

Girls Are... Boys Are... : Myths, Stereotypes, and Gender Differences

[www.campbell-kibler.com/Stereo.pdf](http://www.campbell-kibler.com/Stereo.pdf)

Teaching Mathematics Fairly and Equitably to Girls

[http://www.parentsassociation.com/education/girls\\_math\\_students.html](http://www.parentsassociation.com/education/girls_math_students.html)

Equity in the Standards-Based Elementary Mathematics Classroom

<http://www.enc.org/features/focus/archive/equity/document.shtm?input=FOC-001768-index>

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BACK TO SCHOOL MATH LINKS – It's back to school time (for those of you fortunate enough to get a summer break). Take a look at these links for beginning of the year activities.

Beginning of the Year Review

<http://www.lessonplanspage.com/OtherMDBeginningOfYearReviewIdea48.htm>

Beginning of School Lessons

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

First Day Lesson about the Importance of Practice

<http://www.mathprose.org/teachers/numbers.html>

Beat the Clock

[http://www.ilovethatteachingidea.com/ideas/010516\\_beat\\_the\\_clock.htm](http://www.ilovethatteachingidea.com/ideas/010516_beat_the_clock.htm)

Back to School Ideas

<http://www.proteacher.com/030005.shtml>

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FEATURE LESSONS – Try out these measurement lessons from AIMS to get your kids into the Olympic spirit!

Water Olympics

<http://www.aimsedu.org/Activities/waterOlym/waterolym.pdf>

Mini Metric Olympics

<http://www.aimsedu.org/Activities/minimetrics/mini-metrics.pdf>

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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](mailto: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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Past Issues of “The Cluttered Desk” can be viewed at  
[http://www.justusteachers.com/Ezine\\_Archives.html](http://www.justusteachers.com/Ezine_Archives.html)

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