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The Cluttered Desk

Volume 2 Issue 5

“Who dares to teach must never cease to learn.” – John Cotton Dana

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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----- FEATURE ARTICLE

Classes You *Really* Need

By Christopher Norman

Take a moment and think back to your college days. If that was too long ago, then just pretend. Remember all of the classes you had to take to prepare to become a teacher? Do you remember how very much they helped you when you began your first teaching assignment? No?! ME NEITHER!! That's because the classes you *really* needed to prepare you to become a teacher were never offered!

Below you will find a listing of actual courses that I just made up. THESE are the classes that SHOULD have been offered. At least then you might not have been so tempted to skip...

EDUC 3304 Gender Differences in the Classroom (The Science of Cooties) – In this class, discover why little girls can't stand little boys, only later to find that they can't stand other little girls who happen to like said little boys because they liked them first, but not really, so don't tell anyone, okay? Also learn that boys will eat anything on a dare, which will make little girls stop liking them again. Unless someone else likes them.

ELED 2507 ADHD and You – No, this course is not about attention deficits in your students, it is about attention deficits in YOU! In this course, you will examine the reasons behind:

- why you can't find your lesson plans until 2-3 days after you have taught the lesson.
- why you walk all the way to the front office, only to discover that you don't remember why you came there in the first place.
- why you have to have a student tell you when the bell rings.
- why you sometimes forget to show up for work on Monday, but often go in on Saturday and wonder where the students are.

OUCH 1306 Real Classroom Management – This course provides an overview of the real skills necessary to properly maintain classroom discipline. The focus of the course will be on the 3 B's: Bribery, Bluffing, and Beating (your head against the wall, not the child). All participants will receive a 1 year supply of candy and a roll of duct tape.

OHNO 5555 Principal Skills - This class will teach you valuable skills to assist you in maintaining a harmonious relationship with your school principal. Explore topics such as:

- Brown-nosing – How to do it properly without being caught or hated by others.
- Appraisals – What to say before (flattery), during (exaggerations) and after (begging, pleading, and sometimes crying).
- Extra-Duty Assignments – How to convince your boss that others are more qualified to perform extra tasks, yet still maintain the illusion of being irreplaceable.

AAGH 0000 The Paperwork Monster (and how to kill it) – The Paperwork Monster is the bane of all teachers, regardless of their age, experience or IQ (though somehow favorite color comes into play) This course has 3 goals:

- 1) Learn to avoid and/or discard all unnecessary paperwork.
- 2) Be able to identify paperwork that must be done no matter what.
- 3) Learn to avoid that paperwork also. To achieve this goal, participants will be able to make the following statements with some semblance of believability.
 - a. “I never received that item.”
 - b. “But I gave that to you yesterday, don’t you remember?”
 - c. “I have pictures of you with the president of the PTA.”

These courses are coming to a campus near you. The deadline is approaching, so please sign up as soon as possible. And please, don’t ask me for an application. I gave one to you yesterday, don’t you remember?

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! Now 22 fonts for only \$19.95! Includes fractions, money, clocks, base-10 block and geometric shapes.

RESEARCH LINKS – WRITING IN MATHEMATICS

Using Writing in Mathematics

<http://www.ups.edu/community/tofu/lev2/journaling/writemath.htm>

Tips for Improving Student Writing

<http://www.springfield.k12.il.us/resources/math/Assessment/tipforimprovingstudwriting.html>

Beyond Numbers: Communicating in Math Class

<http://www.enc.org/features/focus/archive/across/document.shtm?input=FOC-002774-index>

Math Journals Boost Real Learning

http://teacher.scholastic.com/products/instructor/Apr01_Burns&Silbey.htm

THANKSGIVING LINKS

Thanksgiving Themed Math Pages

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

Thanksgiving Math

<http://home.att.net/%7Eteaching/holidays/thanksmath.pdf>

ABC Teach Thanksgiving Sheets

http://abcteach.com/directory/theme_units/month_to_month/k_november/thanksgiving/

FEATURE LESSONS

Turkey Glyphs

http://www.eduref.org/Virtual/Lessons/Mathematics/Process_Skills/MPS0206.html

Math lesson for Thanksgiving

<http://www.lessonplanspage.com/MathThanksgivingDinner-BuyGroceriesIdea3.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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