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The Cluttered Desk

Volume 3 Issue 4

"Self esteem comes from successfully overcoming obstacles, not from having them removed for you."– Joyce Clohessy

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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Past Issues of "The Cluttered Desk" can be viewed at
http://www.justusteachers.com/Ezine_Archives.html

FEATURE ARTICLE

A Halloween Tale
By Chris Slaughter

(Eerily)

Creeping down the shadowy hall,
A distant scream I hear
Full moon shining just outside
I struggle with my fear.

I force my legs to carry on,
My heart... I feel it racing
Reacting to the thought of what
I know I'll soon be facing.

I'm past the point of no return
Though panic fills my head
And now I stand before it
This dark portal that I dread.

I pause for just a moment
As I reach toward the door,
And wonder 'bout the fate of those
Who'd passed this way before.

I cannot shake this terror
No matter how I try
There are horrors waiting for me,
That no other has survived.

I steel my nerves and catch my breath
Suppressing a silent sob
I clear my throat a final time
And slowly turn the knob.

And now I stand before them,
My future destitute
Because today is Halloween,
And I'm the substitute.

Get your free math screensavers at <http://www.justusteachers.com/screensavers.html>. No pop-ups, no advertising, just fun screensavers!

HALLOWEEN MATH LINKS

Halloween Math Word Problems – 3-4
<http://abcteach.com/Halloween/Hallowmath.htm>

Halloween Themed Math Pages – 1-5
<http://www.kidzone.ws/math/halloween/>

Halloween Candy Sort K-2
<http://atozteacherstuff.com/pages/278.shtml>

EdHelper Halloween Units K-6
<http://www.edhelper.com/halloween.htm>

Ghostly Products 3-4
<http://www.teachervision.fen.com/tv/printables/cc/ghosts.pdf>

Sorting Pumpkin Seeds K-1
<http://www.lessonplanspage.com/MathEstimationGraphingPumpkinSeedsK1.htm>

OVERHEARD IN THE CLASSROOM

Student: “Mr. S., you sure do have a lot of gray hairs.”

Mr. S.: “Well, I told the barber to cut out the gray ones, I guess she missed a few.”

Student: “No, she missed a LOT!”

See samples of 1,2,3 Math Fonts at http://www.justusteachers.com/Math_Fonts.html
These are images that you just TYPE into your documents. NO CUTTING AND PASTING!

RESEARCH LINKS – MULTIAGE LEARNING

One Page Explanation of Multiage Education

<http://multiage-education.com/multiagen-b/explanation.html>

Mathematics in a Multi-age Classroom

<http://www.multiage-education.com/multiagen-b/banksmath.html>

Implementing the Multiage Classroom

<http://eric.uoregon.edu/publications/digests/digest097.html>

Working in a Multiage Classroom

Can students of different ages work together?

<http://www.naesp.org/ContentLoad.do?contentId=145>

Critical Issue: Enhancing Learning Through Multiage Grouping

<http://www.ncrel.org/sdrs/areas/issues/methods/instrctn/in500.htm>

Components of a Successful Multiage Classroom

<http://www.share2learn.com/components.html>

Are you ready for Multiage?

<http://www.edzone.net/~kinney/Ready.htm>

REPRINT – TEACHER PRACTICAL JOKES

Got a mischievous streak in you just in time for Halloween? Looking for a few good practical jokes to play on your students? Well... DON'T TRY THESE! Some students might never recover! But if you would like to share a chuckle with your colleagues, peruse the list below...

Teacher Practical Jokes

By Chris Slaughter

- Reverse digits on students' grades. Wait 5 minutes and announce "Today is Backwards 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.
- 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.

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Just Us Teachers

justusteachers@justusteachers.com

www.justusteachers.com