

12-03-05

The Cluttered Desk

Volume 3 Issue 5

"It's not the will to win, but the will to prepare to win that makes the difference."– Bear Bryant

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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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Have we got a Christmas surprise for you! From now until Christmas, 1,2,3 Math Fonts will be on sale \$5.00 off the regular price! Come check it out at http://www.justusteachers.com/Math_Fonts.html and see the perfect gift for yourself or the math teacher in your life!

FEATURE ARTICLE

The Official Teacher Gift List
By Chris Slaughter

Ah, Christmas...

It is such a great time of year to be a teacher. Never mind the fact that the change in the weather has cancelled recess until Spring, the cafeteria will be serving leftovers for the next 3 weeks, the kids are convinced that school is over until January, and SOMEONE had the wisdom to schedule midterms on the same day as the class Christmas party!

It is STILL a wonderful time of year. Why? Well, it is one of the few times of the year when you will actually be popular with your students. Another time will be the day school is cancelled because of a bomb threat, and rumor has it that YOU made the call. Please tell me you didn't make the call!

And then there are the gifts... those wonderful, silly, thoughtful, crazy, what-were-they-thinking gifts. You may hope for practical gifts like teacher supplies, tasteful jewelry, or gift cards to your favorite restaurant. But you won't get those. They are not on **The Official Teacher Gift List**. Check out the list below, for you will definitely get one of these presents, and will likely get MANY of them!

The Official Teacher Gift List

1) Popcorn – Not any old popcorn. We're talking about a large tin container filled with your approximate body weight in popcorn, in 7 assorted flavors, at least 2 of which might be edible.

- 2) A complete set of precisely unmatched coffee cups, many of which will contain candy produced during the Nixon administration.
- 3) A variety of WUBs (World's Ugliest Bracelets), all of which must be worn on the day they are given to you.
- 4) Perfume – Does Chanel make a fragrance called “Eau de Poo-Poo”? Again, must be worn on the day it is given. Our apologies to your spouse, children and pets.
- 5) “World’s Best Teacher” ornament – Not a bad gift, just a little odd coming from the boy who used a Sharpie to draw your portrait on the bathroom wall, complete with horns, fangs, and what you hope is just drool pouring from your mouth.
- 6) The book titled “Teaching for Dummies” – Seriously, his mother does NOT have a problem with you!
- 7) Candles – Again, not a bad gift, but don’t they make a fragrance besides “bayberry”?
- 8) Anything with apples – apple mugs, apple stationary, apple pens, apple pencils, apple bracelets, apple candles, apple ornaments, apple ties, apple scarves, apple stamps, apple stickers, apple candy, apple pins, apple watches, apple tote bags, apple earrings, Apple Jacks, apple buttons, apple erasers, apple rulers, apple pointers, apple picture frames, apple art, apple t-shirts, apple timers, apple plaques, apple hall passes, apple bells, apple calendars, apple keychains, apple clocks, apple sculptures, apple bookends, apple flowerpots, apple vases... pretty much everything except actual apples.
- 9) An assortment of paper-weights – you know, to keep all of those important documents that you have just laying around from blowing away by those mysterious trade winds that pop up without warning in the corner of your classroom.
- 10) Hugs – Lots of them. Of course from kids who give them to you everyday anyway, but also from those you are certain can’t stand the sight of you because you push them to be the best they can be no matter how tired, lazy, bored or challenged they are. A quick hug (maybe with just one arm) and a mumbled “Merry Christmas”.

Like I said, Christmas is the BEST time of year to be a teacher!

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

CHRISTMAS MATH LESSON AND WORKSHEET LINKS

Christmas Store – K-1, adaptable for higher
http://www.successlink.org/gti/gti_lesson.asp?lid=3823

Christmas Themed Math Pages – PreK-5
<http://www.kidzone.ws/math/christmas/>

Christmas Games, Crafts and Activities

<http://stepbystepcc.com/holidays/christmas6.html>

Twelve Days of Christmas

<http://www.teachnet.com/lesson/math/twelvedaysxmas.html>

Christmas Tree Code

<http://www.agr.state.nc.us/markets/kidstuff/backporch/eastxtree.pdf>

Polar Express Math Word Problems

http://www.mathstories.com/Christmas/Xmas_sheet_3_Polar_Express.htm

Polar Express Math

<http://www.cape.k12.mo.us/blanchard/hicks/Reading%20Pages/Polar%20Express%201st.htm>

Past Issues of "The Cluttered Desk" can be viewed at

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

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 – MATH FACTS

Don't Forget the Facts -

http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m0STR/is_n2_v108/ai_21148001

Strategies For Teaching Arithmetic: What Are the Facts?

http://www.ldam.org/pdf/journal/2000/11-00_arithmetic.pdf#search='math%20facts%20acquisition'

Math Fact Links

http://www.trenton.k12.nj.us/franklin/math_links.htm#Facts

Learning Math Facts: Mastery Comes Before Speed

<http://www.s-t.com/daily/12-97/12-03-97/b07ad083.htm>

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