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The Cluttered Desk

Volume 4 Issue 4

"You can't direct the wind but you can adjust the sails." – Anonymous

Welcome to **"The Cluttered Desk"**, the semi-monthly newsletter of Just Us Teachers.

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IN THIS ISSUE

=> FEATURE WEBSITE – THAT QUIZ

=> SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

=> FEATURE ARTICLE – DEAR CRABBY

=> JUST PLAIN FUN MATH LESSON LINKS

=> RESEARCH LINKS – FREE TRAINING AND MATERIALS FOR TEACHERS

FEATURE WEBSITE

THAT QUIZ <http://www.thatquiz.com/>

FREE online math quizzes for K-12! Register for FREE and create your own quizzes, assign them to your students and track the results. Even better, register and then click on the BROWSE link to find hundreds of quizzes on a variety of subjects that you can print OR have your students take online. Did we mention that it is FREE?!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Attention all 1, 2, 3 Math Fonts Users! We are now having a monthly drawing for \$100.00 as part of the effort to build the User's Files section of our website. Details can be found at <http://www.justusteachers.com/mathfonts/userfiles.html>. Be sure to check out the FREE teacher-created documents while you are there!

Congratulations to Laura T. of Georgia, our August winner!

FEATURE ARTICLE

"Dear Crabby"

By Chris Slaughter

DEAR CRABBY

*Editor's note: The advice provided in this column does not represent the opinions, beliefs, or practices of this publication, its employees, or for that matter, any sane person. You would be much better off using it to line your bird cage, although there have been reports that most parakeets refuse to use it. If you decide to continue reading... well, don't say we didn't warn you.

Dear Crabby,

I have just received an angry letter from the mother of one of my students. She does not understand why her daughter is failing my class. How should I respond?

Bewildered in Beaumont

Dear Bewildered,

I find that most parents become more understanding when you point out their own faults. Begin by making corrections to her letter in bright red ink. This will be her first clue that she is completely to blame. Then provide her with a simple explanation of genetics (no 3-syllable words) and a picture of her husband. A superior smile and declaration that you went to college should be sufficient to remove any remaining doubt that she is completely responsible for daughter's utter lack of ability. She may even apologize for wasting your time.

Dear Crabby,

I am having a difficult time balancing my teaching career and my social life. There just never seems to be enough time. Any suggestions?

Overworked in Omaha

Dear Overworked,

Oh, I get this one a lot! Of course you don't have any spare time, what with you getting out of school at 2:30 and having every weekend, holiday and summer off. Here are 3 sure-fire tips that are proven to earn you more free time:

- 1) Ask your principal to grade papers and write lesson plans for you. I mean, they are there to serve you, right?
- 2) Convince another teacher to co-teach with you, then take extended breaks. A week at a time should be sufficient.
- 3) Bring your date to work. There must be some kind of math lesson going on if the students are cooking and serving your meal. Besides, your date can baby sit your class while you take a nap in the teachers' lounge.

Dear Crabby,

I really love teaching, but I am just not making enough money to pay my bills. I am afraid that I might have to find a new job. What can I do?

Flat-busted in Flatbush

Dear Flat,

Now, now dearie, there is no need to fret about money. None of us got into this occupation for the paycheck. The real money is in selling grades! Just think of the valuable life skills that you are teaching your students when you show them that money can get them anything they want. And if that is not enough, you can always sell the school's computer equipment on E-Bay. Another valuable math lesson!

Dear Crabby,

my name is stacy. i am in thurd grade. i am wurried about my teachr. every monday she comes to skool weering the same cloths she wore on friday. she smells funny and has a bad headake. when i askd what is rong, she sayd she wuz over hung. i don't know wher hung is. how can i help her?

stacy

Dear Stacy,

Oh, how sweet of you to write about your teacher instead of studying for your Spelling test. I would really like to know how you typed that letter without Spell-Check having a seizure and shutting down your computer.

As for your teacher, she will be just fine if you and your classmates will behave a certain way when she is "over hung". First of all, it will be very hard for your teacher to hear unless you speak EXTREMELY LOUDLY! And since it is difficult for someone in her condition to attend to just one conversation at a time, you should all talk to her simultaneously. To help her focus, it is good idea to move around a lot. Moving furniture helps even more. Finally, and this is VERY important, everyone should bring tuna sandwiches to class that day. As a matter of fact, bring them on Friday and leave them in your desks over the weekend so that you are ready ahead of time.

CONFIDENTIAL TO "UNDERCOVER IN UTICA" - Don't worry dear. No one would ever have reason to suspect that you, the librarian at Watts Elementary in Jasper County, were having a "special relationship" with the school board president. You've been so careful, I am sure no one will ever find out.

Check out 1,2,3 Math Fonts at http://www.justusteachers.com/Math_Fonts.html
Just TYPE these math symbols and images into your documents. NO CUTTING AND PASTING! View the entire User's Manual at <http://www.justusteachers.com/123MathFontsManual.pdf>.

JUST PLAIN FUN MATH LESSON LINKS

A Mathematics Fantasy – A Million Dollar Mission

What would you rather do, receive \$1,000,000 or a penny that you get to double every day for 30 days? Let your students do the math and see!

<http://math.rice.edu/~lanius/pro/rich.html>

Fraction Hunt

Let your students use their knowledge of fractions to help them solve this fun word puzzle!

<http://www.lessonplanspage.com/MathFractionHuntPuzzleIdea46.htm>

Tantalizing Tangrams

Use *Grandfather Tang's Story*, tangram pieces and this lesson to give your students a fun way to explore geometry. The difficulty can be adjusted for any grade level.

http://www.utdanacenter.org/mathtoolkit/instruction/lessons/4_tangrams.php

Delicious Math

Use trail mix to get your students excited about sorting, classifying and graphing!

http://www.educationoasis.com/curriculum/LP/MA/delicious_graphing.htm

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

RESEARCH LINKS – FREE TRAINING AND MATERIALS FOR TEACHERS

Yes, the list is short this month, but each of these sites contains a wealth of information, tips, workshops, materials and even streaming video.

Session Materials and Handouts from The U.S. Department of Education Summer Workshops

<http://www.t2tweb.us/Workshops/Sessions.asp>

eLearning – Digital workshops, complete with full transcripts, videos, activities and course handouts.

<http://www.paec.org/teacher2teacher/>

Past Issues of “The Cluttered Desk” can be viewed at

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

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