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The Cluttered Desk

Volume 4 Issue 7

"All we are saying is give peace a chance." – John Lennon

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

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FEATURE WEBSITE

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF VIRTUAL MANIPULATIVES - a library of uniquely interactive, web-based virtual manipulatives or concept tutorials, mostly in the form of Java applets, for mathematics instruction (K-12 emphasis).

<http://nlvm.usu.edu/en/nav/vlibrary.html>

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The monthly drawing for \$100.00 (to build the User's Files section of our website) is still going on! 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 Karen W., our November winner! There is still time to enter for the December drawing!

FEATURE ARTICLE

Christmas Paradoxes

By Chris Slaughter

Why is it that...

... the kids that hated you most last year are the one's who skip their classes to bring you a present this year?

... you bring home a mountain of work to catch up on during your "vacation"?

... the kids that drive you the craziest are the ones that you worry about the most over the holiday break?

... even though you promised yourself you would NEVER do it again, you find yourself going into debt to fund the class Christmas party?

... even though you are financing the Christmas party, you still overhear students calling you “the Grinch”?

... your students claim their favorite Christmas carol is “Silent Night”, but they only know the words to “Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer”? Or something about how Batman smells?

... you wish your students would grow up, but you really wish they would believe in Santa Claus enough to use him as part of your behavior plan?

... the teacher that you have the hardest time getting along with turns out to be your Secret Santa? And gives you the best gifts EVER?

... even though you plan hard, work hard, and teach hard all semester, the principal decides to do your observation the day before the holiday starts?

... even though you are SO ready for the Christmas break, a reprieve from the whining, crying, complaining, rudeness and tattling... not having to hear “I hate you!”, “I forgot my homework.”, or “Gee, my teacher last year was skinnier.”... not having to referee another fight or mediate one more argument between a bunch of girls that are not speaking because of a boy that none of them really like... even though you are watching the clock, counting the minutes, ready to bolt for the door a half step behind the students... how come you are going to miss them in a week?

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 & PASTING!
View the entire User’s Manual at <http://www.justusteachers.com/123MathFontsManual.pdf>.

CHRISTMAS MATH & ACTIVITY LINKS

Icosahedron Christmas Ornament Project- Secondary
<http://mtl.math.uiuc.edu/users/D1Allen/icosa.html>

Christmas Shopping Extravaganza
<http://www.lessonplanspage.com/MathArtChristmasOrnamentShoppingGoodIdea12.htm>

Gingerbread glyph
<http://www.geocities.com/mrshogueclass/Lessons/gingerglyph.html>

Christmas Themed Math pages from KidZone - PreK - 5
<http://www.kidzone.ws/math/christmas/index.htm>

Christmas Fun Pages and Worksheets Across the Curriculum
<http://www.kidsdomain.com/holiday/xmas/holidaycrosswords/NorthPoleWorksheets.pdf>

Winter Math Activities

<http://www.mathwire.com/seasonal/winter06.html>

<http://www.mathwire.com/seasonal/winter05.html>

12 Days of Christmas Math lesson

<http://dimacs.rutgers.edu/~judyann/LP/lessons/12.days.html>

12 Days of Math Carol -

<http://www.lessonplanspage.com/MathMusicTheTwelveDaysOfMathChristmasSongIdea2.htm>

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

RESEARCH LINKS – GREAT ONLINE SHOPPING SITES!

Okay, you probably already know all you need (or want) to know about Amazon, Ebay, and the gazillion dot-com extensions of all the major retailers. But maybe, just maybe, you want find a gift that is different, unique or difficult to locate? Or maybe you don't have a clue WHAT to buy you-know-who! Try these sites for a different shopping experience. But hurry, Christmas is almost here!

Surprise.com – Hand-picked gifts from stores across the web. They have a very cool feature that allows you to shop by personality type, such as “the Chocoholic”, “Already Has Everything”, and “Wants a Little Peace and Quiet”. A great site to find something different for someone special, or a great line of gag gifts for some not-so-special!

<http://www.surprise.com/>

Think Geek: Stuff for Smart Masses – Gizmos, Gadgets, Geek Toys & Apparel for the geek in your life! Where else are you going to find a t-shirt with a built-in digital clock, a desk catapult, or an Albert Einstein action figure?

<http://www.thinkgeek.com/>

Ruby Lane -Stroll through the cobblestone streets of Ruby Lane and discover hundreds of independent shops showcasing quality Antiques, Collectibles, Fine Art and Jewelry items from around the world. If it's vintage, antique, or collectible, odds are you will find it here.

<http://www.rubylane.com/>

Half.com – Ebay's favorite cousin (first, second or kissing, we don't know) that allows you to find new, used, rare and collectible books, music, games and movies without the hassle of a bidding process. Find the title you want and choose among the offerings according to their prices and quality.

www.half.com

Shopping.com & Shopzilla.com – Already know what you want but don't have time to find the best price? Let these shopping monsters do the work for you! Type in what you want and they will list the places it can be found, complete with prices and store reviews.

<http://www4.shopping.com/>

<http://www.shopzilla.com/>

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

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

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