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The Cluttered Desk

Volume 5 Issue 2

*"It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge."* -

Albert Einstein

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

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## FEATURE WEBSITE

**Math-Drills.Com** – includes over 6000 **free math worksheets** with answer keys. Choose from all operations, mixed operations, fractions, money, number sense, decimals, algebra and seasonal selections.

<http://www.math-drills.com/>

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**1, 2, 3 Science Fonts is now available!** Just type in customized thermometers, graduated cylinders, digital and analog scales, planets, customary capacity units AND MORE! It works with all of your favorite programs, including Word, Works, PowerPoint, Excel, and more. For details, visit <http://www.justusteachers.com/sciencefonts.html>.

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## FEATURE ARTICLE

The Retiring Teacher

By Chris Slaughter

The end of the school year is often a bittersweet season in the lives of teachers. This is especially true for those that are leaving the field. There is the sadness of leaving the daily companionship of so many cherished colleagues and friends. You'll miss the joy of seeing the light come alive in a child's eyes as the knowledge you have imparted upon them begins to take root. And nothing can replace the memories you have stored from a lifetime of service.

On the other hand...

**YOU'RE FREE!** Hallelujah, your time has come, you are OUTTA HERE! No more pencils, no more books, no more students' dirty looks! No more late nights grading papers. No more

standardized testing. No more school lunches, or even worse, Hot Pockets. You'll be racing the kids down the hall to be the first one to the parking lot. You might even trip a few on the way out!

But before you head out the door on the last day of school, you might want to check a few signs to see how the rest of the campus is handling your new found freedom. For instance...

Good sign: Your day is spent receiving hugs, flowers and chocolate from teary-eyed co-workers.

Bad sign: Your co-workers are packing your car... before first period.

Good sign: Your students deliver hand-written notes of appreciation for the profound effect you have had upon them. Many of the pages contain tear-stains.

Bad sign: Your students deliver hand-written notes of appreciation for your retirement. Many of the pages contain anthrax.

Good sign: Teachers visit your room frequently to gather up the incredible materials you have amassed during your career.

Bad signs: Teachers stage a bonfire in the middle of your room.

Good sign: The principal hires 2 new employees to replace you.

Bad sign: The principal hires 2 new employees to escort you from the building.

Good sign: There is a movement to have your classroom memorialized.

Bad sign: There is a movement to have your classroom exorcised.

Good sign: Your students sing your praises at every opportunity.

Bad sign: Your students sing "Ding Dong! The Witch is Dead!"

Good sign: The parents of your students have taken up a collection to send you on an Alaskan cruise.

Bad sign: The parents of your students have taken up a collection to send you on an Antarctic cruise... one-way.

Good sign: A special banquet is held in honor of your retirement.

Bad sign: A special banquet is held in honor of your retirement... but no one tells you about it.

So, observe the signs, decide for yourself if they are for good or bad, but most of all, and in all seriousness... congratulations and have a wonderful life. You will be missed.

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## MATH YOU DIDN'T HAVE TIME FOR- END OF YEAR LINKS

It happens to all of us. There are so many lessons that we WANT to teach our students, but many of them seem to get pushed aside by the things that we HAVE to do. As the end of the year approaches, try out some of these fabulous lessons to create a love of math in your students.

**The Million Dollar Mission** – Students investigate which is a better deal, to receive 1 million dollars or 1 penny that they get to double every day for 30 days.

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

**And You Thought Gasoline Was Expensive!** - Students create charts comparing the cost of a gallon of gasoline to gallons of other liquids -- mouthwash, house paint, fruit juice, and white-out, for example.

[http://www.education-world.com/a\\_lesson/02/lp265-01.shtml](http://www.education-world.com/a_lesson/02/lp265-01.shtml)

**Aw Chute-** After designing and constructing parachutes, students use the distance formula to determine the rate of descent and with this information look for similarities in design.

<http://www.pbs.org/teachers/mathline/lessonplans/pdf/msmp/awchute.pdf>

**Math Fun** – 2 math lessons –

**Lesson One: Mirror, Mirror on the Wall, Who Needs Math in Life at All?** - A fun bulletin board display helps students explore the ways they use math in their daily lives. (Grades Pre K-12)

**Lesson Two: "Photograph Math" Word Problems** - Word problems come to life when kids write their own problems and stage photos that illustrate them. (Grades 2-12)

<https://www.nea.org/lessons/2003/tt030804.html?mode=print>

**Interactive Math** – for the computer lab or the interactive white board.

<http://www.everydaymath.org/trial.htm>

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

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**RESEARCH LINKS – SUMMER MATH II**

Last year we printed a variety of links for Summer Math Packets (see Volume 4 Issue 2 at [http://www.justusteachers.com/Ezine\\_Archives.html](http://www.justusteachers.com/Ezine_Archives.html) ). The response was so good, we thought we would show more of the Summer Math Packets out there. Most of these have been created by teachers for use in their schools, so please provide proper credit if you make use of the materials.

2<sup>nd</sup> grade

[http://www.mohonasen.org/03bradt/Second\\_Math\\_Pack.pdf](http://www.mohonasen.org/03bradt/Second_Math_Pack.pdf)

3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>

<http://www.newfairfieldschools.org/meetinghouse/packets.htm>

Harcourt Math Summer Packets Grades 3 – 5

- to use in conjunction with E-lab [http://harcourtschool.com/activity/elab2004/index\\_2004.html](http://harcourtschool.com/activity/elab2004/index_2004.html)

[http://www.harcourtschool.com/elab\\_resources/pdf/elab\\_g3.pdf](http://www.harcourtschool.com/elab_resources/pdf/elab_g3.pdf)

[http://www.harcourtschool.com/elab\\_resources/pdf/elab\\_g4.pdf](http://www.harcourtschool.com/elab_resources/pdf/elab_g4.pdf)

[http://www.harcourtschool.com/elab\\_resources/pdf/elab\\_g5.pdf](http://www.harcourtschool.com/elab_resources/pdf/elab_g5.pdf)

4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade

<http://www.woodward.edu/academics/math/index.asp>

Summer Math Packet Algebra Secondary

<http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/kingsviewms/Math%20Department/Algebra%20202%202005%20summer%20packe.pdf>

Sail into Summer with Math! Geometry

[http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/mvms/summer\\_packets/Geometry.pdf](http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/mvms/summer_packets/Geometry.pdf)

Grade 6

<http://www.dedham.k12.ma.us/dms/summer/math/sixthgrade/>

Sail into Summer with Math! Grade 7

<http://home.comcast.net/~ncepta/Math/MathB.pdf>

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

[http://www.justusteachers.com/Ezine\\_Archives.html](http://www.justusteachers.com/Ezine_Archives.html)

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