

FingerPoints

NOVEMBER 2006 EDITION

E-Newsletter for *Teaching Is Too Important to Take Seriously*

The Good, The Bad and The Thankful

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. It is my favorite because it is so simple, to be thankful. My wish for you this month is just as simple. Be thankful. Each one of us have had good things happen to us in our lives, and yes, each one of us have had bad things happen to us. As we say in the book and in presentations, everyone has

a story that will bring others to tears. However, everyone has a story to be happy about, also. So this Thanksgiving, be thankful for the happy stories

Have a Good Day!

The Finger of the Month - #4 Practice PHWH

As you may have noticed, this issue of *FingerPoints* is a little late. I had every intention of writing the November version a week ago, before I left home to speak at the National Middle School Association Conference in Nashville, TN. That was, I had every intent until the weather changed.

Now, what does the weather have to do with my delaying writing this e-newsletter? Well, the night I was going to write it, we had some small thunderstorms go through our area. In fact, they were so small that I wouldn't call them thunderstorms, as much as rain with a couple of low rumbles. However, by my son's definition, they were thunderstorms and that is what counted.

After putting my son to bed that evening, I went back to my office and started to write this newsletter. It wasn't 5 minutes before I heard the patter of my son's feet coming down the hall to where I was. He said that he heard thunder and was scared. He also asked if he could sit with me on the couch, until the "storm" passed.

My first reaction to this was, "Just for a little bit. I have a lot of work to do."

Luckily, I stopped myself before I said that to him. I stopped because I realized that I was putting my work before my son, my joy. How could I write a newsletter pushing people to balance their lives between work and play (PHWH), when I wasn't doing it myself? Most importantly, how could I let my son down? So, as you have already guessed, I sat with him on the couch, he fell asleep in my arms, and the newsletter didn't get written.

Did the world fall apart because the newsletter didn't get written when I wanted? No. Will the world fall apart, when we don't get those papers graded because we choose this one time to enjoy our life? No. That is what it means to Practice PHWH. When we work, work hard and when we play, play hard. But make sure to keep them in balance. Life is too important to to be unbalanced.

(Oh, and by the way, I learned not to wait until the last minute to write the newsletter.)

Is This Your First Time?

Getting a FingerPoints E-newsletter, that is.

If this is your first issue of FingerPoints, feel free to check out past issues at www.paperwadideas.com . Click on the FingerPoints link and feel free to download the 2006 editions of the newsletter. Once you've downloaded them , it is your job to pass them on your friends.

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I Love the 80's

Are you looking for a way to wake your students up on Monday morning?

Well, don't forget the 80's. (Yes, I know some of you aren't old enough to remember all the 80's, but work with me here.) Recently, I have from time to time, been reading some of the lyrics of the best (or worst) of eighties songs, on our morning announcements. Where a number of schools (including mine) have the Words of Wisdom, we have the 80's Words of Wisdom.

Why? Why not? It grabs students' attention and it starts the week off with a smile.

Some of the songs we have used recently include:

De Do Do Do Do, De Dah Dah Dah Is All I Have to Say to You.

Gordon Sumner (Sting)

and on Halloween,

If there's something strange, in your neighborhood

Who you gonna call? Ghostbusters

If there's something weird and it don't look good

Who you gonna call? Ghostbusters

I ain't afraid of no ghost, I ain't afraid of no ghost

Ray Parker Jr.

This doesn't have to be done over the announcements, but could be done at the beginning of the week in your classroom. However it is that you use the lyrics, just make sure to say them as seriously as possible. Like it is the world's best poetry. Read it this way and I guarantee you, that you bring laughter into your classroom.

For a list of 80's songs and their lyrics, check out www.afn.org/~afn30091/80songs.html

Whatever you do, don't forget to look up the great lyrics of the bands *Kajagoogoo* and *Flock of Seagulls!*

Planning for February In-Services?

February may be months away, but a lot of us are planning for our mid-winter in-services. If you are one of them, don't forget to consider *PaperWad Education* when planning. Along with the award winning workshop *Teaching Is Too Important to Take Seriously!*, that can provide you and your staff the midyear motivation boost you need, our *Education Survivor Series (ESS)* provides you unique professional development that is both professional and will help you develop. Just recently, we presented two ESS components (*If No Child Moves Forward, then No Child Is Left Behind: How to Elevate Everyone Around You* and *Nerdo the Mathnificant: Good Math Magic, Bad Math Humor*) to overflow crowds at the NMSA Conference in Nashville, TN.

If you would like more information about what we have offer, take a look at our website, www.paperwadideas.com/education.html.

HAVE A JOKE OR A FUNNY STORY FROM TEACHING?

SEND IT TO FINGERPOINTS@PAPERWADIDEAS.COM AND I'LL SHARE IT IN AN UPCOMING ISSUE.

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These are the Days of Our Lives

November is the month of thanks. However, you may, or may not be thankful for some of these special days. Remember, all of these are celebrated by someone, somewhere. Enjoy!

Month

I Am So Thankful Month

Family Stories Month

National Peanut Butter Lovers Month

National Inspirational Role Model Month

International Drum Month

National Georgia Pecan Month

National Pomegranate Month

Weeks

1-7 National Fig Week

7-13 World Kindness Week

17-23 National Farm-City Week

15-18 Teen Read Week

19-25 National Game and Puzzle Week

6-10 Kid's Goal Setting Week

8-14 Pursuit of Happiness Week

19-25 National Family Week

15-21 National Character Counts Week

20-26 Better Conversation Week

Days

2 Plan Your Epitaph Day

3 Cliche' Day

4 Sadie Hawkins Day

8 Abet and Aid Punsters Day

8 Cook Something Bad and Pungent Day

9 Return Day

13 Gingerbread House Day

14 National American Teddy Bear Day

15 George Spelvin Day

15 I Love to Write Day

18 Married to a Scorpio Support Day

18 National Family Volunteer Day

19 Have a Bad Day Day

21 Pumpkin Pie Day

24 Flossing Day

24 Buy Nothing Day Night

30 Stay Home Because Your Well Day

2 National Men Make Dinner Day

4 National Chicken Lady Day

7 Nat. Bittersweet Chocolate w/ Almonds Day

6 World Smile Day

8 National Parents as Teachers Day

12 I Need a Patch for That Day

14 Loosen Up, Lighten Up Day

14 National Young Readers Day

15 National Education Support Professionals Day

17 Homemade Bread Day

18 Mickey Mouse Day

18 Push Button Phone Day

20 Name Your PC Day

21 World Hello Friday

24 Sinkie Day

25 Blase' Day