

FingerPoints

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

The Birthday Zit - It All Depends How You Look at It

How's that for a catchy title? Well, the Birthday Zit is not just a way to get your attention, it is my reality. As I am writing this newsletter on the night of my birthday, (I won't tell which one, but it is more than 42, and less than 44) that is what I have, a birthday zit.

When I woke up this morning, I was in a very good mood. Though I am not fond of growing older, in fact it scares me sometimes, I felt good about this birthday. I woke up, laid in bed a little and thought, you know I am lucky that I really do enjoy my life. I feel more comfortable about myself at 43 (oops, gave it away) than I have at any other age.

And then I went to the bathroom.

When I looked in the mirror on the right side of my face, right in the crevice where my chin meets my cheek, there sat the biggest, reddest and hardest pimple I had seen since high school. Actually calling it a pimple isn't fair to pimples. It can only be called a zit.

I have to admit, my first reaction was that I was not happy. Isn't this just how things go? Here I am feeling good my birthday, looking forward

to going to a very nice dinner this evening, and I have a zit that could be used to land planes. Just my luck. Hopefully the hostess at dinner won't call for "Rudolph, party of two."

That was my first thought, and fortunately not my only thought about the situation. Soon it came to me that maybe this was my birthday present. It was sent to remind me that, even though I was getting older, it didn't mean that I couldn't still be a kid. Sure my body couldn't do some things physically that it used to, but this zit was sent to remind me that there still was some kid in me, and I needed to enjoy it.

This holiday season there will be plenty of zits around. Whether it is the stress of shopping or family, or the chaos the holiday season brings to schools, remember it is all about how you look at it. So as you move to the new year, try to find the child in all your holiday zits.

Have a Good Day!
Scott Endres

The Finger of the Month - #4 Allow Yourself to Laugh

The Finger of the Month is short, mainly because the Birthday Zit was so long, but it doesn't make it any less important. In the next few weeks, before holiday break, give yourself permission to laugh. In fact, challenge yourself that at least once a day, you will find one situation that you allow yourself to laugh when you normally wouldn't.

For example, the birthday zit story is one of mine. For you, maybe it is when you driving to work, instead of thinking about what you need to do when you get to school, turn on the radio and listen to some morning comedy, or even better turn on music and have a private karaoke performance in your car.

When you get to school, there are all kind of things you can do. For example, are you tired of the excuses you get from students, start an Excuse Hall of Fame or have a creative writing session, to see the most creative, and funny, excuses you and your class can come up with. How about the mess of papers your students have sticking out of every book, desk or locker? Well, since this is the end of the semester for most schools, play a review game with your students. For each question a student gets right for their team, they get to shoot a paper wad into the trash can from a defined distance for a bonus point. The students have to use their own old paper, and they can make the paper wad as big as they like. This guarantees to get rid of all the old trash.

Whatever you do, remember to enjoy it and allow yourself to laugh about it!

No Football Left Behind

Sometimes we just have to let off some steam and the article below did it for me. You may have seen this on the internet (I have changed it a little), but it is so well written, it is worth a second read. I don't know who wrote it, but they are a genius.

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND - 2006 Revision for Football

1. *All teams must make the state playoffs and ALL must win the championship. If a team does not win the championship, they will be on probation until they are champions, and coaches will be held accountable.*

If after two years, the team has not won the championship, their footballs and all equipment will be taken away UNTIL they do win a championship.

2. *All students will be expected to have the same football skills at the same time, even if they do not have the same conditions or opportunities to practice on their own. NO exceptions will be made for lack of interest in football, lack of desire to perform in football or their own limited abilities. ALL STUDENTS WILL PLAY FOOTBALL AT A PROFICIENT LEVEL.*

3. *Talented players will be asked to workout on their own, because the coaches will be using all their instructional time with the players who aren't interested in football, have limited athletic ability, or whose parents don't like football and couldn't play it anyway, when they were on the team in school.*

4. *Games will be played year round, but scores will only be kept on one game picked by state officials. The results of this game will determine the championship. In Indiana, this game will be the first game of the year.*

GOAL OF NCLB FOOTBALL VERSION

The goal of the NCLB 2006 Football Revision is to create a culture in our schools where every school is expected to have the same level of talent, and where all teams reach the same minimum goals. It should be noted that opposing teams from different states, will have different minimum goals. In this case, each team will provide its own referee to determine if they won the game. Finally, in this set up all games will be ties, and therefore all teams will be champions.

And I thought the College Bowl Championship Series (BCS) was hard to understand!

Quote of the Month

Laughter gives us distance. It allows us to step back from an event, deal with it and then move on. ~Bob Newhart

(Something to remember with the stresses of the holiday season.)

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

December seems to be a little short on special celebrations. It almost makes me think some other things are going on this month. Oh well, go figure. Remember, all of these are celebrated by someone, somewhere. Enjoy!

Month

Bingo's Birthday Month

National Tie Month

National Stress-Free Family Holidays Month

Weeks

1-7 Cookie Cutter Week

1-7 Tolerance Week

1-8 Recipes Greetings for the Holidays Week

3-9 National Handwashing Awareness Week

15-19 Halcyon Days Week

15-21 International Language Week

25-31 It's About Time Week

Days

1 Bifocals at the Monitor Liberation Day

1 Day With(out) Art Day

1 World Aids Day

2 Coats fro Kids Day

2 Special Education Day

3 International Day of Disabled Persons Day

4 National Dice Day

5 Bathtub Party Day

5 Nat. Communicate w/ Your Baby Day

6 National Pawnbrokers Day

6 Special Kids Day

7 National Cotton Candy Day

9 Day of the Horse

9 International Shareware Day

9 Weary Willie Day

11 National Mountain Day

12 Gingerbread House Day

15 Cat Herders Day

15 Underdog Day

16 Barbie & Barney Backlash Day

16 National Chocolate Covered in Anything Day

17 Wright Brothers Day

20 Mudd Day

21 Humbug Day

21 Phileas Fogg Win a Wager Day

21 World Peace Day

22 Abilities Day

26 National Candy Cane Day

26 National Whiners Day

28 National Chocolate Day

29 National Chocolate Day (yes, it takes 2 days)

29 Tick Tock Day

29 No Interruptions Day

31 Leap Second Time Adjustment Day

31 Make Up Your Mind Day

31 One Voice Day

Have a Happy Christmahanukawanza

...and everything else you celebrate this season!