

FingerPoints

MAY 2006 EDITION

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

May at Last, May at Last! Oh, Yeah May at Last!

My friends, the end is near . Not the end of the world, but the end we all like to see. The end of the school year. Some of us have had good years, and some of us have had, well, not so good years. However your school year has been, it is time to look back at your accomplishments. I know that sometimes it

doesn't seem like there have been any, but you there have been , so make sure to celebrate them. Make sure to plan something at the end of the year to meet with friends from your school to celebrate those accomplishments.

Scott Endres

The Finger of the Month - #5 Laugh at the World Around You

Okay, let's start talking about next year. I know, I know, I don't want to think about next year either, but now is the perfect time to think about it. As we are looking at this past year, it is a great time to look at what worked, what didn't and what you want to change for next year. Of course, I think you need to include laughter, and especially laughter from the world around you. Below are some ideas to think about for next year on how to use the world around you to bring laughter into your classroom. Something to think about this summer. Have a Good One!

- + Tell amusing stories of your life
- + Keep a file of funny items that pertain to your subject
- + Keep a bulletin board of funny things from newspapers, magazines, the internet etc.
- + Keep a cartoon collection and ask students to contribute
- + Collect funny stories from tabloids like the Weekly World News
- + Find something that defines you, whether it is funny ties, t-shirts or a collection of items
- + Keep a file of student excuses
- + Create funny awards to give to students throughout the year for things like personal bests
- + Use Teach the Teacher, where students teach you a new skill
- + Always carry something to write on in order to right down humorous things that you experience
- + Find ways to use music in you classroom
 - Play funny or unusual music during work time
 - Play special music that fits the activity
 - Have students make up songs for topics using nursery rhymes of other well known music
- + Find ways to use props in your classroom
 - Funny nose, funny nose and glasses, funny hats, funny clothes that fit your subject, magic wand, egg timer or horn for games, basketball whistle for games, big fuzzy dice, plastic horns, twister wheel to help make class decisions or anything that works for you.

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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Join the Great American Teach Out in July

This is the last FingerPoints until August. I know May isn't the last month of school for everyone, but it is for me, and that's what counts. So I am taking a break and I highly suggest you do also.

A few years ago, I was very burned out from a difficult school year. I knew I needed to get away but because of other things going on, I knew I wasn't going to be able to take a vacation. So what did I do? I took a vacation from talking about teaching. I decided that I would take the month of July off from talking about teaching. I vowed to not talk about teaching in any way. If I started to talk about school, my ex-wife was to remind me of my vow. This wasn't difficult for her, because she was pretty tired of hearing about school anyway.

One night in late July, we met several teacher couples for dinner. After the formalities, a good friend of mine, asked me what I thought about something to do with the school. I politely said, "I'm sorry, but I'm not talking about teaching until August." She laughed and responded with, "No, but really. What do you think?" I said, "I'm sorry, but I wasn't trying to be funny. I'm really not talking about teaching until August 1st. We will talk all you want then, but I'm taking a break until then." She gave me a strange look (I tend to get a lot of those) and eventually we talked about something else, but it did take awhile to come up with a non-teaching topic.

The idea behind this, what I now call The Great American Teach Out, is just like any of the other Great American _____ Outs, whether it is stopping smoking or watching TV. The idea is that, only when you stop something for a period of time, can you realize how much it effects you. This is true with education.

Every year I try to take a period of time during the summer, where I have nothing to do with teaching. And every year it has helped revive my spirits about teaching. It has helped me put away the negative of the past years and move on to getting ready mentally for the coming year.

So make sure to take a true vacation this summer. Whether it is the full month of July or just a week, pick a period of where you vow to stop talking education and

JOIN THE GREAT AMERICAN TEACH OUT!!!!

(and we'll talk about it later.)

What Do You Do When You Are Waiting in the Drive-Thru?

With the Finger of the Month being Laugh At the World Around You, I couldn't pass up this local story. It seems that a man was sitting on the drive thru at a local White Castle when he shot himself in the leg (for those in the South, think Krystal's, for everyone else, it is a little fast-food hamburger restaurant.) The White Castle is not in a bad area of town, in fact it is not far from where I grew up. It seems that the man was sitting in the drive-thru when, to possibly pass time, he ejected a round from his chamber, pulled the magazine, replaced the round, pulled the trigger and accidentally shot himself in the leg. The man told the police that he was talking to his girlfriend and wasn't paying attention. Wasn't paying attention???? While he was loading a gun in the drive-thru???? The story ends, by the police saying that no charges would be filed because they believe it was just an accident. This was confirmed by his girlfriend who said, "he was always very safe with the weapon.

Once again, you don't have to be a comedian. The world around us is funny enough.

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

This month is National Smile Month, so remember to Smile, Damn It! Smile! Also, this is a bonus month. Since there won't be a June edition of FingerPoints, I have included a few events for June. Remember, all of these are celebrated by someone somewhere. Enjoy!

MAY

Month

More Than Just A Pretty Face Month
National Bike Month
National Hamburger Month

National BBQ Month
National Egg Month
National Salsa Month

Weeks

1-7 Eat Dessert First Week
7-13 National Hug Holiday Week
7-13 Teacher Appreciation Week
7-13 Pickle Week
19-21 Dulcimer Days
22-29 National Backyard Games Week

Days

1 School Principals Day	10 Root Canal Appreciation Day
1 Save The Rhinos Day	10 Trust Your Intuition Day
3 Lumpy Rug Day	11 Eat What You Want Day
4 Respect for Chickens Day	12 Limerick Day
5 Cartoonists Day	12 National Nutty Fudge Day
5 Cinco De Mayo	13 Blame Someone Else Day
5 Totally Chipotle Day	15 National Chocolate Chip Day
6 Do Dab Day	16 National Sea Monkey Day
6 No Diet Day	19 Hug Your Cat Day
6 No Homework Day	20 Eliza Doolittle Day
6 O. Henry Pun Day	25 Taffy Day
8 No Socks Day	23 World Turtle Day
9 National Teacher Appreciation Day	28 Slugs Return to Capistrano Day
10 National School Nurse Day	31 Great American Grump Out Day

JUNE

Month

National Candy Month

Iced Tea Month

Days

2 I Love My Dentist Day	3 Doughnut Day
2 National Bubba Day	7 VCR Day
2 Yell "Fudge" at the Cobra in North America Day	