

FingerPoints

JANUARY 2006 EDITION

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

Welcoming in the New...

...Everything! With the new year, we have a new style to the newsletter. Starting with this issue we will focus on only one of the Five Fingers each month. Hopefully, this will allow us to get a little more in depth with each topic. This month we will look at the second finger of laughter and hopefully you will get something new out of it, like a new start on bringing laughter into your life. The other new changes are new features each

month, like our new "Fact is Fiction, TV Reality" Also there is a new type style and format which is designed to allow the newsletter to be read a little easier on your computer, instead of having to print it out. Finally, I hope the new year finds you well and I especially hope it finds you laughing.

Scott Endres

The Finger of the Month - #2 Practice PHWH-

Why do we focus on the 2nd finger during the 1st month? Because January is all about making resolutions and making a commitment to laughter couldn't be a more important resolution to make. To do that, you need to Practice PHWH (Play Hard, Work Hard) However, just like any commitment to start something new, whether it is losing weight, starting to exercise or laughing more, it works best when you have a plan or in this case, a *Laughter Exercise Plan*.

Remember there are three parts of the Laughter Exercise Plan; the Daily Laughter Journal, the Weekly Laughter Goals and the Emergency Laughter List (ELL). We don't have space to go into the detail of each of these like I do in the book, but let's look at them a little.

The Daily Laughter Journal is nothing other than keeping track of the number of times you laugh during the day, when you laughed and when you could have laughed. As with any plan to change, like a diet, one of the first things you do is to keep a list of what your

day is like to get an accurate picture of what you are doing. That is the goal of this journal

The Weekly Laughter Goals are just that, goals for you to accomplish during the week. Divided into three areas; life goals, teaching goals and daily goals, it is designed to give you the structure and support to start your path to laughter. There are numerous goal ideas listed in the plan, but let me give you one which I know will work. Make it your goal to say "Have a Good Day" to at least 10 people each day.

The Emergency Laughter List in one part of the plan each of you can do today. Take a piece of paper and write down 10 things you know will make you laugh. For example, on mine I have a line from the movie *Airplane!*, "I am serious. And don't call me surely." Now put this list in your wallet or purse or someplace where you can get to it quickly, and when the stress and pressure of life get to you and bring you down, pull the ELL out and one of those ten is bound to make you smile.

Making Plans for Professional Development in 2006?

So is **PaperWad Education**

We are currently making our schedule for 2006, which will bring you the PaperWad way of doing professional development. From our day long *Education Survivor Series*, which includes the *Teaching Is Too Important to Take Seriously!* session to our three day summer *E3 Conferences*, where you will learn to *Extricate - Elevate and Educate* to our new *Buck and Irma's Academic Camps* for Middle School students, we continue to provide PD for people who don't like to PD. To schedule a session at your school or to find out what is in your area contact us at **admin@paperwadideas.com** or **502.420.8584**

These are the Days of Our Lives

January is a busy month as you can see by all the "official" holidays this month. As always, these are real holidays celebrated by someone, somewhere. So just celebrate!

Month

Celebration of Life Month	International Creativity Month
Jump Out of Bed Month	National Hot Tea Month
Oatmeal Month	Slow Cooking Month
International Life Balance Month (shouldn't this be Practice PHWH month?)	

Weeks

1-7 Celebration of Life Week
3-7 Someday We'll Laugh About This Week
9-13 National Thank Your Customers (Students) Week
11-17 Cuckoo Dancing Week
15-21 Hunt for Happiness Week
28-2/4 National Cowboy Poetry Gathering Week

Days

2 Happy Mew Year for Cats Day	17 Judgement Day
3 National Chocolate Covered Cherry Day	21 Squirrel Appreciation Day
4 Trivia Day	21 National Hugging Day
6 National Smith Day	22 Celebration of Life Day
7 I'm Not Going to Take It Anymore Day	22 Answering our Cats' Questions Day
7 Fruitcake Toss Day	23 Snowplow Mailbox Hockey Day
8 Show and Tell at Work Day	25 National Compliment Day
9 Word Nerd Day	26 Todd Hollow Day of Encouragement
9 Thank God It's Monday Day	26 National Peanut Brittle Day
13 International Skeptics Day	27 Thomas Crapper Day
14 Penguin Awareness Day	27 Fun at Work Day
16 Appreciate a Dragon Day	30 Inane Answering Machine Day
17 Rid the World of Fad Diets and Gimmicks Day	30 Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day

Fact is Fiction, TV Reality

First, let me apologize about *My Name Is Earl*. I swear the first 4 episodes were great, but the last 3 have been pretty bad. Today, we have a quote from my new obsession, *LOST* Season 1. In episode 9, the character Hurley builds a two hole golf course for the survivors. When asked why he wasted his time on it he said,

"If we are stuck here, then surviving isn't going to cut it. We need to have some way we can just have fun, or else we are just going to go crazy waiting for the next bad thing to happen."

Yeah, I know its a TV show, but that doesn't mean it's not true.

