

Title 1 Parent Involvement Monthly Newsletter

September 2011

Begin the year with personal time lines

As you start the year, you want to learn about each student in your classroom. They also want to learn more about one another. Here's an activity that will introduce an important social studies concept--the time line--while helping students get to know one another.

Tell students they are each going to create a time line with at least five events from their past and five events from their future. Help students think about significant events in their lives.

For example, they could highlight:

- The day they were born.
- The day they took their first steps.
- Their first day in school.
- A very special gift they received.
- A memorable family trip.
- The first time they flew on an airplane.
- The first time they rode a bike.
- A time they went to the hospital.
- A death of someone they loved.

Tell students that one event should be "Started in Mrs. ___'s class." Take a photo of each child walking through the door to your room. They'll be able to attach their photos to their time lines.

Then help them make predictions about what they may do in the future.

Once your students have selected their key events, let them create their time lines on paper or poster board. They should label and illustrate each event. A family photo, a drawing or even an object (like a sea shell from a beach trip) can all be used to illustrate key dates.

When the time lines are complete, have students present them to the class. Then create a bulletin board to display what your students have accomplished. Parents will enjoy seeing them when they attend your back-to-school night.

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Renner

Reminders

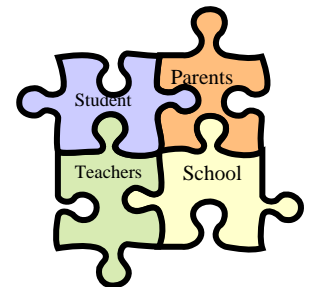
I hope the year is going well. I have now personally met most of you and am glad to have had that opportunity.

Please remember to use the new purchase order forms that were sent this week in place of the old voucher forms.

Pat

"Too often we give children answers to remember rather than problems to solve."

—Roger Lewin



Use graphic novels to teach reading skills

We live in an increasingly visual world. This is one reason for the rise in popularity of the graphic novel. And while you shouldn't abandon your traditional books, there are some advantages to using graphic novels to teach reading skills.

Graphic novels:

- Have visual interest that may appeal to reluctant readers. Some students who say they dislike reading will spend an hour or more with a graphic novel.
- Seem to appeal to boys in particular and often entice boys to read for pleasure.
- Offer a multi-sensory approach to teaching concepts such as rising action, climax and falling action. You can actually show your students where these occur.
- Use boundaries that separate boxes of text from the art on a page. They also use boundaries to guide the reader between several panels on a page, indicating the flow of the story.
- Illustrate a character's thoughts in addition to his words. Thoughts are generally illustrated by a series of bubbles above a character's head, while spoken words are illustrated by the presence of a little tail extending from the bubble toward the speaker. When your students read a graphic novel, they not only read what a character says, but they can also "listen in" on his thoughts, giving them a deeper understanding of the character.

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Math can teach how everyone is unique

At the beginning of the school year, it's important to teach students to appreciate the fact that each and every one of them is unique.

Here are some fun activities to help students learn about one another--while they practice their math skills:

- Birthday math. You'll need squares of 12 different colors of construction paper, one color for each month of the year. On a bulletin board, draw a circle to represent a big cake. Give each student a colored square corresponding to the student's birthday month. Have them write their names and birth dates on the squares. Arrange the squares as "candles" on the birthday cake. Write the months on triangular "flames" of each candle.
- The "eyes" have it. Cut two large identical circles out of poster board. Equally divide and cut one into as many sections as there are students in your class. (Include yourself if necessary.) Give each student one section. Let students look in a hand mirror to check their eye color. Have them color their section of the graph that color. Talk about circle graphs as you attach the sections to the other circle, grouping by color.

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“You can learn many things from children. How much patience you have, for instance.”

—Franklin P. Jones