

TEACHING AND LEARNING: A NEWSLETTER FOR EDUCATORS

SPRING, 2009

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Teachers new to MCPS are eligible to attend the August NEO if they joined the system after August 13, 2008.

Teachers doing research work for various courses are able to search multiple databases:-

- Go to the MCPS website
- Click: For Staff
- Click: Instructional Resources on right side
- Click: ProQuest Professional Educational Journals toward the middle of the site

INTRODUCTORY ISSUE

Welcome to the introductory issue of *Teaching and Learning: A Newsletter for Educators*. While this newsletter is written to support new educators to Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), it is also meant to be a resource for veteran teachers who would like to improve their craft. In the future there will be articles by various stakeholders centering around the topic of teaching and learning. It is hoped that all educators will be able to use some of the strategies, case studies, resources, quotes and ideas to further their professional growth and improve their

teaching and learning. In this issue we have a book review, resources from PBS and Smithsonian and tips on Classroom Management. The ultimate goal is that you will gather valuable information that was written with you in mind, the teacher in the classroom.



New Teacher Induction Program

Office of Organizational Develop-

You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face.

—Eleanor Roosevelt

Gail Epps

Program Manager

RESEARCH-BASED CLASSROOM STRATEGIES FOR NEW AND VETERAN TEACHERS

Neal A. Glasgow and Cathy D. Hicks discuss in *What Successful Teachers Do: 91 Research-Based Classroom Strategies for New and Veteran Teachers* several opportunities that educators have to improve their craft of teaching. This book published by Corwin Press in 2003 is chock full of activities to interact and collaborate with students, manage classroom organization and discipline, manage classroom time, organize

curricular goals, lesson plans, and provide instructional delivery. In addition, teachers can also get information on using student assessment and feedback to maximize instructional effectiveness; working with special needs students; celebrating diversity in the classroom; emphasizing the positive in cultural, linguistic, ethnic, and gender identity; integrating technology in the classroom; enhancing teacher self-assessment and reflection; develop-

ing a professional identity; enhancing professional relationships with colleagues; and fostering a positive relationship with parents. These 91 key strategies provide theory, research, and practical suggestions for any teacher. What research-based strategy are you using in your classroom and what is the extent of your success? Send me, Gail Epps, OOD, an email to in paragraph form explaining your strategy.

MCEA IS YOUR ASSOCIATION

Whether you are a new teacher to the profession, an experienced teacher new to the county or a veteran teacher, Montgomery County Education Association (MCEA) is there for you. Your president is Bonnie Cullison and she has been on the cutting edge of professional growth, equity for teachers, teacher leadership and teacher empowerment for many years. A former speech pathologist, Bonnie has led the county in advocating for teachers and

the professional growth that they need to have in order to succeed. Did you know that MCEA has several committees or groups that you can lend your voice to? If you are interested in participating in the union contact Mr. Jamal Miller at 301 294-6232 or visit the new MCEA Center at 12 Taft Court, Rockville, MD. You can also email MCEA at: helpdesk@mcea.nea.org

RESOURCES GALORE

Resources are just one of the very important components of a teacher's tool kit. Living in the metropolitan Washington area brings to life many opportunities, activities, and possibilities for professional growth. Turn these opportunities into teaching entry points.

The Idea Book for Educators. Receive this spring issue which has several informational pieces on Abraham Lincoln. Order the Fall 2009 issue and receive the spring 2009 issue by notifying them online at www.Biography.com/classroom or www.History.com/classroom.

The Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. This fabulous museum has a new exhibit entitled "Written in Bone: Forensic Files of the 17th Century Chesapeake." Scientists reveal how studies of human bones, found in sites ranging from Jamestown, Virginia to St. Mary's City, Maryland, provide new information about the past. Visit www.mnh.si.edu/exhibits to learn more.

Join the fun at Towson University for the Sally Ride Science Festival!

Place: Towson University, Towson, MD

Date: Saturday, May 30, 2009

Time: 11:00am to 4:15pm

The Science Festival, sponsored by Northrop Grumman, includes

- An inspiring talk by astronaut Wendy Lawrence
- Workshops for girls, given by local veterinarians, astronomers, microbiologists and more
- Workshops for parents and teachers on ways to support girls' interests in science
- A street fair with booths, hands-on activities, food, and

music

Don't miss out—sign up now!
<http://www.sallyridesience.com/festivals/09towson0530>

Register by April 30, 2009 for only \$15 per person.
Registration increases to \$20 per person on May 1.

Call: 1.800.561.5161 for more information
Advance registration is required.



The National Council for History Education is a non-profit corporation dedicated to promoting the importance of history in schools and in society. Contact them through www.nche.net

Would you like to learn more about the Lakota Native Americans? If so, visit a virtual exhibit at: www.sfmission.org/museum/exhibits

Need information which includes documents and photographs of the Mexican Revolution? Go to:

www.latinamericanstudies.org/mex-revolution.htm

Preventive Discipline Strategies

- Use eye contact and proximity.
- Post class rules in a prominent location
- Use cues and signals
- Monitor continually.
- Use I-statements.
- Get to know students and what is going on in their lives.
- Give praise for appropriate behavior.

—Planning Classroom Management: A Five-Step Process to Creating a Positive Learning Environment by Karen Bosch

RESOURCES GALORE