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This is the first issue of our school newsletter "Teacher to Teacher". Its purpose is provide teachers the opportunity to share their ideas and thoughts concerning their profession. Special activities that have worked in a certain class are great to be shared among teachers. So are classroom management tips. All teachers are welcome to contribute to this newsletter.

Teacher to Teacher

Dear colleagues;

I have been working with you for approximately two months. I really have to say that I have enjoyed working with you especially after seeing the team spirit that you possess and your ambition to progress and develop. I can see that you are doing your best to improve

your teaching and classroom management skills. Yes, teaching is a demanding job and, at times, it is exhausting and stressful. Deadlines have to be met constantly and the nature of this profession doesn't allow for delay. But we can't deny that teaching is rewarding and we, as educators, learn from our students as much as they learn from us.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation for all the efforts that you put in hoping the best for you and your students.

Amal Farhat



Explore Your Students' Abilities

I would like to share with you about fantasy writing in my Grade 2 classes. You'll be surprised how they write and think of the ideas and vocabulary they use. At the beginning, it was too hard for students to start writing on their own. They kept asking for spellings of

words and the meanings of others. But with time and patience and encouraging them to share, you will definitely get unexpected results. In group work, you can stress each student's special strength. For example assign one as illustrator, one as author and another as

If I Could

I would teach each child to be positive to

Smile, to love and be loved.

I would teach each child to take time to

Observe some miracle of nature: the song

Of a bird, the beauty of a snowflake, the

Orange glow of a winter sunset.

I would teach each child to feel warmly about.

The peers for whom the task of learning

Does not come easily.

I would teach each child that it is ok to show

Their feelings by laughing, crying or

Talking with someone they care about.

Every day I would have each child feel special.

And through my actions, each one would

Know how much I really care.

•••••
spelling helper. This way each student is working according to his/ her strength.

Miss Alya

The Reward/ Punishment System

All the teachers in our school are facing a common problem in their teaching process. It is the presence of rowdy students in their classes.

To solve the problem, teachers are advised to use a clear reward/ punishment system. You can reward your students if they are applying the classroom rules in too many ways such as:

- ◇ Encouraging cards
- ◇ Sweets (!)
- ◇ Free passes: hallway pass, drinking pass, H.W pass
- ◇ Invite students to other classes
- ◇ Congratulating letters

On the other hand, punishment is needed for those who don't respect the rules of their class anymore. Also punishment has many ways to be applied:

- ◇ Minus points (!!!)
- ◇ Ignoring student's answer if it was said noisily
- ◇ Making yellow and red cards for warning students
- ◇ Detention for five minutes at the end of school
- ◇ Sending students to the director as a last solution

Finally, I hope that we can control this problems using sound educational methods.

Huda Abou Taha

(!!) It is best to reward students with something that will add on their academic and educational abilities.

(!!!) Many argue that when reward and punishment procedures relate to behavior, the marks which are attained academically, should not be altered (due to a student's behavior).



Befriend Your Students

I have been teaching for eleven years. As a teacher, I faced a lot of difficulties as well as good experiences, but an important thing I want to speak about is my relation with my students. This relation helped me a lot and it is helping me till now. So, dear friends, you should know how to deal with students especially teenagers. You should be lenient on one hand and strict on the other. Aside from your teacher-student relationship, you should establish a friendship.

When students have problems, you have to listen to them and try to help.

You have to consider that all of us are people and have feelings and thoughts.

So, dear friends, do this and you are going to help yourselves and your students.

Working in groups is very useful for students. Both high and low-achieving students will get new and essential skills. As for underachievers, especially those who feel shy talking to the whole class, they will be able to talk and express their thoughts freely in their groups.

By grouping students, we are putting every three or four minds into one task, so the result should be times better than when it is achieved by individual students. Students get to speak, listen, and think. Many believe that it is only the high achievers that benefit from group work, but that is not true and accurate. High achievers get the experience to aid and teach which in itself is a learning experience. Besides, when one teaches a concept to another, he/ she will be able to retain what he/ she learned for a longer time.



Wail M.

Journal Writing in the Classroom

By writing every day, the students gain fluency while getting a chance to practice important punctuation, spelling and style skills in context.

Free writing: to write whatever students want. Students' writings tend to get silly with lack of focus. This way students stay focused on particular themes or topics.

Journal Topics:

- What do you like to do at recess?
- Do you think girls or boys have it easier?
- Do you think you have too many chores?

- If you could choose whichever chores you want, which ones would you prefer to do?
- What would you do if everyone in your family forgot your birthday?
- If you could travel in a time machine and go any distance into the past or future, where would you decide to go? Why?
- What makes our class special?
- If you could choose any bed time you wanted, what time would you

pick?

- Pretended that you were already grown up with children, how would you treat them differently from the way your parents treat you?
- Would you like to have an identical twin? What would be the best thing about it? What would be the worst thing about it?
- Are you excited to grow up? What does it mean to be grown up. What do you think will be the best thing about it? What about the worst thing?



Journals can be used to strengthen students' fluency, mechanics and spelling in a stress-free manner.

Checklist:

◆ Date	1 pt
◆ Neatness/ handwriting	1pt
◆ Periods	1pt
◆ 1-2 sentences	2pts
◆ 3-4 sentences	2 pts
◆ 5 or more sentences	3 pts.
◆ Total	10 pts.

Benefits of Journals:

- ◆ Sort out experiences, solve problems and consider varying perspectives
- ◆ Examine relationships with others and the world
- ◆ Reflect on personal values, goals and deals.
- ◆ Summarize ideas, experiences and opinions before and after instruction
- ◆ Witness own academic and personal growth by reading past entries.

By reading journal entries, teacher gets to know students':

- * Anxieties
- * Problems
- * Excitements
- * Joys

Negative aspects of Journals:

- The potential for the teacher to hurt students' feelings with criticism.
- The loss of instructional time needed to teach course material.



Instruction time can be conserved by simply limiting journal writing to 5–10 minutes a period. A more interesting approach to conserving time, however, is to assign journal topics relating to the instructional topic of the day.

Miss Fatima Shahada

**Teacher to Teacher
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Please prepare your contributions for the next issue as soon as possible.



Along with your contribution, add one of your funniest incidents in your teaching experience.

Class Funniest Moments

as English teachers we are doing a daily speaking activity in our classes "Show & Tell". One day, I asked a student to bring a toy to the class in order to talk about. The student was an under-achiever. He brought with him a toy, but he didn't say a word. His classmates encouraged him to speak up, but he would not. They asked him questions as they usually do, but no answer. No way. Finally, and being bored from the situation, a girl stood up and asked him, "Can you just tell me what the name of your toy is?"



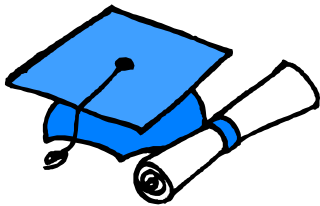
Directly, he answered, "Huda". His friends clapped and clapped and clapped because he said a word. Unfortunately, the boy's toy was a.....dog!!!

Huda Abu Taha



NEXT ISSUE

Teacher's Take Time



1. Take time to be **READY** to teach.
2. Take time to **PLAN** your work.
3. Take time to **MAKE** an assignment that can be understood by every student in your class.
4. Take time to **CHECK** the work of your students.
5. Take time to **REVIEW** the work at the end of the day.
6. Take time to **STAY** in your room at the end of the school day to allow students to come to your and talk over their problems.
7. Take time to **SEE** your principal or supervisor whenever you have problems.
8. Take time to **KNOW** your students from your own standpoint and not on the basis of another teacher's opinion.
9. Take time to **KEEP** your records in good order and up-to-date.
10. Take time to be **HEALTHY**, good humored and wide awake, eager for the activities of the day.
11. Take time to do a **LITTLE STUDYING** each day.
12. Take time to **ATTEND** professional meetings.
13. Take time to **BE ON TIME** for every scheduled activity in the school.
14. Take time to **DO THOROUGHLY** everything required of your profession and your position.

