

WEEK 6

Dear NEA Members,

Greetings! There are many new ideas out there to help teachers. NEA has created a web-site called "Works-4-Me" which are tried and true teaching hints suggested by NEA members. Each week you will receive an e-mail with six helpful (and short) hints to help you in your teaching. They will fall under the following categories:

Teaching Techniques
Content
Getting Organized
Managing Your Classroom
Relationships
Using Technology

In addition, you will get information about your NEA Member Benefits that are available to you through your membership in the Association. Click on the link or visit www.neamb.com.

Teaching Techniques

Getting to Know You

"At the beginning of the school year I feel it is important to let the students know about me and to find out about them. I draw or find pictures to make a collage of things I am interested in or things that are important to me. Students have to try to discover through the picture as many things about me as they can. Then I ask them to make a collage about themselves. No words can be used. Only pictures. It is an interesting way for us to get to know each other and often I find out important and interesting things about the children."

Content

Bean Bag Count

"I use a bean bag for my students to throw and catch as they count. It's also useful when counting by 2's, 5's and 10's. The beanbags keep the students' interest and make learning fun. This is also good for problem solving because if they drop the bag, they have to start over. Pretty soon they figure out that they should toss it to the person closest to them. It's fun to see them figure out these everyday problems on their own."

Getting Organized

Class VIP

"To avoid the arguments about who will pass out papers or run to the office, I select a VIP each day. I write each student's name on a piece of sentence strip and make a small flip chart using individual binder rings. I put this on a bulletin board where the class can see. Every morning when we enter the classroom, one of the first things we do is see who the VIP is. This cuts down on hurt feelings and I can make sure that everyone gets a turn."

Managing Your Classroom

Raining Management

"In my class, there are many activities, projects and lessons going on all at once. In order to allow each student the freedom to move about as needed, yet stay on task; I use a rainstick to gain the attention of the class back to me. When I need to speak to the class as a whole or have the groups change activities, all I have to do is turn the rainstick over. The students automatically freeze and turn their attention toward me. It's the best thing I've ever done to maintain classroom management."

Relationships

Personal Invitations

"I help parents connect with their child's school experience by purchasing a pack of postcards that are blank with the exception of the postage on the front. I have my students fill out their parents' names and addresses and the school's return address on the front. I send the postcards out with a handwritten personal invitation to the parent/teacher conferences on the back. The notes are personal and have obviously taken time and thought to produce which sends a very positive message to parents that their child and their participation in their child's education are important to me. High school conferences are sparsely attended at our school and this works at getting parents to visit the classroom."

Using Technology

Fiesta with Friends

"My young Spanish students meet with a Spanish class at the high school and have a fiesta. We send each other email messages in preparation and anticipation of the big event. This helps the students with language, spelling, reading and communication skills."

NEA Member Benefit of the Week:

Enter today at the new neamb.com and you could win a laptop!

We've got the perfect tool to help you save time and get things done a little easier, at school and at home. Enter online today for your chance to win one of four brand new Dell® laptops. Sponsored by the neamb.com **Professional Resources** channel; no purchase necessary. Winners will be informed by mail on or before October 9, 2009.

It's an exciting time of year for everyone, but it can also be demanding for educators. We'd like to do everything we can to save you time and help you stretch your budget. That's why we've negotiated special offers, discounts, and giveaways on your behalf. And we've made it easier for you to access these great deals and useful classroom tools in one place – just visit the Back-to-School Savings page under Quick Links at neamb.com.

Source: www.neamb.com

NEA Member Benefit Article of the Week:

September is Life Insurance Awareness Month. Did you know as a member of NEA you have FREE Life Insurance?

Register Your Beneficiary for NO COST NEA Complimentary Life Insurance

Created exclusively for NEA members.

- Up to \$1000 of term life insurance for Active, Staff, Reserve, and Life members
- \$50,000 of AD&D insurance for any covered accident that occurs while on the job or serving as an Association Leader
- \$150,000 of life insurance for unlawful homicide while on the job

[Register your beneficiary today!](#)

Source: http://www.neamb.com/home/1199_881.htm