

WEEK 7

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

Birthday Cards

"I have my students get to know each other by making birthday cards. They sit in groups and design a card for the person across from them. They have to find out what hobbies that person enjoys, books they like to read, places they have been and design a cover for a birthday card accordingly. The card must have the student's name, a greeting and their date of birth. I keep the stack by the classroom calendar and post the birthdates. When someone's birthday comes up, the card gets passed around the room for everyone to sign. I give it to the birthday student on their special day along with a birthday pencil. We make up a half birthday for those who were born during the summer. The students who do not celebrate birthdays receive a greeting card during a month when there are no birthdays. This makes handling birthdays much simpler. The kids love to read their cards and know that they are celebrated and appreciated."

Content

Journaling about Bear

"I purchase a stuffed bear and parent volunteers make take-home cloth bags for Bear. Students take Bear for one night and are told to keep Bear safe, clean, and fed pretend bear food. A writing journal is included to document the 'sleep-over adventure.' The following day when Bear is returned the student sits in our special miniature recliner chair holding Bear. When the student's adventure with Bear is read there is such enjoyment by the entire class and also by the student getting to hear his/her very own story from the journal. I then ask the students if they would like to add anything that was not included in the story. I reinforce the concept of writing and reading of the story and oral sharing to students. This is one of their favorite times of the day. Anticipation is at an all-time high when a name is drawn at the end of the activity to take Bear home next."

Getting Organized

Daily Assignment Binder

"I keep a three ring binder on the chalk ledge that has a folder in it for each class that I teach. It contains extra worksheets and handouts. At the front, I keep a written record of each day's assignments. When students miss a class, it's their responsibility to get the binder, fill out the form, and get the missed assignments."

Managing Your Classroom

National Association of School Psychologists

"In light of the tragedy in Littleton, Colorado, educators may find valuable information on the National Association of School Psychologists web site, <http://www.naspweb.org>. If you click on 'What's New' on the home page, NASP resources on crisis prevention and violence prevention will come up."

Relationships

Student Comments for Conferences

"To prepare for parent-teacher conferences, I hand out to my students a worksheet which is divided in half. On one side it says 'Progress Report for _____' and states, 'My Observations.'" Two headings are included for the

student to consider: strengths and things to work on. My students fold the page in half and think about themselves and their progress to this point in the year. They write freely about the things they do well and about the things they feel they need to improve. I collect their papers and record my thoughts about the child's progress on the other side of the page under the same headings. At the conference, I share the progress report with the parent as a basis for our discussion. Parents are thrilled to see that their child is thinking about their learning and evaluating their progress. It is also refreshing to see how many of our children really do know themselves. My comments frequently mirror those written by the student, but I am also able to include my observations of the child's academic and social progress. The paper is given to the parent at the end of the conference to display at home as a reminder of the goal(s) set by the student and teacher for the upcoming marking period."

Using Technology

Teaching Students to use Email

"I show students how to use email using heart chain messages. We discuss how positive thoughts make all of us feel good. I send messages to the students and they are required to check their email daily. I pick two students to start the chain and send them the following message: 'This heart note is for _____. Please add a special thought about this person to the note and send it on to another student in the class. Please send me a copy of the note, as you will get a check in the gradebook when I receive the copy. Forward this to a student that has not received it yet, but do not forward it to the student that you are writing about. If you are the last classmate to receive the message, forward it to me and I will pass it on to the complimented student.' These messages have been known to make a student's day! It's an easy way to teach email concepts and make my students feel good at the same time."

NEA Member Benefit of the Week:

A Book Club You Can Love!

NEA Member Benefits has joined with **Progressive Book Club** to offer NEA members great deals on a wide range of current books—without the hassles often associated with book clubs!

Through special arrangement, NEA members who join Progressive Book Club can select two free books from hundreds of titles, paying only a small shipping and handling charge. Then members are required to buy only two more books within the next year at regular club prices, which can reflect savings of up to 80 percent off the cover price!

Here's how it works: Progressive's renowned editorial board reviews and selects the best titles in fiction, history, health, education, politics and more. Each month, members who sign up receive an email that lists recommended authors and specials. It's up to the member to initiate purchasing a book—or not! (Unlike most book clubs, members will not automatically receive books they do not order.)

Add this great member bonus: For each regular club price book of \$10 or more purchased, Progressive will donate \$2 to a beneficiary organization that the member designates. (Even the NEA Health Information Network and NEA Foundation are options!)

Remember, as long as a member purchases two books at regular club prices within the first year, their obligation is met—forever!

Find out more about great deals and great reads from the Progressive Book Club at the NEA Member Benefits website at www.neamb.com.

NEA Member Benefit Article of the Week:

The “Seven Wonders” of Life Insurance

September is *Life Insurance Awareness Month*—and no better time to remind NEA members of the many ways life insurance can safeguard their families' financial security.

An alarming number of Americans lack adequate life insurance protection, and NEA members are no exception—surveys show that 86 percent of members are underinsured. For this compelling reason, the NEA Members Insurance Trust has teamed up with the non-profit LIFE Foundation to share the following “Seven Wonders of Life Insurance.”

Life insurance:

- 1. Buys time.** It allows loved ones to focus on their grief instead of worrying about how to pay for things like the funeral and other final expenses.
- 2. Provides a fresh start.** It can help a family start with a clean slate by paying off such things as credit card bills, outstanding loans and even the mortgage.

3. **Generates income.** It can replace lost income for years to come so that surviving family members can continue to pay for life's necessities.
4. **Offers flexibility.** It can make it possible for surviving family members to take time off from work or transition to a more adaptable work schedule.
5. **Creates opportunities.** It can help surviving family members pursue new career opportunities by paying tuition to learn a new trade or providing seed money to start a business.
6. **Funds the future.** It can fund longer-range goals like a college education for the children or a comfortable retirement for a surviving spouse.
7. **Helps leave a legacy.** It gives parents the chance to leave future generations with the legacy of long-term financial security.

During the month of September, the NEA Members Insurance Trust is offering a wealth of resources, tools, and information—everything you need to know about protecting your family financially—online at **neamb.com**. Go there to test your insurance IQ and become eligible to win one of a hundred \$100 gift cards!*

** Life Insurance Promotion conducted between 9/1/09 and 10/15/09. Sponsor, Operator is NEA Members Insurance Trust. Offer open only to NEA members. For details and official rules, visit neamb.com. Odds of winning depend on number of eligible entries submitted. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED.*

Source: www.neamb.com