

## Week 17

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](http://www.neamb.com).

### **Teaching Techniques**

#### **Four Corner Questions**

"During our extended block schedule period, my students get a little restless and need a quick activity. Rather than give them a written quiz, I ask them a multiple choice question about the current topic of study and assign each corner of the room a possible answer and letter. To avoid the problem of everyone following the smart kids to the correct corner, I let them know that I've struck a deal with the 'brains' for them to purposely pick the incorrect corner sometimes to throw the others off. The kids love it because involves everyone, it's a quick and easy way to check for understanding and after doing this a couple of times, they're ready to return to their seats for more learning!"

### **Content**

#### **Current Events**

"In order to keep my 'current events' current in my classroom, I assign the student of the week the job of clipping local, state, national and world news articles for our news bulletin board. When they come to school on Monday

with pictures of themselves and their favorite items to share, they also have current events to share with the classroom".

## **Getting Organized**

### **Shaving Cream Clean-Ups**

"Shaving cream will remove pencil and pen marks from desk tops. I put shaving cream on each child's desk and then we do some form of leaning activity with the cream. For example, I ask students to draw a picture that illustrates a certain fraction or geometric shape or they write their spelling words. The inexpensive kind works just as well as the expensive kind."

## **Managing Your Classroom**

### **Missing Numbers**

"I keep track of assignments by assigning each student a number. All I have to do is look through the number list and I know who is missing work. It's much easier than using names in alphabetical order. I just call out whatever number is missing work. The student numbers are the same as their book distribution numbers."

## **Relationships**

### **Email Connections**

"I help parents connect with their child's school experience by creating an email list of all parents with computer access. I email a newsletter to my parents weekly letting them know what's happening in class. Using email has solved the problem of leaving messages and I have a record of correspondence if I need it. I encourage parents without email to call and leave messages on my voice mail."

## **Using Technology**

### **Displaying Names**

"I only have one computer in my room so I use my screen saver to say, 'Mrs. Chewing and Ms. Sain's wonderful students.' I have each student's name going across the screen."

## NEA Member Benefit of the Week:

I want to give a "SHOUT OUT" to my colleague Liz Picone who shared with me two items that she prepared for the holiday season. They are the "NEA Member Benefits Holiday Gift Guide" and "Holiday Tips for Frugal Times!" I have included them as the NEA Member Benefit of the Week and the NEA Member Benefit Article of the week. THANKS LIZ!!!

# NEA Member Benefits Holiday Gift Guide

Liz Picone, NEA Member Benefits  
800-609-6580 [Lpicone@neamb.com](mailto:Lpicone@neamb.com)

## NEA Bookstore (*Barnes & Noble*)

- 10% discount...free shipping on orders \$25.00 or more
- Gift Cards, Books, DVDs, CDs, Textbooks, Magazines

## NEA Magazine Service

- **Consider a gift for the whole family!**
  - *Time* 56 issues Cover price \$277.20  
**NEA price \$29.95**
  - *People* 34 issues Cover price \$135.66  
**NEA price \$74.46**
  - *US News & World Report* 12 issues Cover price \$59.00  
**NEA price \$20.00**
- Does the family have a hobby?
  - Golf, Bikes, Camping, Hiking, Boating
- Does the family have pets?
  - *Dog World* 12 issues Cover price \$59.88  
**NEA price \$15.00**
- **Holiday Special** – 1 year of Woman's Day magazine - \$4.99
- Email gift certificates also available

## NEA Click & Save

**Save gas & stress...shop from home**

**\*Offers change on a daily basis so check the site often!**

- Restaurants.com
  - Purchase dining coupons at a 60-80% discount
- Chicos
  - 20% off entire order + free shipping + free tote with \$125 purchase
- Disney Store
  - Up to 60% discount

- Target.com
  - 10% discount
- Sephora
  - New products – up to 75% off
- Coldwater Creek
  - Up to 70% off
- Omaha Steaks
  - Save up to 68% plus receive 3 free gifts

## **The Walking Company Exclusive Online Offer**

***NEA members save up to 15% off all online purchases.***

- Clogs, athletic, dress & casual shoes

## **NEA ID Theft Protection Program**

***Why not consider giving the gift of one year of Identity Theft protection?***

- Individual plan...\$19.95/year (\$10.00 savings)
- Family plan...\$39.95/year (\$20.00 savings)
- Program benefits and options include:
  - \$25,000 Identity Insurance limit for each person (\$0 deductible)
  - Single or Triple Credit Monitoring/Alert Options
  - Fraud Alert, Credit Freeze Options
  - Discounts on prevention tools, credit reports, FICO scores
  - A library of free information

## **Holiday Deals from Whirlpool**

***Helping you spend less time on chores and more time with family.***

- Everyone's home for the holidays. That means more meals, more memories and more dishes! Purchase a new Whirlpool dishwasher to keep up with the extra loads. As an NEA member, you get big discounts on all your appliances from trusted brands like KitchenAid®, Maytag®, Amana®, Whirlpool®, and Gladiator® GarageWorks.

## **Costco**

- Join Costco and start saving today, plus receive coupons for free products and other savings valued at more than \$50.00. Already a Costco member? Renew through NEAMB and receive additional special savings.

## **Progressive Book Club for NEA Members**

- Get 2 books for **FREE** when you join (pay \$6.95 S&H)
- Only have to purchase 2 more books within the year
- Save up to 80% on new titles
- No automatic shipments – buy what you like, when you like
- Support cases you care about with every purchase
  - Select a beneficiary organization (including the NEA Foundation & NEA Health Information Network) to support with book purchase. PBC will donate \$2 from the purchase of each regular club-priced book to that organization.

Go to [www.neamb.com](http://www.neamb.com) for additional details!

SOURCE:

NEA Member Benefit Article of the Week:

## Holiday Tips for Frugal Times!

**\*Save around \$7-10 a day by persuading a family member who usually buys meals and drinks on workdays to take a packed lunch and snacks from home instead. Also consider forgoing your daily latte once or twice a week and use that money for holiday purchases.**

**\*Devise a plan for your holiday shopping**

- Set aside two or three early dates to shop for everything you need. Then you won't have to do any expensive, last minute panic-buying
- Draw up a realistic spending budget. Write a list of everything you want to buy and who you need to buy for and then stick to your list.

**\*Save at least \$15 a week by planning your family's meals. Make a list and stick to the list when you shop. Use coupons and shop on double coupon day. Recent research shows we waste an average of \$800 a year throwing out unused food, with bagged salads, bread and out-of-date frozen goods topping the list.**

**\*Save money on entertainment and going out**

- Instead of going to restaurants or providing all the food for get-togethers yourself, host some potluck dinners and ask everyone to contribute a different type of food or bring a beverage.
- Have a movie night at home.
- Look in your local newspaper and at the library for free events for children.

**\*Turn trash into treasure**

- Gather up 20 new or used CDs, books or DVDs and sell them to other last-minute shoppers at \$5 a pop on half.com. While you are on the site, consider buying presents for your own gift list, at less half the usual price. Pick up bargain presents at neighborhood schools and church bazaars.

**\*Shop with friends**

- Save \$95 or more by getting together with friends to visit out-of-town discount or budget stores for holiday purchases, and to buy food and drink in bulk. Joint trips to Costco or IKEA to buy holiday lights, decorations, artificial trees and presents will slash your usual expenses.

**\*Use online price-comparison sites. Visit mysimon.com, froogle.com and pricegrabber.com to find the cheapest vendor for pricey presents. For specific gifts, try allbookstores.com for books, nextag.com for electronics and shopping.com for clothing.**

**\*Create your own cards**

- **Save over \$47 by making or – better still – getting your children to make holiday cards. A couple of hours spent printing designs and photos, or decorating with stickers and gel pens, is fun and cost-effective. Buy a pack of 100 blank greeting cards with envelopes for \$16.29 at [geographics.com](http://geographics.com).**

**\*According to the Alliance to Save Energy in Washington D.C. save \$127 by stringing your tree or decorating the porch with miniature or LED lights instead of those large bulbs. Using 10 strands of big lights for eight hours a day costs approximately \$127.67 per month versus \$7.20 for the miniature versions and 72 cents for LED lights.**

**\*Save on presents by getting family and friends to agree on a set amount of money to be spent per gift. You would be surprised how creative people can get when they can't spend a lot of money – and it is fun...it brings joy back to the holidays. Or, consider drawing for names instead of buying for everyone or agree to just buy for the children.**

**\*Spend thought, not money, by making presents of your time and skills. Offer your talent, such as babysitting, cleaning, cooking, driving or gardening. The promise of babysitting, written on a pretty card, will be appreciated more than another box of chocolates! Design simple coupons on Microsoft Word and place them in shiny envelopes for a glitzy touch. You can also print out already-formatted coupons at [GiveCoupons.com](http://GiveCoupons.com). It's a great way to ease guilt and avoid the hit to your credit cards over the holidays!**

**\*Mail gifts early to avoid expensive overnight fees. The Post Office offers flat-rate boxes which can also save on mailing costs. Consider only mailing cards to people you will not have the opportunity to see over the Holidays to save on mailing and cards costs.**

**\*Planning to drive to visit your family? Look up cheap gas prices along your route before you go at [gasbuddy.com](http://gasbuddy.com).**

**\*Save on wrapping paper by using comics or other types of wrapping like brown bags. Decorate with last year's Holiday cards, candy canes, cinnamon sticks or holly sprigs. Plan on purchasing wrapping paper after the holidays when stores are begging you to take it home...when they reduce the price by 75%-90%! Consider using gift bags since they can be recycled.**

**\*Consider hosting a cookie exchange. Invite girlfriends to each bake several dozens of their favorite cookie. Everyone brings containers and shares their cookies with the others so each person goes home with a wonderful assortment that did not take hours and hours to create!**

**\*If it is your turn to host the holiday dinner and money is really tight, ask guests to bring a side dish or the stuffing instead of bringing a present.**

**\*Compile a family cookbook with relatives' favorite recipes.**

**\*Assemble a gift basket with food items, DVDs, books or other low-cost items. Shop at secondhand bookstores for gifts for bibliophiles.**

**\*Fill a stocking with “theme items” such as kitchen gadgets, travel-size products, cookie baking, etc.**

**\*Create a “play kit” with props and old clothes for kids to dress up in.**

**\*Send a basket of holiday decorations for the dorm room to a college student.**

**\*Transfer an heirloom to the next generation and include a history of the item.**

**\*Have a camera shop transfer old family movies to DVDs.**