

Teacher Tip of the Week

'Twas the Night Before Christmas—for Teachers

'Twas the week before Christmas
and all through the school
Not a pupil was silent, no matter
what rule.
The children were busy with paper
and paste;
The mess that they made with it
couldn't be faced.

The teacher half frantic and almost
in tears,
Had just settled down to work with
her dears,
When out in the hall there arose
such a clatter
up sprang the kids to see what was
the matter!

Away to the door they all flew like a flash;
The one who was leading went down with a
crash.
Then what to their wondering eyes did appear
But a green Christmas tree! (To decorate I
fear!)

When the teacher saw this, she almost grew
sick.
She knew in a moment it must be Old Nick!
She ran to the door (all her efforts were vain)
But she shouted, and stamped, and she called
them by name;

"Now Tommy! Now Sandy, Now Judy and
Harry!
Stop Billy! Stop Robert! Stop Donny and
Sherry!
Now get to your places get away from the hall
Now get away! Get away! Get away all!"

As leaves that before the wild hurricane fly
The pupils, pell mell, started scurrying by.
They ran to the blackboard and skipped down
the aisle;
Their faces were shining and each had a
smile.

First came a basket of popcorn to string



Then came the Christmas tree
(menacing thing).
As the tree was brought in there
arose a great shout;
The pupils were merrily romping
about.

The state they were in could
lead to a riot;
The teacher was sure, if al-
lowed, they would try it.
Her nerves how they jangled!
Her temples were throbbing!
The rush of her breath sounded
almost like sobbing!

The lines of her face were as
fixed as a mask;

It was plain that she didn't feel up to her
task.
The look in her eye would have tamed a
wild steer,
But the children ignored it; they did every
year.

A tear from her eye and a shake of her head
Soon led me to think that she wished she
were dead.
She spoke not a word but went straight to
her work,
Strung all the popcorn which broke with a
jerk.

But at last it was finished and placed on the
tree;
Then came the bell and the children were
free.
Their shrill little voices soon faded away
And peace was restored at the end of the
day.

As she looked at the Christmas tree glisten-
ing and tall,
She smiled as she whispered,

"Merry Christmas to All"

—Joyce Luke



Ideas to
Share

SECRET WORDS

To motivate my stu-
dents to hand in homework
on time, I choose a secret
word such as *wonderful*.
Every day that the entire
class hands in homework,
they get one letter of this
word on the board. When
the word is completed, the
class decides how they
want to celebrate. Their
ideas are listed and we vote
on a celebration plan.



Helpful Website for Teachers

[http://
www.whychristmas.com/
index.shtml](http://www.whychristmas.com/index.shtml)

whychristmas.com
answers your Christmas
questions. The Hows,
Wheres, but
mostly the Whys
of Christmas!



The New Teacher Support Program

Discuss the History of Christmas Presents with your Students



One of the main reasons we have the custom of giving and receiving presents at Christmas, is to remind us of the presents given to Jesus by the Wise Men: Frankincense, Gold and Myrrh.

- Frankincense was a perfume used in Jewish worship and, as a gift, it showed that people would worship Jesus.
- Gold was associated with Kings and Christians believe that Jesus is the King of Kings. Myrrh was a perfume that was put on dead bodies to make them smell nice and, as a gift, it showed that Jesus would suffer and die.

Christmas itself is really about a big present that God gave the world about 2000 years ago - Jesus! One of the most famous bible verses, John 3:16, says: 'God loved the world so much, that he gave his one and only Son, so that whoever believes in him may not be lost but have eternal life'.

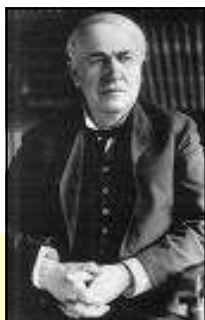
All over the world, families and friends give presents to each other. Most children around the world believe St. Nicholas, Santa Claus or Father Christmas brings them

presents, but in Germany they believe that it is the Christ-kind, in Spain they believe it is the Wise Men and in Italy they believe it is an old lady called Befana.

These presents are also left in different places! In most of Europe, the presents are left in shoes or boots put out by the children. In Italy, the U.K. and the U.S.A. presents are left in stockings, often left hanging by a fire place. In many countries, presents for friends and family may be left under the Christmas Tree. In the UK, they are often opened on Christmas day morning with all the family together. The custom of hanging stockings comes from the story of St. Nicholas.

Presents are opened on different days over the world as well. The earliest presents are opened is on St. Nicholas' Day on December 6th. Children in Holland, Belgium, Germany, Czech Republic and some other European countries open some of their presents on that day.

Children in the UK, USA and many other countries, such as Japan, open their presents on Christmas Day, December 25th. The latest presents are opened on January 6th (a month after the earliest). This is known as Epiphany and is mainly celebrated in Catholic countries such Spain and Mexico. (UNDERLINED WORDS ARE HYPERLINKED TO SITE)



**“IF WE ALL DID
THE THINGS WE
ARE CAPABLE
OF, WE WOULD
ASTOUND
OURSELVES.”**

—THOMAS EDISON

MEET THE PRINCIPALS: Yvonne Kittrell

School: Rutland Elementary

How long have you been a principal at this school? I came to Rutland the year that it opened which was nine years ago. Prior to coming to Rutland, I was the assistant principal at W. A. Wright for five years.

Colleges and universities attended: I got my Bachelor of Science from MTSU and my Master's Degree from Trevecca.

Special interests and hobbies: I have lots of hobbies. Shopping is one of my favorites but I love to read, do gardening and cook. I love to spend time with my family as well.

Who or what inspires you each day as you do your job and why?

Every morning when I get up I lie in bed a few minutes and say a prayer that I will be able to make a difference in someone's day. I believe we are all put on this great earth for that reason.

If you had not gone into education, what type of job would you have chosen: I think it would be nursing. I am not satisfied unless I feel like I am doing something that is a service to others.

What is the favorite part of your job: The unexpected! I know that sounds crazy but I love the fact that every day is different. I never know what to anticipate so I always have to stay on my toes! I love being a part of so many children's lives.





Advice and Support from the Veterans

MYRA J. SLOAN

SPECIAL EDUCATION COORDINATOR/ ADMINISTRATION/LEBANON HIGH SCHOOL



One of the most encouraging things a teacher can do in class is to portray to the students how much love one has for their job. There is nothing so refreshing as to be around someone day in and day out that loves what they are doing. When the teacher is

motivated and excited about what they are doing, it is contagious and the students look forward to just being with the teacher.

Students need to know they are important to you and that you value them as a part of your classroom. The best way to display this is by truly listening to each student whenever they talk to you either individually or in a classroom discussion. Say the name of the student as much as possible because everyone loves to hear their name; it tells them you care enough about them to take the time

to get to know them.

Another thing that I have learned from being a teacher is the importance of being consistent and having a daily routine. Students feel comfortable when they know what their expectations are and what to expect when they break a classroom rule. When students come in the classroom each morning, they SHOULD know what to do the minute they arrive in the room as far as what their objective is for the day and where they can find that objective.

Parents have the right to be communicated with on

at least a weekly basis. If parents know to expect some form of communication from you on a certain day of each week, then it takes the guess work out of whether or not a teacher sent any work or notes home for the week. Communication is a win – win situation because not only does it help you, the teacher, but it helps the parent to know how they can help their child and the child in turn knows and feels that his/her parents are concerned and involved in the education of their child. Always say at least one thing positive about the child to the parents; it sets a tone for a good relationship in the future.

It is never appropriate for a teacher to raise his/her voice at either a rude or volatile parent. You must always remember that you are the professional and if the conversation turns to one of yelling or screaming on the part of the parent, then calmly tell the parent that the conversation will end at that moment unless they can refrain from yelling or using profanity. Never lower your level of professionalism by stooping to the same level of that parent. The same holds true for an out of control student. Even though they may be disrespectful or discourteous to you, you should always keep your voice at a low level as this lets the student know that you are in control at all times.

Teachers should practice remaining calm when disastrous situations arise such as when 9-11 happened during the school day. If you remain calm and in control, the students will pick up on your reaction and mirror it as well.

Remember, your job is one of the most important jobs that anyone could possibly have and you have an awesome responsibility to do it to the best of your ability and probably the most important tip is to wear comfortable shoes!

New Teacher Support Group Participants



JASON DUNN
MAP ACADEMY
9TH-10TH GRADES



GEORGETTE BARNES
MT. JULIET HIGH SCHOOL
FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE

WHY DID YOU BECOME A TEACHER?

"I wanted to make a difference in others' lives. I also became a teacher to educate those who will shape our society in the future."— Jason Dunn

WHY DID YOU BECOME A TEACHER?

"My reason for becoming a teacher was to prepare students to become successful, productive members of society. I feel that as a teacher I am not only preparing students with academic knowledge, but practical skills that will be used in their everyday life. I love being a part of the process from high school to the "real world" and watching the growth in a student over a period of time. More importantly the interaction with young people teaches me new, creative, and exciting ways to improve my skills as a teacher and a mentor."— Georgette Barnes





WILSON COUNTY SCHOOLS



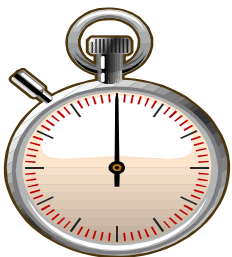
GOOD TEACHING: THE TOP TEN REQUIREMENTS

5—Good teaching is also about style. Should good teaching be entertaining? You bet! Does this mean that it lacks in substance? Not a chance! Effective teaching is not about being locked with both hands glued to a podium or having your eyes fixated on a slide projector while you drone on. Good teachers work the room and every student in it. They realize that they are the conductors and the class is the orchestra. All students play different instruments and at varying proficiencies.

Time Management Tips for Teachers

ORGANIZING THE CLASSROOM

3. Assign each student a number and label as many materials as possible. Put numbers on scissors, bottles of glue, boxes of markers and crayones, mailboxes, etc. The labels are good from year to year, even as students change.
4. Place numbers on the spines of your set of reference books so you can see at a glance if all have been returned and



none are “hibernating” in a student’s desk.

5. Mount a pegboard on the wall or prop it up on the blackboard. Hang materials such as tape, scissors, clipboards, and alphabet and word cards where they will be in plain sight and easy to retrieve and replace.
6. Use transparent tubs for storing art supplies, learning center materials and other items so you and your students can see them.

Continued next week.....

Need a Laugh?



It is the policy of the Wilson County School System not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disability in its educational programs or employment policies as required by Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Equal Pay Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.