



# Teacher Tip of the Week

## New Teacher Support Program 2008-2009

Terry Edwards, Program Coordinator

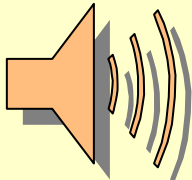
November 2008

Vol. 4 Issue 13

Teacher Tip of the Week  
New Teacher Support  
Program  
Wilson County Schools  
615-453-7282

### The Contagious Classroom

#### HELPFUL WEBSITE FOR TEACHERS



<http://www.findsounds.com/>

A free website where you can search over one million sounds over the Internet and musical instruments.



#### Cutting Corners

##### “YOU LOST MY PAPER”

If you get tired of students claiming --“I turned it in. You must have lost my paper.” After collecting an assignment, automatically staple the stack together. That way, it is impossible to “lose” one student’s paper. If you “lose” one, then you lose all!

*\*As winter approaches, thoughts turn to holidays and outdoor fun. But in classrooms, winter also brings more unpleasant things. Here’s how to deal with germs—*

Teachers, parents and kids spend a lot of time trying to combat cold and flu season and keep germs and contagious conditions out of the classrooms. However, it is inevitable that somebody will pass around the newest cold, the latest flu bug or the neverending case of lice. Despite our best efforts, a classroom is an environment where things can easily be spread around, from sneezing, touching hands, coughing, and just working together in close proximity. However, there are steps parents and teachers can take to minimize or eliminate classroom outbreaks so kids can do what they do best: learn!

#### Colds

- ◆ As soon as the weather turns cold, somebody comes to school with coughing, sneezing, runny nose and various other symptoms of a cold. Soon, it seems as if everyone is coughing, sneezing and running for the tissues. Here are some ways to help minimize the threat of the common cold.
- ◆ Wash hands frequently. Teachers and students should wash their hands before eating, after using the bathroom and after coming into contact with someone who has a cold. Handwashing is the best defense against spreading viruses. Wash for at least 20 seconds (sing “Happy Birthday” twice) and rub hands together vigorously all the way up to the wrists.
- ◆ Encourage everyone to cover their mouths when they cough and use tissues. Make sure the tissues make it



into the trash.

- ◆ Explain to children exactly how viruses are passed from one person to another. Even young children can understand that “germs” on their hands are passed to the things and people they touch. Then remind them throughout the day to make sure they are washing germs off their hands and making an effort to not pass them along to other students.

#### Flu

- ◆ The best way to deal with the flu is to get flu shots. Whether it be from a doctor’s office, a flu shot clinic or a pharmacy, getting a flu shot can mean avoiding a lot of unpleasantness. At least make sure that adults in the building get flu shots, that way teachers and staff don’t end up sick every few weeks.

- ◆ Make sure adults and students stay home when necessary. If you are running a fever, throwing up, or extremely tired--stay home! The same is true for the children. If they exhibit these symptoms, they should be sent home so they can recover and so the other students can avoid becoming sick. It is never worth it to come to school if you are too sick to teach or learn. Rest, recharge your batteries and go back to school when you are healthy.

#### Head Lice

- ◆ Teachers, parents and school systems dread head lice. Once one student has lice, it just seems to keep cycling around. The best solution is to work with families and educate them on the best way to treat lice in their home

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## The Contagious Classroom (story continued from page 1)

should their child contract head lice.

- ◆ Parents, teacher or the school nurse should check heads if there is a case of head lice in the school or classroom, just to be safe. Look for nits (the eggs) or live bugs.
- ◆ Educate parents with a handout or letter if there is an outbreak of head lice. Explain that even families with great personal hygiene can get head lice and outline the best treatments.



**“We cannot build our own future without helping others to build theirs.”—**

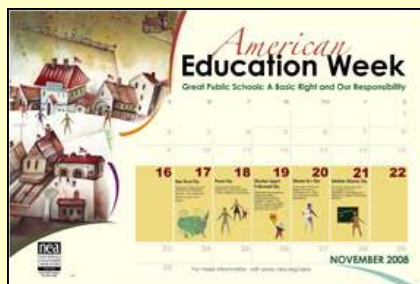
**Bill Clinton**

- ◆ Remove children who have lice from the classroom if possible so they can receive treatment right away. If this is not possible, try to avoid having that student put his or her head close to the teacher's or another student's hair. Also, make sure children don't share personal items such as brushes, hats, blankets and clothes.
- ◆ The best way to avoid a pinkeye outbreak is frequent handwashing. If there is a child with pinkeye in the classroom, make sure he or she washes hands after touching the face or eyes. It is usually common practice to send a child with pinkeye home, as this condition is highly contagious.

### Conjunctivitis

- ◆ Red, itchy, watery eyes are the telltale signs of conjunctivitis or pink-eye. While annoying, this condition will not damage a person's vision and will clear up if treated correctly.
- ◆ Make sure that anything that is touched by a child with conjunctivitis is washed before being used again. Otherwise, the next person to touch it could become an unsuspecting victim.
- ◆ In schools and classrooms across the country, viruses and contagious conditions will be

passed around. However, if you follow the simple suggestions outlined above, you can help make sure your school is not one of them!



## NATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK

**November 16-22**

*Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility*

National Education Association's spotlights the importance of providing every child in America with a quality public education from kindergarten through college, and the need for everyone to do his or her part in making public school great.

NEA calls upon America to provide students with quality public schools so that they can grow, prosper, and achieve in the 21st century.

## New Teacher Support Participants:



**Katherine Hendricks**

Elzie D. Patton  
Elementary

Counselor

### WHY DID YOU BECOME A TEACHER?

*"To help students overcome social and emotional barriers to learning."*—  
Katherine Hendricks



**Mary Beth Boswell**

Wilson Central  
High School

Biology, Anatomy, Physiology

### WHY DID YOU BECOME A TEACHER?

*"I became a teacher to instill a passion for learning in my students. I want all students to believe they can learn and succeed. I chose to teach Biology to hopefully help students find an interest and a love for the subject as I found."*—  
Mary Beth Boswell

## Thanksgiving: A Collection of Websites

If you are planning to celebrate Thanksgiving in your classroom (Grades K-12), below is a list of websites that might be useful:

**THANKSGIVING ON THE NET: A Celebration of America's First Thanksgiving**

<http://holidays.net/thanksgiving/>

**THANKSGIVING: TRADITIONS & HISTORY**

<http://wilstar.com/holidays/thanksgv.htm>

**ALL RECIPES FOR THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**

<http://thanksgivingrecipe.com/>



**PILGRIM HALL MUSEUM: AMERICA'S MUSEUM OF PILGRIM POSSESSIONS**

<http://www.pilgrimhall.org/>

**THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY CRAFTS**

<http://holidays.kaboose.com/thanksgiving/index.html>

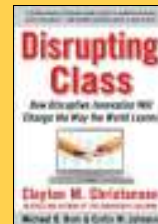
**MACY'S THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE**

[http://www.nyctourist.com/macys\\_menu.htm](http://www.nyctourist.com/macys_menu.htm)

**BLACKWELL'S THANKSGIVING WEBSITE FOR EDUCATORS**

<http://www.vickiblackwell.com/thanks.html>

## From the Bookshelf:



**Disrupting Class: How Disruptive Innovation Will Change the Way the World Learns** by Clayton M. Christensen, Curtis W. Johnson, Michael B. Horn

With his blockbuster bestseller *The Innovator's Dilemma*, Clayton M. Christensen created the classic model for growth and change in corporations and cultures. Now, taking a cue from Bill Gates' 2005 critique of the American school system, he applies his theory of "disruptive innovation" to a much-needed evolution in educational technologies-offering new opportunities and challenges for the business community. Christensen brilliantly shows how tomorrow's innovations in education will change the way the world learns-and what businesses can do to meet those changing demands today.



**Olive, the Other Reindeer**

A modern Christmas classic of a little dog named Olive with big reindeer dreams!

4-8 years of age



# Master Teacher Tips...

## Grading & Testing

You will be more effective in shifting the responsibility for completing work and academic performance from you to the student if you refrain from being judgmental. Therefore, instead of saying “Your report is incomplete,” say “Please add a table of content to your report.” These statements are nonjudgmental and motivating. Remember, anytime a student accepts the responsibility for his or her work and academic performance, half the job of getting better achievement is done.

When reviewing graded work with a student, don’t say, “Why did you do this?” Rather, say “You did very well on questions 1-10. How did you do on the essay questions?” Also, instead of saying, “You never do anything,” say “Here is what you need to do.” This technique uses the positive and avoids using an aggressive and unfriendly communication style. It may not seem important to take such actions. But when you are dealing with people, it is.



## Upcoming Events

**National Family Week**  
November 23-29

**National Game & Puzzle Week**  
November 23-29

**American Education Week**  
November 16-22

**National Geography Awareness Week**  
November 16-22

## For a Laugh!

