



Teacher Tip of the Week

New Teacher Support Program 2008-2009

Terry Edwards, Program Coordinator

April 2009

Vol. 4 Issue 28

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

Celebrating Earth Day (April 22) in the Classroom

Earth Day is a celebration in which teachers have the opportunity to teach their students how to be good stewards of the natural resources around them.

is to have a scrap paper box in which you can place a paper that has a clean side to write on. Then, instead of throwing away papers that cannot be used again, recycle!

HELPFUL WEBSITE FOR TEACHERS



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

Busy Teacher's Café is a K-6 grade resource site for teachers and educators. Here are printables, web-sites, lesson plans, etc.

Rachel Carlson, writer, naturalist, and author of the groundbreaking environmental book, *Silent Spring* [Houghton Mifflin Co., 1962] once said, "if a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in." Celebrating Earth Day in your classroom is one way to come along side your students, sharing and rediscovering the world we live in.



Trash Free Lunches

Teach your students to pack a trash free lunch to reduce the amount of trash thrown away in the cafeteria. Bringing lunch in a lunch box or reusable bag instead of paper is a good start. Instead of a napkin, students can pack a washcloth to wipe their face and hands with. Fresh fruits and homemade foods such as sandwiches are excellent and healthier alternatives to the prepackaged foods and snacks. Waste Free Lunches explains more about how to prepare a trash free lunch.

Why do We Celebrate Earth Day?

Gaylord Nelson came up with an Earth Day celebration in order to use education to change attitudes about the environment. The first Earth Day was celebrated on April 22, 1970. Today, people all across the world celebrate Earth Day as a chance to appreciate nature and learn ideas about how to fix problems like pollution. You can do your part to teach students about Earth Day with these tips to go green at your school.

Turn It Off

Encourage your students to turn off the lights whenever they leave a room to help save energy. Also encourage your students to turn off those electronics when they are not in use to prevent wasting energy. Finally, conserving water usage is important as well, so have students make sure that the faucets are not dripping or left on in the bathroom, and that the toilets do not continue to run longer than they should.

Recycling

There are several ways to recycle both at home with your children and in the classroom with your students. Conservation or reducing the amount of paper used is an important part of recycling. One important way to help conserve is to use both sides of paper when you are taking notes, writing papers and so forth. Another idea

Hygiene

Stopping the spread of germs and infections is as important as conservation and recycling when it comes to the concept of "saving the planet".

(Continued on page 2)



Cutting Corners

WHEN STUDENTS SPEAK IN CLASS

When you ask students to speak in class, do not repeat what they say. If you repeat what they say, the students will learn not to listen to each other and only to listen to you. Also ask your students to comment on each other's comments or to summarize what was said.

Celebrating Earth Day (April 22) in the Classroom (continued from page 1)

Teach children to use soap when washing their hands, and how to wash long enough to kill the germs. Learn when it is important to wash your hands: after sneezing, coughing, going to the bathroom, etc. Find out more about teaching about germs.

Lesson Plan Activities

One activity students love participating in is that of making [recycled paper](#). Keep a box of scrap paper in your classroom, instead of having your students throw away paper, and use this



“Thank God men cannot fly, and lay waste the sky as well as the earth.”

~Henry David Thoreau

supply to make recycled paper. This is a great activity to teach about recycling, even though it does get a little messy.

Teach your students more about recycling by bringing in a variety of objects and have them come up with unique toys made from these recycled objects. You can reuse your old socks as beanbag dolls, decorated and filled with dry beans, and scrap cloth can cover the outside of an empty vegetable can to hold pencils. Be creative and encourage your students to come up with more uses for every day items that we generally throw away.

Steps to Make Paper

You should have been keeping a box for students to put used paper in instead of throwing this paper away. Pass out this scrap paper and have the students each rip the paper into small strips or squares.

Have the students bend their metal coat hanger into a square to make a frame for their paper.

One at a time, have students bring their paper to you at the blender or food processor. Pour some water in with the paper and blend on high until all you have left is a mushy glob.

Add two tablespoons of white glue into the sink or tub of water and all of

the paper mush from the blender.

Have the student use his hands to mix the glue and paper mixture up.

Stretch one leg of the pantyhose over the coat hanger paper frame.

Then, starting at the bottom of the sink or tub beneath the paper mixture, count to 20 as you slowly lift the frame out.

Let the water drip for a minute after bringing the frame completely out of the mixture

Hang the hanger frames up to dry.

Once the paper is completely dry, you can peel it off

Optional: if you would like to iron the paper to make it flat, you can.

Once your students have each made a piece of recycled paper, you can have them write down the steps to making paper to finish the project. This is a fun activity to do with your class, and learning about recycling is very important.

Teach your students more about recycling by bringing in a variety of objects and have them come up with unique toys made from these recycled objects. You can reuse your old socks as beanbag dolls, decorated and filled with dry beans, and scrap cloth can cover the outside of an empty vegetable can to hold pencils. Be creative and encourage your students to come up with more

THANK A TEACHER



Constance Marie Television Actress

“During one of our art projects, Ms. Nancy Strict pointed out to me how good I was. She gave me one-on-one time and went on to say that I was great at recreating the details on my art project. I, of course, grew more confident in my work and majored in art.”—Constance Marie

uses for every day items that we generally throw away.

Teach students about Earth Day with these [Earth Day lesson plan ideas](#). Ideas include understanding the history of Earth Day, teaching children how to recycle old objects, and understanding the purpose behind Earth Day. Be sure to incorporate a lot of discussion as well as hand's-on learning about these important topics. This will help students understand the importance of Earth Day.



New Teacher Support Participants:



Marisa Williams

Southside Elementary

Science



Megan Wilson

Watertown Elementary

Pre-K

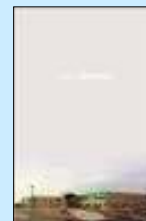
WHY DID YOU BECOME A TEACHER?

"I am a teacher because I love helping people learn new things and work their way through problems (new concepts, etc.) I specifically chose middle school because those were my most difficult times in school. I feel like middle school can be a good experience for students if they have teachers who care."—Marissa Williams

WHY DID YOU BECOME A TEACHER?

"I cannot remember a time in my life that I did not want to be a teacher. I wanted to be a teacher the first day I stepped into my kindergarten classroom. I was blessed with wonderful teachers my entire life. They placed a love for learning in me that I want to pass on."—Megan Wilson

From the Bookshelf:



Columbine
by Dave Cullen

On April 20, 1999, two boys left an indelible stamp on the American psyche. Their goal was simple: to blow up their school, Oklahoma City-style, and to leave "a lasting impression on the world." Their bombs failed, but the ensuing shooting defined a new era of school violence, irrevocable branding every subsequent shooting "another columbine."

When we think of Columbine, we think of the Trench Coat Mafia; we think of Cassie Bernall, the girl we thought professed her faith before she was shot; and we think of the boy pulling himself out of a school window, the whole world was watching him. Now, in a riveting piece of journalism nearly ten years in the making, comes the story none of us knew. In this revelatory book, Dave Cullen has delivered a profile of teenage killers that goes to the heart of psychopathology. He lays bare the callous brutality of mastermind Eric Harris and the quavering, suicidal Dylan Klebold, who went to the prom three days earlier and obsessed about love in his journal.

The result is an astonishing account of two good students with lots of friends, who were secretly stockpiling a basement cache of weapons, recording their raging hatred, and manipulating every adult who got in their way. They left signs everywhere, described by Cullen with a keen investigative eye and psychological acumen. Drawing on hundreds of interviews, thousands of pages of police files, FBI psychologists, and the boys' tapes and diaries, he gives the first complete account of the Columbine tragedy.



Pockets of Real-World Reading Materials

Including a wide variety of authentic, real-world reading materials for students to utilize in the classroom is important, but it can be challenging to store them in a way that is both attractive and child-friendly.

A large, heavy-duty chart with clear pockets is a great way to provide students access to restaurant menus, brochures, maps, magazines, and other texts that don't fit easily or attractively on conventional bookshelves.



Teacher asked George: how can you prove the earth is round? George replied: I can't. Besides, I never said it was.



Master Teacher Tips... Parent Relationships

Occasionally, it seems as though some parents aren't happy with anything. They can tell you everything that is wrong—and not say a word about what is right. To change this situation, you must invite them to act. Ask them to write out their complaints. Then work with them to forge solutions. In the process, address the source of their complaints—and suggest specific ways you can help the parents address their concerns.

When you call parents on the telephone or write them a note to arrange an appointment, explain why you want to meet. It is a mistake to keep parents in the dark. If you do, parents often stew and entertain negative thoughts before arriving to meet with you. They may even confront their child in a negative way. For best results, remove the doubt and the mystery. Give parents time to think and prepare for meeting with you. You will have a more productive meeting because being open and honest builds trust. Being secretive does not.



Upcoming Events

School Library Media Month

National Wildlife Week
April 18-26

Coin Week April 19-25

Trivia Days April 17-19

Boston Marathon April 20

Earth Day April 22

Arbor Day April 24

For a Laugh!

© Original Artist
Reproduction rights obtainable from
www.CartoonStock.com



"I bring you an apple every day, and I still keep getting C-minuses! — What is this, *inflation*?"