



Teacher Tip of the Week

New Teacher Support Program 2009-2010

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Teacher Tip of the Week
New Teacher Support
Program
Wilson County Schools
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This February celebrate Black History Month in the classroom—resources for the teacher

HOW TO DO IT— CHECKLIST



Calling parents when conduct issues arise

Establish a positive rapport with the student's parents. When you call parents or guardians to discuss an issue, try to start with some positive points about the student. Keep in mind that most parents know what to expect when they get a phone call from a teacher. Tell them you need their help in supporting their child to succeed in your class. Explain the problem, describe what you have already done, and ask the parents to make suggestions. Ask them to discuss the issue with their child. Be clear about what you need the student to do and what you will do. You might want the student to complete an Action Plan before you call a parent.

February's Black History Month is the perfect time to investigate the tremendous contributions that African Americans have made to the history and cultural development of the United States. Teachers, parents, and students should be introduced to a few of the most influential voices and memorable images from African American history, art, and literature. Black history can be infused into the curriculum of almost every class taught in the elementary and secondary schools.

Black History Month is a remembrance of important people and events in the history of the African American. It is celebrated annually in the United States and Canada in February and the United Kingdom in the month of October. The remembrance originated in 1926 by historian Carter G. Woodson as "Negro History Week" Woodson chose the second week of February because it marked the birthdays of two Americans who greatly influenced the lives and social condition of African Americans: former President Abraham Lincoln and abolitionist and former slave Frederick Douglass.

The following is a guide to lesson plans and units, posters, worksheets, clip art and images and other resources that might be helpful to all teachers in planning for Black History activities in the classroom.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH RESOURCES

[EDSITEment's Black History Month Feature](#)

An extensive, comprehensive collection of 23 Black History feature lessons covering W.E.B. Du Bois, the NAACP, African Americans in WWI, the Harlem Renaissance, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and *A Raisin in the Sun* (one of EDSITEment's

most popular African American lessons) and more!

[Martin Luther King Teaching Resources](#)

A set of social and behavioral science resources from the American Association for the Advancement's Science NetLinks to celebrate the work and legacy of Dr. King.

[The Power of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.](#)

Five new educational activities related to the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., from the Smithsonian's History Explorer. Each of the activities relates to the children's book, "Martin's Big Words," by Doreen Rappaport (2001, Hyperion Books for Children) - an award-winning biography of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. that focuses on his work in the Civil Rights Movement.

The activities encourage readers to go beyond the words of the book by reading actively, creating word art from King's speeches and other thought-provoking projects.

[Science Update: Spotlight on African-American Scientists](#)

In this series of 60-second audio features, students can hear black scientists talk about their important work in the field of science, technology, engineering, and medicine.

[Black History Month & Science Teaching Resources](#)

Science NetLinks and AAAS have developed a number of resources that will help you honor the achievements and scientific work of African Americans. Consider using these resources in your classroom.

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[National Geographic Underground Railroad](#)

In this interactive online activity from National Geographic, students take part in an online journey through the eyes of a slave, selecting different paths or answers that will lead him or her to freedom, or back to the plantation.

[The Work of W.E.B. Du Bois:](#)



The University of Massachusetts at Amherst is in the process of digitizing an estimated 100,000 works by W.E.B. Du Bois. Once complete, the Verizon Foundation funded project will include more than 4,000 articles, essays and books, as well as correspondence with historical figures such as Albert Einstein and Mohandas Gandhi.

[Blues Journey](#)

Journey with us as we

trace the blues from its early beginnings in southern American fields to its global impact on music today. Through informative interviews and a wealth of podcasts, you'll learn the ins and outs of blues music and find out how the history of the blues has been brought to life on stage at the Kennedy Center.

[Separate is Not Equal: Brown v. Board of Education](#)

Brown v. Board of Education reached the Supreme Court through the fearless efforts of lawyers, community activists, parents, and students. Their struggle to fulfill the American dream set in motion sweeping changes in American society, and redefined the nation's ideals. This resource from the Smithsonian's National Museum of American history has outstanding teacher, parent and student resources to help teach and learn about this landmark case.

[Drop Me Off in Harlem](#)



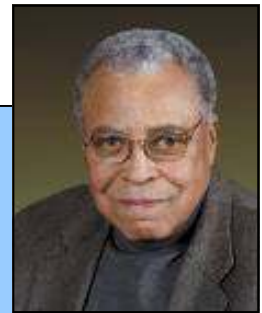
Learn how Harlem flourished during the 1920s and 1930s with this interactive site.

[National African American Read-In](#)

Make literacy a significant part of Black History Month. Participate in the 21st National African American Read-In. It can be as simple as bringing together friends to share a book by an African American author.

CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH ON THE BIOGRAPHY CHANNEL AND WEBSITE

<http://www.biography.com/blackhistory/index.jsp>



“When I read great literature, great drama, speeches, or sermons, I feel that the human mind has not achieved anything greater than the ability to share feelings and thoughts through language.”

—James Earl Jones

A New Series: Testing Tips for Students #6



Now that standardized tests are drawing near, a new series to help students and teachers prepare for the months ahead:

Help young students understand the importance of test preparation by providing a simple explanation of the human brain. Explain that the brain has three jobs -- thinking, body regulation, and emotions. During testing, they want their brains to work hardest on thinking. Point out that if they are hungry, thirsty, sleepy, or have to go to the bathroom, their brains won't be able to focus on thinking. If they are angry, frustrated, scared, or upset, their brains won't be able to focus on thinking. Then brainstorm with students different things they can do to help their brains focus on thinking during tests.

'09-'10

NEW TEACHER SUPPORT PROGRAM
PARTICIPANTSAnna Martin

Mt. Juliet High School

World Geography & World History

WHY DID YOU BECOME A TEACHER?

"For as long as I can remember, I have loved working with others, especially children. Teaching seemed like a natural course for me to take. I love the fact that I have the opportunity to not only share my passion for history with students, but also mentor young people during a very impressionable time in their lives. I look forward to getting to know my students as individuals and encourage them throughout their education and beyond."—Anna Martin

Amanda Neil

Carroll Oakland Elementary

Pre-Kindergarten

WHY DID YOU BECOME A TEACHER?

"When I think back on my life and the people that helped shape my life, my teachers stand out. I want to be a person that can make a difference for a child, make them a positive addition to the next generation. Teaching is my way of giving back for everything that people have done for me."—Amanda Neil

OFF THE
BOOKSHELF

Legacy : Treasures of
Black History
by Donna Wells (Editor) ,
Thomas C. Battle (Editor)

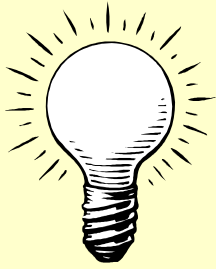
From its Introduction by the revered and distinguished John Hope Franklin to the bibliography and extensive index that complete it, *Legacy* represents a major new contribution to African-American history. The Black experience and its impact on our nation's culture and character come alive in twelve chapters that sweep from ancient Africa and the slave trade to such key eras as the Civil War, Emancipation, and Reconstruction; the Harlem Renaissance and the Jim Crow Era; and the modern Civil Rights and Black Power/Black Arts movements.

The more than 150 historic items showcased here include documents, letters, images, and artifacts, many never before published. More than two dozen prominent Black scholars and activists offer expert insights on the collection, on subjects ranging from traditional African societies to 21st-century art and politics, making this book as definitive as it is beautiful—a priceless resource that will inform and fascinate serious students and casual readers alike.

TEACHER WEBSITE of
THE WEEK:

[http://www.classbrain.com/artteach/publish/
article_133.shtml](http://www.classbrain.com/artteach/publish/article_133.shtml)

Although Black History Month is an appropriate time period to examine African-American History, it is so much a part of the story of America that we should continue to educate ourselves every day of the year. The following websites are a selection of the best resources available on the web today covering this subject.



Strategies for New Teachers . . .

PROFESSIONALISM

- **PLAN TO GROW.** Join associations, read professional journals, take courses. Learn all you can—becoming a Master Teacher is a lifelong endeavor.
- **TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.** Give yourself some time to decompress each week. An exhausted teacher is of little good to students.
- Schools can be pressurized places at the best of times. But you may find some times in the school year are particularly hectic, when you may have to contend with report writing or marking coursework in addition to your usual workload. And if you're involved in running extra-curricular activities, such as drama or sport, you may find yourself rushed off your feet in the run up to the end of term production or school sports day.
- Being aware of potential 'pressure points' can help you plan ahead, so you don't become overloaded. At the beginning of the school year, spend a couple of hours filling in your diary.
- Make a note of any important deadlines, such as reports and coursework marking and aim to start at least three to four weeks before each deadline.
- Setting yourself manageable daily or weekly targets is an effective way to ensure big projects, such as writing reports or coursework marking get completed on time. It will also help prevent you from feeling overwhelmed.
- Wherever your pressure point lies, make sure you plan well ahead to avoid feeling overloaded later.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SWEET POTATO MONTH

**XXI OLYMPICS BEGIN ON
FEBRUARY 12**

**NATIONAL TIME
MANAGEMENT MONTH**

**BOY SCOUT ANNIVERSARY
WEEK
FEBRUARY 3-9**

**JELL-O WEEK
FEBRUARY 7-13**

**BUBBLE GUM DAY
FEBRUARY 5**

**SUPER BOWL XLIV
FEBRUARY 7**

**BALLET DAY
FEBRUARY 7**

NEW TEACHER SUPPORT PROGRAM REQUIRED INSERVICE:

"Parents and Teachers as Partners/Survival Tips for New Teachers"

February 11 4:00-6:00 pm TTRC



Back to school