



Supporting the education and well-being of gifted learners of Carroll, Guernsey, and Tuscarawas Counties.

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Calendar of Events

Nov 2: Reading Festival:
New Towne Mall 10 - 3

Nov. 6: Peer to Peer:
grades 6-8 MATH: 3pm
Grades K-2 MATH: 4:30pm

Nov. 7: Fall Law Day

Nov. 20: Peer to Peer:
Grades 9-12 MATH: 3pm
Grades 3-5 MATH: 4:30pm

Nov. 28:
Happy Thanksgiving!

Congratulations!

Our October
winner is:

Natalie Starr

From
Guernsey Schools

Coordinator's Corner: *A Season of Reflection*

November, especially in Ohio where suddenly the lovely fall colors are gone, it's snowed at least once, our students are behaving as if it's already Christmas, and we finally had to put our summer clothes away to make room in the closet for the sweaters, is a time much in need of something, anything, to bring a little cheer.

I returned to the gifted classroom a couple years ago after a couple of decades as a gifted coordinator, and this year I accepted a position combining teaching and coordinating duties, thinking it would be fun to do both. It is fun. It is also a challenge, and November reminds me what a challenge it is.

So one day, on my hour commute (that I love, because it isn't really snowing like it means it yet), I realized I needed to resurrect a habit my son and I had practiced when he was in middle school and was just beginning to really struggle with acute anxiety. Every day on the way home from school, we told each other three things that were "good" or "positive" about that day. Sure, the first few times all we could think of were things like "lunch" and "recess," but we quickly began to remember moments of happiness, moments of beauty, moments of kindness. I don't know why we stopped--probably because he's an adult now and I don't see him every day--but I am sorry we did. As of November 1, I began telling myself the three things on the way home from school.

I was surprised how quickly my attitude changed when I started looking for "good" things--I decided to include three separate examples of "I was kind to this person even when I didn't want to be in that moment"--instead of things that I was angry about or feeling frustration. That kid who asks me if I have a granola bar in my desk today? Maybe he's just hungry. I start bringing granola bars from home and putting them in my desk. That pile of WEPs that needs edited and signed so they can be sent home before conferences? It looks much less daunting when it's three small piles and I finish one of them that day.

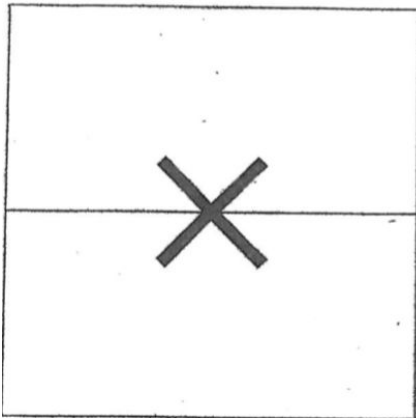
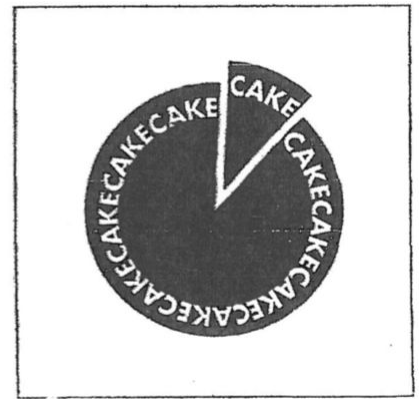
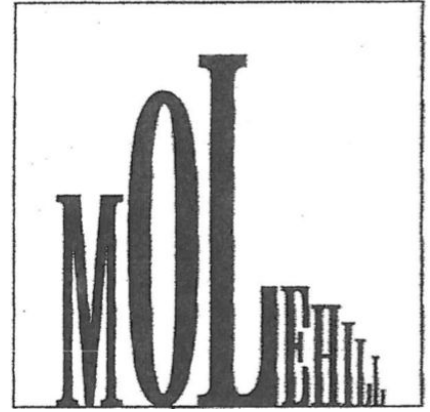
Don't get me wrong--teaching (and coordinating) is still hard. And sometimes frustrating and exhausting. But it's often magical, and often my heart hurts from how much I care about my students and how proud I am of them. In November, choose to remember the magical.

~Rachel Winters, Gifted Coordinator, ECOESC





Use Yer Noggin!



Alternatives to Round Robin Reading or Popcorn Reading

Partner Journals

This information was sourced from: http://www.liketoread.com/struct_talk_partner_reading.php

In this activity students are working with a partner and have a set piece of text to read. It might be one page, or one section or it might be longer. When they have finished reading the set piece then they respond as per the directions down below. I would suggest a 5-10 minute reading period and then a 2-3 minute response period.

The partner responds in writing to a reading, an experience, or a brief lecture. At the same time the partner is writing also. The partners then switch journals, read each other's entries, and write back to their partner, responding to the questions, comments or concerns raised in the entry. Most often the entry is written in friendly letter style. Students reference the text in many ways:

- asking questions
- quoting passages of interest
- noting "golden language" - words or phrases we love to remember
- making personal connections to self, other readings or the world
- predicting what may happen next
- summarizing parts
- pointing out confusing parts
- referencing pages to consider

Example:

Dear Bridgett,

Hello! I read Peter Elbow's suggestions about a freewriting diary. "If you want to improve your writing," he says, "just freewrite 10 minutes a day." I was thinking I could handle that. It would be interesting to see what my mind comes up with.

I also read with interest his comments on page 27: "When you have dreams of glory and imagine how famous your writing will make you, it is just a sneakier trick to keep you from writing: anything you write will disappoint you." A-ha! Is he writing to me?

Not that I have dreams of glory but maybe I set very high standards of myself. Maybe I should scale down my expectations and take some risks.

Maybe kids are like that, too. It's hard to share your piece and open yourself for feedback when you feel everyone is better than you.

I like the words "stuckpoint" and "breakthrough" he refers to on page 59. Those words seem graphic to me. Good words to use with kids.

What about "showing?" (p.90-91) I cannot imagine talking about someone's writing as if it were an article of clothing. He lost me there. Any ideas about this concept?

Stop and Think Reading or Say Something Reading

This information was sourced from: http://www.liketoread.com/struct_talk_stop_think.php

Partners divide the reading into sections. They both read the section silently or aloud and then take turns saying something. If reading aloud, students learn NOT to read for one another. The trick is to learn to ask one another questions to help the partner read for himself. In addition, students stop periodically and say what they are thinking to their partner: a personal connection, a question, something noticed, a connection to another book or movie... say or ask something! Students can read this way in groups with a teacher, as well.

Did you know.... Gifted students may not always excel in school?

Despite having above-average cognitive abilities, if a gifted child's educational and / or social & emotional needs are not met appropriately, s/he may not show exceptional achievement in school. Many gifted children underachieve in school and often drop out. Check on the underachievers. Find out their likes, dislikes, feelings about self, home, and school. Just knowing the teacher cares can provide encouragement for them to achieve more.

Fun Facts: Thanksgiving

1. About 46 million turkeys are cooked for Thanksgiving each year.
2. In 1989, President George H.W. Bush pardoned the first turkey when he noticed the 50 pound bird looked a bit antsy at the official Thanksgiving proclamation. This tradition has continued with each president since. Turkeys pardoned in 2005 and 2009 became the Grand Marshall at Disneyland and Disney World for their annual Thanksgiving Day parades.
3. An estimated 50 million pumpkin pies are eaten on Thanksgiving.
4. In 1953 a Swanson employee made a huge mistake and ordered 260 tons of turkey. A salesman, Gerry Thompson, was inspired by prepared meals on airplanes. His idea: fill 5,000 aluminum trays with turkey, cornbread dressing, gravy, sweet potatoes, and peas and sell for \$0.98 each. It was hit! Within one year 10 million were sold and an industry was born — Frozen TV Dinners.



Register to Win!

the monthly game giveaway...
Email your name and school district by
November 22 to:

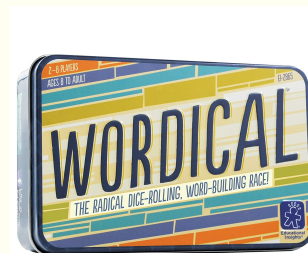
lisa.burrell@ecoesc.org

Or

rachel.winters@ecoesc.org

MONTHLY GAME GIVEAWAY

WORDICAL



The radical dice-rolling, word-building race.

Roll the vowel dice and combine the letters with the consonant cards in your hand—build the highest-scoring word and you win the round. But you'd better hurry—the last word made scores only one point.

Grades 3+/Ages 8 to Adult

The nitty-gritty: Includes: 108 consonant cards, 2 vowel dice, and guide

- Develops word building, spelling, and vocabulary
- For 2 to 8 players

For more information,
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