

Marko & Associates specializes in education consulting, including school in-service at all levels, corporate management training and education consulting in other fields.

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EDUCATION CONSULTANTS

NEWSLETTER

Please call us to discuss your staff concerns. We'll put together a program that will invigorate your staff and inspire passion.

www.markoandassociates.com

“Inspiring Passion In Teachers”

JANUARY 2009

FROM JANE

Welcome to another issue of “Inspiring Passion in Teachers”. Happy New Year! The fall semester is behind us, we have had a few weeks to rest, and are ready for the spring semester. Reflect back on fall, decide what you are proud of, keep it, repeat it, and then most importantly, share it with a colleague.

Now do the reverse. Think about something that could be improved in your teaching practice. Acknowledge it, talk about it with a colleague, develop a plan, and work the plan. Soon it will be a strength! It's the small intentional steps that bring us closer to being master teachers.

Start the New Year off right by celebrating your strengths and by building a new teaching skill. “Until you commit your goals to paper you have intentions that are seeds without soil.” -source unknown

Take a few more steps toward becoming a master teacher by joining me on January 22nd for “Classroom Strategies for Dynamic Teachers Workshop 1.” The day is filled with fabulous ideas that you can use the next day with your students. Each participant receives my book, *Classroom Strategies for Dynamic Teachers*. See the flyer at www.markoandassociates.com for details.



- Jane Elizabeth Marko

TEACHING STRATEGY

Anticipation Guide

When a teacher is looking for an avenue to create an energetic, lively discussion, the Anticipation Guide fits the bill. It is a before and after reading activity consisting of a series of statements that the students respond to. Once the students agree or disagree with each statement, the teacher reads each statement orally asking students to raise their hand if they agree or disagree. “Raise your hand if you agreed with number 1. Hands down. Raise your hand if you disagreed with number 1. Those of you that agreed, tell me your thinking, Why do you agree” At this time, the teacher calls on two or three students to share their thinking. The teacher then asks those who disagreed to share their thinking.

All answers are good answers as long as the student can support the idea. Obviously, “because” is not a good reason. The teacher moves through the statements until all the statements are discussed. It is important that while the before reading discussion occurs, the teacher holds back on sharing opinions on the topic. The idea is to have the students think about the topic and develop their own opinions based on past learning and experiences.

Next, the students are asked to read the article keeping in mind the statements from the Anticipation Guide. When they come across information that either confirms or contradicts their ideas and opin-

ions, they mark it with sticky notes, or jot the information on index cards. Finally, after the students complete the reading, the statements are read again and the students note if their opinion has changed or remained the same. The teacher leads a discussion asking the students what in the article guided them to their thinking.

The tricky part of the Anticipation Guide is in the creation of the statements. They are not statements that have a correct answer, e.g. ‘George Washington was the first president of the United States’. The statements need to draw out various points of view. e.g. ‘The United States has the best government in the world’. The statements might challenge general thought and get the students thinking deeply. Allow enough prep time to develop the statements.

The students love supporting their ideas and comprehension increases because they have had such a lively discussion prior to reading.

Jane Elizabeth Marko

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Our Relationship by Beth Capponi

Beth will be completing her student teaching this semester in Kenosha, WI

I know you are my teacher, the one I see in school,
But you are so much more than that, so please do not be fooled.

I need you, you see, to be there, for more than just my lessons,
Unfortunately, I do not know how to ask for your attention.

What I want from you is many things, of which some I do not know
So how do I express this in a way that I can show?

I hope that you can read my mind, and know what I am thinking,
So we can work on this relationship, instead of it plain stinking.

So here are some things I want from you, and I hope that you will see,
That our relationship is important, and it will help me to achieve.

I have many interests and talents, even if they are not school,
But you must take the initiative to find out that I'm a jewel.

Please listen to me carefully; I have many things to say,
They may not be important to you, but it will make my day.

I need for you to be there to boost my self-esteem,
And when I get in trouble, I hope you'll intervene.

I hope that you will tell me, time and time again,
How valuable you think I am, and that I make a real good friend.

Respect is something important that I also need from you,
And if you expect the same, you know, the road is made for two.

I need you to believe in me, and say I will succeed,
And to know you'll always be there even when I am in need.

Trust is so important, and this is essential for you to know,
That if I don't feel safe with you, I can't confide my woes.

So please take the time to understand, there is no one like me,
I am unique and valuable, and I hope that this you'll see.

So, I hope that you've been listening to what I've said right now,
Because if you want me to succeed, I have just told you how.

TRAINING

SMART Master Certified

Jane Elizabeth Marko is now Master Certified to train SMART Boards. Using an interactive white board in your classroom allows for a seamless integration of technology so that you can use multiple resources for any lesson. Jane brings the same high energy to the trainings and a teacher/lesson plan focus to all trainings. She can come to your school for a day or half day.

<http://smarttech.com/trainingcenter/masters/us/allUS.asp>



WEB WATCH

Multiple pathways transform literacy instruction

(December 2008/January 2009) IRA President Barbara J. Walker
http://www.reading.org/publications/reading_today/samples/index.html

Yoga journal

Ok, this is not necessarily a teacher site per se, but it certainly will help you deal with the stresses of the day. Yoga journal provides podcasting of yoga sessions. My favorite right now is Jason Crandell. Each video sequence is about 20 minutes long. Start with his morning sequence. It will slowly wake you up. Get a few teachers together and try one at lunch. Just make sure the door is closed!

<http://www.yogajournal.com/video/56>

Education Oasis provides great children's book reviews. When you are looking for a read aloud, or just want to recommend a good book to one of your students, this site will help.

http://www.educationoasis.com/ch_book_reviews/childrens_book_reviews.htm

TEACHING TIP

The Art of Teaching

Some teaching strategies are great for many teachers. Some are great for some teachers. They all work sometimes. A strategy can work well in your 1st hour, 3rd hour and then bomb 4th hour. It's the teacher's keen understanding and observation of the students and the class that define the art of teaching. The basic concept of a strategy is always sound, and then it needs an artful teacher to implement it. In "Multiple Pathways Transform Literacy Instruction," Barbara J. Walker, president of International Reading Association, states "when creating multiple pathways, teachers use a flexible range of literacy activities to address the challenges of all students." She is speaking of the art of teaching.

It's imperative that a teacher understands the needs of each student in the classroom and has the savvy to adjust as the lesson evolves. The best functioning classrooms have a skilled professional who understands how students learn, and then can adjust to the individual class and student. That's the art of teaching. Only the teacher in front of those kids for that 180 days knows best how to proceed. Trust your gut, always keeping the students needs first in your thoughts, and your school year will fly by. To read the complete article by Barbara J. Walker, go to WebWatch in this newsletter for the link.

BOOK

Become a more dynamic teacher with our book *Classroom Strategies for Dynamic Teachers*. Dr. Mary Medo and I have collected our favorite teaching strategies in an entertaining and easy-to-use format. Within minutes you can learn a strategy and try it out with your students. This book will never leave your desk!

Dozens of great strategies can be found in *Classroom Strategies for Dynamic Teachers*, along with full size graphic templates for you to start using right away. The book is coil bound so it will lay flat as you use it in your classroom, and when you copy the templates.

Classroom Strategies for Dynamic Teachers is available through www.markoandassociates.com.