

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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& ASSOCIATES

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.

"Inspiring Passion In Teachers"

FROM JANE

Welcome to the second issue of "Inspiring Passion In Teachers", our newsletter for administrators and teachers whose focus is developing a great staff and themselves. Each issue will provide a teaching tip that can be immediately implemented and create results.

It's been an exhilarating spring at Marko & Associates. We have been to many schools helping to plan next year's staff development and have many wonderful in-services to present. The calendar is filling fast.

We provide training in Step Up to Writing, an exciting writing program that helps students to organize and get their ideas on paper. It's powerful and easy.

One of the most exciting developments is the creation of our Web site. Look for it in the very near future. It will make it easier to contact us, and plan your in-services. It has been a creative and rewarding project.

If you are looking for some last minute staff development for this year, please give us a call. We would be happy to assist in any way we can. Enjoy the rest of the school year.

Jane Elizabeth Marko



TEACHING TIP

THINK-PAIR-SHARE

Master teachers organize instruction to create active learners and thinkers. Now, activate doesn't necessarily mean moving around the room every 10 minutes; however it could. What I am talking about is engaging the students in the learning and designing activities that allow the students to think at a deeper level. Simply lecturing in biology class or assigning reading in social studies class isn't enough. Only a very few students have the skills to naturally think this way. Most students need more guidance in their thinking. Teachers can make small alterations in their teaching and make a considerable difference in the way students think.

"Effective teachers explain stuff in lots of different ways... until they do it the way they get it"

Brodsky, 2002

One wonderfully quick and easy strategy is Think-Pair-Share.

Think-Pair-Share, developed by Frank Lyman out of Maryland, requires no prep and naturally builds wait time into your lessons. You merely need to remember to use it. That biology or social studies lecture will have a different energy as students will be more involved and be sharing more detailed ideas.

Think-Pair-Share has three simple steps

1) Think.

The teacher asks a question or presents an idea and asked the students to THINK silently about the question. I always have the students write down their ideas in bullet points on scratch paper. This is a minute at most.

2) Pair.

Next the students talk to a partner about their ideas and compare notes. I limit the time to a minute once again.

3) Share.

Finally the ideas are shared with the whole group. The teacher is free to call on any student because they have all had ample time to think.

You will be very pleased with the richness of the thought and the participation of the students.

Teachers....really good teachers are able to identify how a student learns. Teachers....effective teachers....they know how to apply strategies to help students learn in the manner they need to learn"

Weinberg, 2002

GETTING THROUGH TO THE END

It has been a busy spring with warmer weather of Wisconsin trying ever so hard to arrive. And with the warmer weather comes students trying equally hard to behave when the warmer weather is calling.

Now that spring break is behind us, it is that last few weeks before the end of the year. That small panic of what curriculum still needs to be covered, and the restlessness of the kids combines to muster your last burst of energy needed to complete a the year in great style. The students know what to expect which allows you to push just a bit more and you find yourself saying, "You are almost XX graders now." These few words seem to cause the students shoulders to perk up and settle in with a bit more focus.

One more school year is almost completed and it is time to reflect on the successes of



TOP TEN WAYS TO IMPROVE VOCABULARY

1. Read
2. Read
3. Read
4. Vocabulary instruction
5. Read
6. Read
7. Read
8. Vocabulary instruction
9. Read
10. Read

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the year and begin the planning for next year. What will you repeat, what will you never do again, and what will you continue to grow and work on? The art of teaching is a continual journey of growth and renewal, just as spring is showing us. Think back to this year and set some personal and school goals. How will you improve and polish your teaching for next year?

Jane was enthusiastic and entertaining. It's hard to speak to a group of tired teachers right before grades are due.
3rd grade teacher

WEBSITE WATCH

<http://ideas.wisconsin.edu/>

IDEAS has many lesson plans and teaching ideas all aligned with Wisconsin teaching standards. The teachers I work with have said this site saved them much time.

<http://www.smartbrief.com/ascd/>

ASCD SmartBrief is a news brief that is emailed to you each day. It highlights education related articles in the nation's newspapers and helps us all to stay on top of current issues. You can simply read the quick summary of an article, or if it interests you, read the whole article. If you are too busy that day, you can simply delete.

<http://www.teachersfirst.com/new-tch.shtml>

This site has helpful and quick ideas and resources for the new teacher.

SPRING CLEANING

Don't be one of those teachers with 30 years of files around that you thought you might use. It is time to spring clean. Pick a file drawer- Just one -Start small. Make three piles, recycle, keep, give away. Quickly look at each file and make a quick discussion to which pile it belongs. Don't think too hard or you will end up keeping it all. Just remember, if you haven't used it in five years, you probably are not going to use it. This whole process will take no more that 15-30 minutes and the rewards will be surprising.

1. You will discover great ideas that you simply forgot you had.
2. You will feel a sense of accomplishment every time you look in that drawer.
3. You will regenerate and rediscover more of your passion for teaching.

Administrators, I am sure you have a few drawers too!

