

Friday Focus

April 4, 2014

What a busy week of celebrations!

Ann, your speech inspired the entire audience. Wow!

Emily, I am glad that you enjoyed a wonderful shower celebration. Sorry to have missed it.

Handbook Guidelines & Reminders...

- Sometimes there are situations when teachers need to quickly leave the classroom. Should you ever need to leave your classroom please ensure that you have an adult with your students in your absence. Under no circumstances should students be left unsupervised. Please let the office know if you need assistance.
- I heard of situation where a student convinced an adult to allow her to retrieve an item from an area where students should not go. Fortunately the child was not harmed, but the supervision of the child was compromised.

FERPA Reminders...

- Education records should avoid labeling students
- If grades are posted for all to see use random student numbers in a non-alphabetical order vs. names.
- School personnel should refrain from aimless talk, especially involving third parties.

In the news we often see situations that are extreme. Being reminded of the policies is just good practice ☺

Always error on the side of being overly cautious. When the public eye is on us everything we do can be scrutinized. In our profession we will encounter disagreements in viewpoints and we know that we cannot control how others think or view situations. We can only be in charge of our own actions. As Ann reminded us, if we base every decision we make on what is best for students than we can rest assured that our decision was the right one.

“When our actions are based on good intentions our soul has not regrets.”

-Anthony Douglas Williams

Kalpa...

#473366 for Kristen’s Reading Workshop discussion on March 6 was listed in Kalpa for 12 hours. Sorry, but I did have to adjust this to reflect the 30 minute time frame!

Performance Based Compensation...

Please refer to e-mail from Jasen Witt sent on 4-3-14 for details on evaluation paperwork for Domains 1 & 4.

Now official, the MEAP is over...

A new calendar for state assessments will be released next week. The state has not yet released the name of the assessment. Grades 3-8 will be tested in writing, math, and reading. Three higher order thinking essays per grade level. Grade 4 will take science and grade 5 social studies.

Lisa and Grayson will participate in the Smarter Balanced pilot in May. All teachers will be able to view the administration of this assessment.

We do have a staff meeting on Wednesday, April 16. This meeting will be from 8:15-9:00. Please check the calendar for other important dates!

April 15 is a Friday Switch Day

NO SCHOOL ON FRIDAY, APRIL 18

Spring Break...

The building will be on a hard shut down: Doors secured, heating off, and lights adjusted. Elementary custodial hours will be from 6:30 AM-3:00 PM.

Cultures of Thinking Video Clip...

Lindsey sent out some details in an e-mail on 3/18/14 with a terrific clip of what we would like each team to produce for communicating CoT to families. Please review this e-mail. This is due on April 15 when videotaping will be done with the help of Monica. If you choose to do this on your own that will certainly work!

NCA Paperwork...

Please review timelines and details sent out from NCA goal teams.

Wishing you a relaxing and wonderful break; be safe if you are traveling.

I appreciate you and all that you do for each other and for your students. You really are THE very best staff!

Tammy

