

Beginning Educator Support Team NEWSLETTER

September 2017

A NEW YEAR BEGINS

Welcome to a new school year! This is both an exciting and stressful time as we anticipate the personalities of our new students, the best way to design the learning environment, engage parents, and meet new colleagues.

It's easy to become overwhelmed with so many things to think about. Remember that your students are feeling all of those same emotions, so give them and yourself a moment to breathe, get centered, and cultivate a positive outlook about all the great learning we will all do this year.

Keep in mind the words of Alfred Mercier:

*"What we learn with
pleasure we never forget."*



TALKING POINTS

"I know I should have questions, but I'm not even sure what to ask!"

If you're feeling like this, you might consider some of these possible topics of conversation this month:

Get to know your mentor and team/department colleagues

Key school/district policies

Location/availability of teaching materials

Schedule check-in times with a mentor

Sharing teaching materials with colleagues

Classroom layout of furniture, organizational systems, and traffic flow

WHY I [TEACH]

Welcome to the "Why I..." column! We'll often hear about teaching, but look for Why I coach, mentor, lead, and more.



"I teach because I believe that ideas have enormous power and children have enormous potential. In the classroom, I have the privilege of guiding students to explore new ideas and discover the magnitude of their own potential."

~ Lindsey James, Language Arts teacher, Walla Walla High School

NEED TO KNOW

BEST PLC meeting #1

September 14, 4:00 - 5:30
Pioneer MS, Ms. Duncan's room

ReadyGen Q&A Info Sessions

September 18 or 28, 3:30 - 5:00
Dist. office, Mill Creek Rm.

No School for students

September 1, 4
October 6, 12, 13

Parent Conferences

Week of October 9 (exact schedule varies by building)

Connecting with Mentors

Find time to connect, reflect, and engage in learning through observation.

BRIGHT IDEAS

Research shows that having a colorful, inviting classroom improves student learning. As well, displaying student work promotes a sense of autonomy and positive expectations for learning. But what to do with a big, blank bulletin board when students haven't created anything yet?

Cover plain bulletin boards with colorful paper and borders. But, build students' curiosity and anticipation by including only an intriguing title, indicating the learning, creating, and collaboration they can look forward to in their new classroom.

Here are some ideas for titles:

Adventure is out there... Where will yours take you?

Look who's popping into 2nd grade! (popcorn theme)

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, Look Who's in Our Room! (Chicka Boom book theme)

Welcome to Kindergarten!
You'll FIT Right In! (puzzle pieces theme)

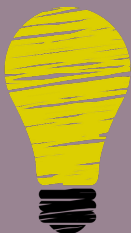
Take What You Need (sticky notes of encouragement cover the board)

Help Wanted (newspaper theme with classroom jobs posted)

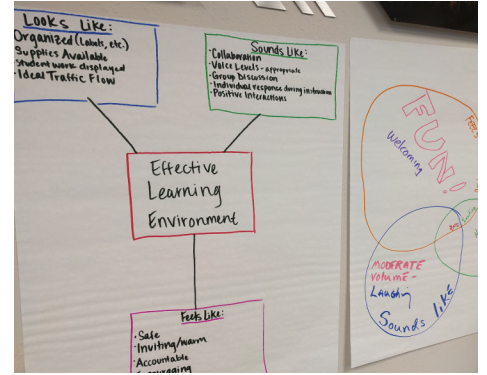
I Used to Think... Now I Know... (students would fill this in)

Any inspiring quote!

Any thought-provoking question!



MENTORING SPOTLIGHT



(Clockwise from upper left: Lance Longmire and Jennifer Golden; "Looks Like, Sounds Like, Feels Like" charts about effective learning environments, Marissa Payton, Alyssa Moreno, and Eric Matson; Keith Angotti and Amanda Archer)

During New Teacher Orientation this year, our newest educators heard inspiring stories from teachers who just wrapped up their first year in 2016-17, discussed key considerations around learning environments and instructional practice, and collaborated with their colleague mentors to plan their first days in the classroom.

With a helping hand from all of the mentors, building buddies, and demo classroom teachers who are a part of BEST (Beginning Educator Support Team), these teachers and their students are primed for a successful year of learning! Help us welcome them and all of our new staff across the district this fall!

CONTACT

Comments, questions, or want to know more about supporting early career teachers in Walla Walla?

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