

Beginning Educator Support Team NEWSLETTER

May 2018

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING AHEAD

Welcome to final quarter of the year! In many ways, the pace of the last months of the school year only seems to speed up. We face testing windows, student placement for next year, and wrapping up our curriculum before we all turn into pumpkins.

However, this is very much a golden time of year for trying some new practices, thinking outside the box, and reflecting on the lessons learned from our colleagues, mentors, administrators, and especially our students.

Though we may be inclined to begin marking off days on the calendar, remember to celebrate the success you've experienced and to elicit the feedback and study the data that we can only get at this time - you will be glad to have it come fall when you're feeling renewed and ready to sit down and begin planning all over again.

"The most interesting information comes from children, for they tell all they know and then stop."
~Mark Twain

TALKING POINTS

As we finish the year strong, here are some topics of conversation for mentors and early career teachers this month:

Reflect to identify insights, discoveries, and patterns of learning for both teachers and students

Make connections between personal learnings and application to future decisions

Review data and explore cause-effect relationships

Logistical information (end-of-year schedules, record-keeping, clean-up, etc.)

Celebrate successes!

WHY I [MENTOR]

"The opportunity to mentor a new teacher this year has been an excellent professional growth opportunity! Building a collegial relationship with someone new in my building, while learning new skills right along side them has been an exciting and meaningful process."

~ Laura Reiter, Green Park Elementary



NEED TO KNOW

BEST PLC (first-year teachers)

May 17, 4:00-5:30
Edison Elementary, library
June 7, 4:00-5:30
District Office

No School for students

May 11, 28

OSPI SE Regional Mentor Roundtable

May 22, 4:00-6:00
SEA-Tech Skills Center

Join WWPS BEST!

The application/nomination period to join our team is open until **May 21**.

We are looking for mentors, building buddies, and demo teachers who want to make a difference for early career teachers and their students.

Contact Erin Dorso or talk with your principal today!

Check our [webpage](#) for more info!

BRIGHT IDEAS

Despite our 180-day school year, teachers are always teachers so we're always thinking about our classrooms, our students, and how to better inspire and ignite a passion for learning - even in the summer. In addition to reflecting on the previous year and making plans for the next, many teachers use this time to steep themselves in topics that demand more cognitive energy than we can give when urgent needs outweigh this type of deep thinking. One topic that many of us will be engaging with this summer is equitable practices for culturally responsive classrooms. If this topic and the courageous conversations that come with it speak to you, here are some outstanding professional readings to consider:

Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain by Zaretta Hammond

Teaching with Poverty in Mind by Eric Jensen

Better than Carrots or Sticks: Restorative Justice for Positive Classroom Management by Smith, Fisher & Frey

Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Teaching and Learning by Sharroky Hollie

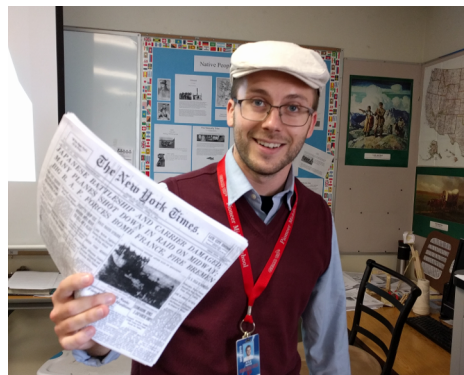
Waking Up White by Debby Irving

Other reading recommendations? We'd love to hear about them!

Don't keep your insights to yourself! Find a reading buddy, share your insights with a mentor, read with your team, or move the work forward by presenting to colleagues in the fall. For more information around this topic, check out [Teaching Tolerance](#).



MENTORING SPOTLIGHT



Upper: Amanda Archer and Abigail Luckstead try some new approaches to motivating their students; Lower: Kyle Royce lives up WWII history as a newsie; Mentor, Lindsey James attended the Equity in Action Mentor conference to make a difference in the lives of beginning teachers and their students.

This time of year is a great time to stretch our wings and try some new practices! We have our students' trust, and we can take a few pedagogical risks to really experience some transformational teaching and learning!

Some amazing ways teachers and mentors around the district are jumping into new practices and out of their comfort zones:

- skits and living history
- leading a book study
- outdoor science
- action research in the classroom
- student discussions and debates
- join a committee for next year
- differentiated learning stations
- attending a conference
- collaborating across content areas with a colleague
- new incentive or community reward system

As always, no matter what you try, reflect, refine, and learn with a mentor!

CONTACT

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

Contact:

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