L.E.N.S. FOCUS



L – Literacy

E – Educators’

N – Network of

S - Saskatchewan

(formerly the Saskatchewan Reading Council)

JUNE, 2019

**END THE YEAR WITH A BANG!**

(A BIG BANG OF LEARNING *while* HAVING FUN!!!)

***Are you getting tired this June! (Who isn’t?)***

***Are your students bored with the same-old, same-old?***

Try changing things up and having students SORRY when they miss a day in June (even though they’re still learning – shhh)!

Do NOT tell them ahead of time – unless it’s to say, “Something new tomorrow!” “A surprise tomorrow in \_\_\_\_\_\_ (Math, Spelling, etc. – fill in your own blank!)” “You have to be away – too bad, because there’s something funny/strange/weird going on in \_\_\_\_!”

 Of course they will ask what – tell them, “If I tell you, it’s not a surprise!”

Then let your imagination run wild and create new challenges every day!

***Here are a few ideas to get you started…***

1. Write a class magazine: have each student create one page for a magazine. Topics can include, “The Greatest Field Trip,” “Novel Time” (My class’ personal FAVE time of each day – we skipped one this year and I almost had a mutiny on my hands.), “Fun in the Gym” – any topics your students want to write about. They can add a photo or drawing. Some of my students have written about favourite subjects or even a funny event or great day like Track Meet or Play Day. Let them decide what the highlights were! Have a contest to create and select the best cover (or two – one for the back). Photocopy the whole finished project in colour and make sure you leave a page for them to sign each other’s books!
2. Go on a photo scavenger hunt. If you have a younger grade, you might need older buddies for this. Why collect just a rock when you can collect a photo of two teachers hugging or one of your admin team giving the “thumbs up?” A suggested scavenger hunt is included.
3. Spelling – Run a Jeopardy game with clues for spelling words – examples could be categories such as short o, o-e, oa, ow, and or. Use clues such as, “It travels on the water,” to which the answer is “What is a boat?” Have the kids in teams and give lots of points for answers – 100, 200, etc. Remove points for wrong answers! (Oooh…) Winning team gets all day bragging rights.
4. Write a letter to one of the students for next year – “Tips for Mrs./Ms./Mr. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,” “What to know about grade \_\_\_\_\_\_\_,” “How to Survive in Room \_\_\_,” etc.
5. Are you highlighting any writing right now? We have finally concluded our poetry unit and the students have chosen one of their best. They have printed a good copy of them for our hallway bulletin board and they are displayed along with an invitation for comments. Other students (and TEACHERS!) are leaving sticky notes with their encouragement for our writing!
6. Speaking of writing, I always take the opportunity at the end of the year to teach expository writing. Do your students have strong opinions? Of course they do! Share opinion pieces with them and analyze what makes them strong. We write our pieces and then I share Rick Mercer rants with the students and they film each other “ranting” their opinion piece to share. Who doesn’t want to see themselves ranting along the school fence about their opinion? My students have written and ranted about everything from saving the whales, to why I should get a dog, to why one team is the best.
7. Speaking of opinions, I often have students “write” their own word problems for math units. Have them create their own quiz or test for what you’ve been working on. Wouldn’t it be exciting to have a question from every kid in the room? Who can challenge the others with their creative and tricky questions? EVERYone! Who wants to see if they can answer a challenging question from another kid? EVERYone!

Don’t be bored this June! Be excited! The memories you make now are the ones your students will take with them – this is what will make them say, “Grade \_\_\_ was the BEST school year!”

And then – have a GREAT summer vacation – you deserve it!