



Important Dates

- **May 25: Holiday**
- **June 15: Last day for students**
- **June 16: Mandatory Workday**

If you have not completed the new teacher survey, please do so ASAP (no later than May 8)

Click here to access the survey:

<http://research.zarca.com/clients/ProfDev/survey.aspx?sid=112&lang=0>



STAVE OFF THE END-OF-THE-YEAR "BLAHS"

Student apathy is always a concern, but as the days grow warmer and vacation draws nearer, you may feel it's more of a challenge than ever. To keep your students "fired up" during the final days try:

- **Drama.** Divide students into small groups. Give each group a specific content-related topic to "teach" with a short skit. (Be sure to designate a time limit.) Add a bag filled with crazy props to make their presentations even more fun. Providing a grading rubric will ensure that all the fun is part of an actual learning experience.
- **Humor.** Whatever your content area, you can probably find a few funny anecdotes, jokes or comics to share. Post them on a bulletin board. You may even find students coming to class early just to check them out.
- **Competition.** Kids love review sessions based on TV shows such as "Jeopardy," "Family Feud," or "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire," but who has time to create them? Invite your students to become producers and directors. You'll be amazed at their creativity, and the competition will keep them on their toes



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Get Students Excited About Learning

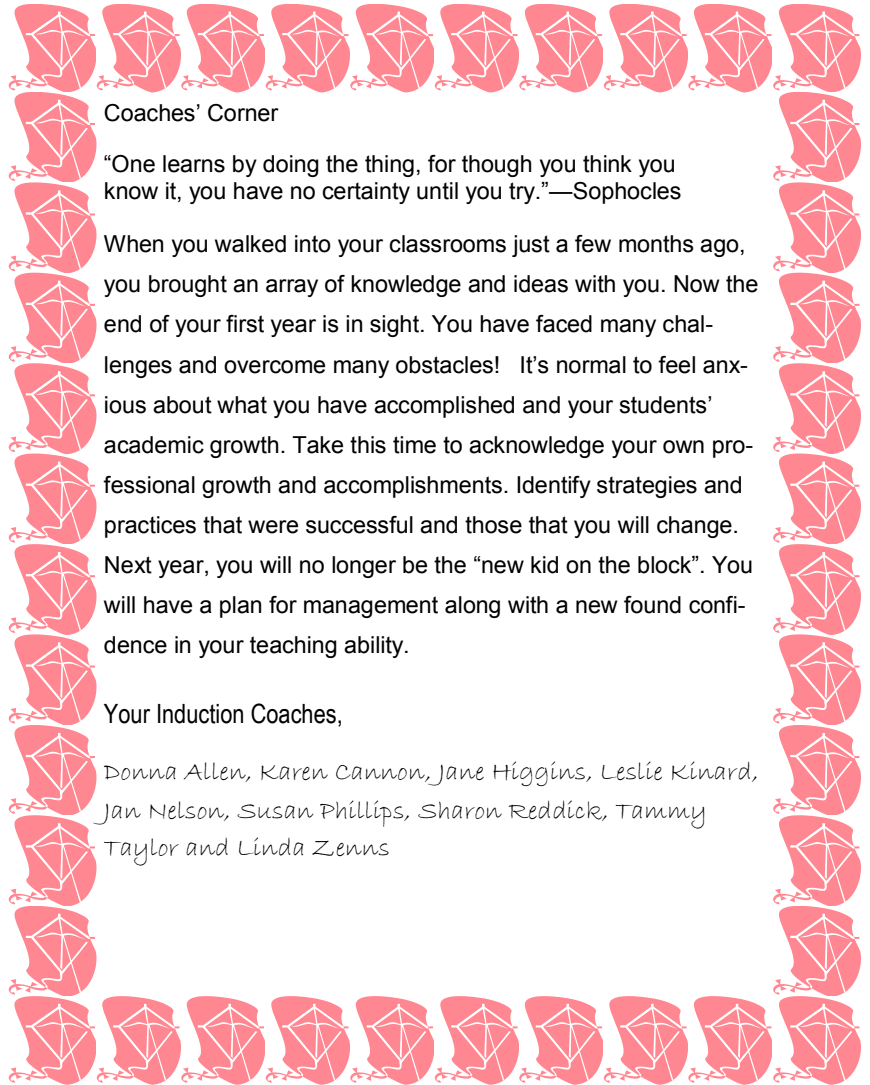
Some days, your students look like they are about to fall asleep. (Some may even doze off in your class.) What can you do to make them more involved in your lessons?

They will enjoy learning and remember more of what you teach them if:

- They get to move their bodies. Sitting quietly in class after class can put anyone into a daze. Activities that involve movement will always be a hit.
- They can create visuals. Many students are visual learners. Let them create posters, PowerPoint® presentations or time lines.
- The lesson includes music or sound effects.
- They can work collaboratively. Let groups of students debate the authorship of Shakespeare's plays.

When you add a little "interest" to a lesson, students pay more attention, and they talk about it which increases their memory of the content.

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Coaches' Corner

"One learns by doing the thing, for though you think you know it, you have no certainty until you try."—Sophocles

When you walked into your classrooms just a few months ago, you brought an array of knowledge and ideas with you. Now the end of your first year is in sight. You have faced many challenges and overcome many obstacles! It's normal to feel anxious about what you have accomplished and your students' academic growth. Take this time to acknowledge your own professional growth and accomplishments. Identify strategies and practices that were successful and those that you will change.

Next year, you will no longer be the "new kid on the block". You will have a plan for management along with a new found confidence in your teaching ability.

Your Induction Coaches,

Donna Allen, Karen Cannon, Jane Higgins, Leslie Kinard, Jan Nelson, Susan Phillips, Sharon Reddick, Tammy Taylor and Linda Zenns

INSPIRATION -

To Those Who Make It Happen

They may forget what you said, but they will never forget how you make them feel.

~Carol Buchner

Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.

- Theodore Roosevelt

We never know how far reaching something we may think, say or do today will affect the lives of millions tomorrow.

- B.J. Palmer

You Can Motivate Your Students to Set Higher Goals

In just a few years, your students will be working to support families of their own. They will be making meaningful contributions to society. Or will they?

Research shows that many won't be ready for either the demands of higher education or the workplace.

Students often fail to complete post-secondary education because they weren't prepared when they began. Employers report that many new employees are deficient in important basic skills.

No matter what your content area, you can make a difference. To motivate your students:

- Expect their best, and don't let up! Maintain rigorous standards for achievement.
- Believe in them. One student said, "... hearing someone tell you that you can do it, it makes you think: 'She thinks I can do it. I must be able to do it.'"
- Offer to help. You may not be a counselor, but you are more likely to notice when a student starts to fall behind. Offering after-school remediation, finding a tutor, or showing parents how to help may be the first step toward getting a student back on track.

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Use TV as a Tool to Practice Taking Notes



Teaching students how to take notes is one of the most valuable skills you can impart, but unless you plan to give lecture after lecture, they may not find enough opportunities to practice their new skill.

That's where TV can help. The History Channel, public television, and even C-SPAN are all good choices. Do this activity along with your students:

1. Choose a five-minute segment (increase to 10 minutes later).
2. Have students watch the program and take notes as they watch.
3. Tell them to fill in any blanks they left as soon as the time is up. That's also the time to note what their shorthand abbreviations meant.
4. Have students share their notes in small groups. Did they miss any important content?
5. Share your own notes.

Start with programs that will be of high interest to your students. Later, you might show them a short segment on a subject that is less interesting. After all, they need to know how to take notes whether they are fascinated or not! Assign this activity for homework. Have students start with short segments, doing more than one a day.

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Striving. Achieving. Excelling.

Healthy Hints

Physical Fitness Brings Life to Lessons

Obesity in children is on the rise. Some students in your classroom may fall into this category. While you can't take charge of the lifestyles of all your students, you can do plenty to set a good example.

May is Physical Fitness Month and offers an ideal opportunity to try some of these ideas:

Encourage students to sign up for the President's Challenge (www.presidentschallenge.org/home_kids.aspx). Consider offering extra credit or a few bonus points for students who complete activities and bring in their charts to show you.

- Work with your colleagues who teach gym. Ask what you can do in your classroom to complement what they are doing in P.E. They will likely have some good ideas for you. Also ask for a list of ideas to send to parents to get students active and moving at home.
- Create an "Our Active Class" bulletin board. Ask students to bring in pictures from home, showing them participating in sports or doing something active with their families.
- "Take Five" every day this month with a whole-class break to stretch or even do a few jumping jacks. Do it twice a day if you can.

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Please remember to keep a GCS Professional Folder for all the documentation from this year. The documents that should be in your BT1 folder are listed in the chart to the right. Your Induction Support Coach will be meeting with you in May to review your professional folder. Coaches will not be reading your documents, simply checking to see that folders are complete.

Documents That Should Be Included For First Year (BT1) Teachers

Mentor Log
FODA 1- Sept. 30 th – Oct. 30 th Observation 1
FODA 2- Jan. 15 th Observation 2
FODA 3-April 10 th Observation 3
Teacher (Peer) Evaluation
Summative Evaluation -April
IGP for Year 1
Documentation of Continuous Professional Growth (Example: Professional Development Log or PD Transcript)

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