



North Florida Region

DECEMBER 2011

POSITIVE CHARACTER QUOTES

"Words mean more than what is set down on paper. It takes a human voice to infuse them with deeper meaning."

-Maya Angelou

"Words do two major things: they provide food for the mind and create light for understanding and awareness." -Jim Rohn

"Either write something worth reading, or do something worth writing" -Ben Franklin

"All good writing is swimming under water and holding your breath" -F. Scott Fitzgerald

"Write to be understood, speak to be heard, read to grow."

-Lawrence Clark Powell



Walking in a Word Wall Wonderland


Why have a word wall?

The word wall is a constant learning cue for students and when students build the word walls themselves, they take ownership of them and value their use!

Word walls can be organized in a variety of ways: alphabetically, listed by categories or events, or even in math or science systems. Teachers can have one word wall or several grouped by theme, subjects, words we know, chunking wall, etc

They can be assembled and attached using Velcro, magnets, pushpins, clothespins! And should include words, symbols, visuals and definitions—To take the interactive wall one step further include a fill in the blank sentence strip for students to put words from the wall into sentence form.



 The KEY to success with word walls is to refer to them **OFTEN** so that students get in the habit of using the wall in their assignments.

What are Word Wall Activities?

Any activity that engages the students with the words on the word wall - integrate quick activities daily to build vocabulary! A few examples:

- ◇ Mystery Word-Students use clues to guess the word off the word wall.
- ◇ Funky Cheers– students echo words with different rhythms, pitches or paces
- ◇ Word Wall Bingo - game with words!
- ◇ Scavenger Hunt– who can find all the words in books and magazines, first!
- ◇ Word Wall Stories– Create a story using as many words from wall as possible
- ◇ Missing word - Teacher gives a sentence missing a word wall word and students have to figure out which word is missing

And so...

Word Walls are not simply décor –they are useful words in progress, build over times as words are harvested from meaningful contexts. They provide support and references for children, and serve as a clear record of their language learning!

Winter Wonderland

"Words" of advice for Successful Word Walls:

- ⇒ Word walls should be student generated
- ⇒ New words added on a regular -even daily-basis: at least 5 new words a week
- ⇒ Utilize Content-area material rather than randomly selected words
- ⇒ It is essential to include many different multi-sensory experiences and activities with the word wall
- ⇒ Refer to the word wall often so students come to understand and see the relevance
- ⇒ Word walls are a group effort; allow students to make suggestions!

"A teacher must **do** the word wall, rather than just **have** a word wall"

-Ideas from the research team at the University of Pittsburg

JOY AT WORK

A Revolutionary
Approach to Fun on
the Job



The key to joy at work is the freedom to take actions and make decisions using skills and talents. A key factor is ensuring people are using their individual talents and skills to do something useful,

significant and worthwhile!

A fun workplace allows people to work in an environment that is most consistent with human nature. Failures and mistakes are what makes work fun. Even stress contributes to fun, as long as a person has a

certain amount of control over the outcome. When all these factors come into play at the same time, we feel something approaching pure joy.

-Dennis Bakke



Academic Achievement Good-bye Round Robin by Opitz and Rasinski

Round Robin Reading is defined as “the outmoded practice of calling on students to read orally one after another”.....this way of oral reading poses many problems:

- * It provides students with an inaccurate view of reading
- * It can potentially cause faulty reading habits instead of effective reading strategies
- * It can cause unnecessary subvocalization
- * It can cause inattentive behaviors
- * It can work against all students developing to their full potential
- * It consumes valuable classroom time that could be spent on meaningful activities
- * It can be a source of anxiety and embarrassment for students
- * It can hamper listening comprehension

Silent reading is the key to effective reading-hands down but the importance of oral reading models vital and fundamental skills....

So- now you wonder- WHAT ARE EFFECTIVE ORAL READING STRATEGIES???

Think-Aloud

Induced Imagery

Directed Listening Thinking Activity

Say it Like the Character

Read to Discover

Choral Reading

Mentor Reading

Readers Theater

Read Aloud

Poetry Club

Paired Reading

And so many more....I challenge you to say goodbye to Round Robin reading and hello to meaningful, purposeful oral reading strategies-help with new strategies? don't hesitate to ask or check out the book by Opitz and Rasinski



Advanced Reading Challenge

Reading Challenge Coordinator Materials 2010-2011

*ARC Update in next
month's newsletter! Let's
challenge our region to
reach 2,000 books and a 5
book average!
WE CAN DO IT!*

WebQuests

Guided inquiry made semi-easy!



Create lessons that make good use of the web, engage learners in applying higher level thinking to authentic problems, and use everyone's time well!

WebQuests can be used for any age learner because the teacher differentiates the quest to the needs of the students!

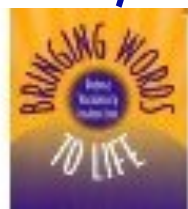
Find some great already created examples of WebQuests:

- <http://webquest.org>
- <http://questgarden.com>
- www.zunal.com

OR create your own using these Building Blocks:

1. Introduction– The purpose of this section is to prepare and hook the reader!
2. The Task: Focuses learners on what they are going to do—specifically the culminating performance or product that drives all of the learning activities
3. Process-outlines how the learners will accomplish the task. This includes clear steps, resources and tools for organizing information
4. Evaluation– describes the evaluation criteria or rubric to meet performance and content standards
5. Conclusion-brings closure and encourages reflection

“Allowing students to work at their own pace, WebQuests are one of the easiest ways to incorporate technology into the classroom!”



\$20.17

[new on amazon.com](http://amazon.com)

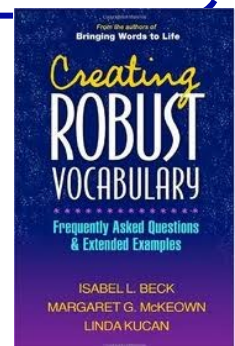
Important (and some random) Dates in December:

- 1— Rosa Parks Day
- 3-International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- 4 —National Cookie Day
- 5— Walter Elias (Walt) Disney’s Birthday
- 6— 13th amendment passed abolishing slavery
- 7 - Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (1941)
- 8 —National Brownie Day
- 10 —Emily Dickinson’s Birthday
- 12—Poinsettia Day
- 13— National Cocoa Day
- 14— South Pole Discovered in 1911
- 15— Bill of Rights Day
- 16 - Beethoven’s Birthday (1770)
- 17—Wright Brother’s First Flight (1903)
- 20 - Hanukkah begins at sundown
- 21 —First Crossword Puzzle in newspaper
- 22 —First day of winter
- 24 - National Egg Nog Day
- 25— Christmas
- 26— Kwanzaa Begins
- 28— National Chocolate Day
- 31— New Year’s Eve

Professional Development Book Review

Bringing Words to Life
by Isabel L. Beck

Exciting and engaging vocabulary instruction can set students on the path to a lifelong fascination with words. This book provides a research based framework and practical strategies for vocabulary development for all ages. With many concrete examples, teachers are guided in selecting words for instruction, developing student friendly explanation of new words, creating meaningful learning activities and getting students involved in thinking about new words! If you love this book then you will also enjoy this ideal volume of Creating Robust Vocabulary that picks up right where the first left off!





Get to know the North Florida Team
Favorite activity with family during holidays!

Diane Beatty: Our family's winter tradition is really our Christmas tradition. Leading up to Christmas Eve, we do many activities to celebrate the season such as attending various holiday concerts. We also take in the decorations in the neighborhood and in the theme parks. And we are part of serving Meals on Wheels and helping families by providing Christmas gifts. It is not just one action, but many together that make the season a meaningful time. It's about family and friends and helping others, and mostly about being thankful for the birth of Jesus.

Lisa O'Grady: Building an outdoor fire overlooking the water on the first chilly night

Suezan Turknett: Attending a Christmas Program at a local church to start the holiday season

Linda Williams: Our winter festivities kicks off with the official lighting of our Christmas tree following Thanksgiving dinner. I love to decorate the tree with my children, stringing popcorn and placing candy canes and ornaments all over the tree.

Mary Briggs: We spend time together as a family watching Christmas movies!

Jennifer Fornes: Driving around neighborhoods to see all the Christmas lights with all the kids and hub-by-in-tow sipping on 'semi-hot' cocoa- as well as going see the 'Singing Christmas Trees'.

Stephania Sherman: Brian and I enjoy all the Disney Christmas fun—with holiday shopping, parades, the Candlelight processional and the Osborne Lights.

Cathi Cohen: The first night of Chanukah is always my favorite. The whole family gets together for a huge dinner complete with homemade latkes and applesauce, we light the candles on the menorah and tell the story of Chanukah and why we celebrate for eight days and then we open presents. It's always such a great night!!

Jenny Norris: My favorite winter tradition is with my family decorating our house for the holidays then baking brownies and eating them while watching holiday movies with all of the lights off.

Jessica Duran: On Christmas eve we always sprinkle reindeer food in our yard (glitter and corn flakes) to make sure they find our house :) we have been doing it since I was a kid and I now do it with my son.

Parent Tip

Remember a simple Thank You

Parents play a vital role in our school's existence—what better way to improve parent satisfaction than thanking them for choosing Imagine Schools to educate their children.

Handwritten thank you notes, recognition and shout outs of appreciation in newsletters or websites, or displays in the classroom are all ways to show how thankful we are for all our parents do to help us educate their children.

Finding unique ways to show gratitude helps to build relationships with parents and in return will encourage more volunteers to continue their support.

Education Directors ☺

Check out the pictures of the Model Classroom Makeover Or the newest BLOG@

<http://imagineeducators.webs.com>

Region Celebrations:



Happy Holidays

Share your celebrations with our region....had a baby? Get married? Tell us - just email me!

December Birthdays

12/11 Cathi Cohen

12/ Lorna Potter

12/14 Amy Draeger

12/18 Theresa Fitzgerald

12/21 Travis Alderink

12/23 Kathleen Dial

12/23 Korrin Dykhouse

12/24 Angela Powers

12/25 Rachel Vaughn

12/26 Kristi Kendall



NEW BABIES in our REGION



Merrit Newell from ISER had a sweet baby girl, Molly Kate 7.6lbs



Jennifer Fornes became a grandmother, Rayleigh Marie 7.8lbs

