

North Florida Region



MAY 2012

POSITIVE CHARACTER QUOTES ON HAPPINESS

"Happiness cannot be traveled to, owned, earned, worn or consumed. Happiness is the spiritual experience of living every minute with love, grace and gratitude." -Denis Waitley

"We tend to forget that happiness doesn't come as a result of getting something we don't have, but rather of recognizing and appreciating what we do have"
-Frederick Koenig

Own Your Dreams

Our happiness in many ways ties directly to our "inner voice" that forever asks the question... "Are you moving toward your dream?" If your answer is "YES", then hope breeds contentment. However, if the answer is "no, it's too late:, despair may fester within your subconscious. You might not even realize why your life lacks joy.

If you are unsure of what your dream might be either because you are afraid to dream or because you somehow lost your dream along the way-then start preparing yourself to receive your dream by doing five things to put yourself in the best possible position to receive a dream.

Once you do these 5 things, focus on discovering your dream. As you do, keep this in mind "A dream is what you desire if anything and everything is possible!"

☺ **Mental Preparation**

⇒ Read and study in areas of your interest

☺ **Experiential Preparation**

⇒ Engaging in activities in areas related to your interests

☺ **Visual Preparation**

⇒ Put up pictures of people and things that inspire you

☺ **Hero Preparation**

⇒ Read about and try to meet people you admire and who inspire you

☺ **Physical Preparation**

⇒ Get your body in optimal shape to pursue your dream

♥ **In Summary, don't leave your dream to chance it can make the difference between success and failure!**

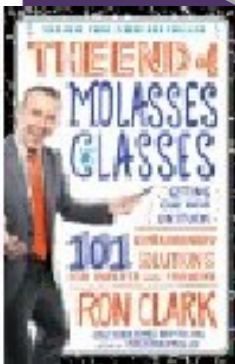
The Power of Attitude

In many ways, we're alike; however, one little difference almost always makes a big difference.
The little difference is attitude.

William James, over a century ago, said, "The greatest discovery of this generation is that a human being can alter their life by altering their attitude."

What most people fail to realize is that your attitude not only impacts your happiness and your success, it also can impact the happiness and success of all the people around you...your family, your friends, and your peers at work. Attitudes truly are contagious, and from time to time we need to ask ourselves..."*is mine worth catching?*"

PD Book Review



101 practical, innovative and powerful methods to enliven classrooms and ignite a passion for learning in each and every child. It is time to "GET ON THE DESK" and make your school the best it can be

This easy read includes classroom-tested ways for improving your schools and leading our children to greatness.

Sample ideas from the book for TEACHERS helping every student achieve success:

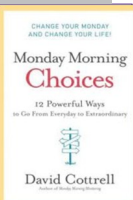
- LOVE WHAT YOUR STUDENTS LOVE, whether it's iCarly, Twilight, or Monday Night Football
- KIDS NEED TO MOVE; bring education to life with kinesthetic learning
- GET A DRUM FOR THE CLASSROOM and use music to excite, motivate, and inspire
- RECOGNIZE THAT THE HEART OF THE SCHOOL IS THE TEACHER

Get your copy of "The End of Molasses Classes" by Ron Clark on Amazon for only \$9.20

Thanks to those Friends who joined our Region Book Club! This book is awesome!

I am sure you will want to borrow it when we are done!!! Copies will be kept in your PD library!

~Jessica Bowman~ Anne O'Leary ~Robert Amstutz ~Colleen Fonte ~Andrea Seets ~Kara Carter ~Brett Cunningham~
~Beth Keough~ Trini Dixon~ Samantha Casher~ Katie Pertschi~ Nathan Hagaman~ Michelle VanPortfliet ~ Monica Byron~ ~Anna Norris~ Kristen Rossheim ~Kathleen Dial~ Jimmy Menard~ Jennifer Osborne ~Kerri Connolly~



Working Together

Cooperation



tips by Annette Breaux

**When people work together, there's no storm they can't weather
The workload is lightened and achievement is heightened
Their smiles are brightened and they appear more enlightened
So teach the children that cooperation is the key
And cooperation is what you soon will see!**

Allow and Encourage Students to Work Cooperatively.

It is often stated that any teacher who argues against encouraging students to work cooperatively has never encouraged students to work cooperatively.

Life is about cooperation. We simply cannot expect students to come to us possessing all of the skills they need in order to work cooperatively with others. That's why they need us to teach them!

Much research has been conducted on the power of **cooperative learning**.

The results have been consistent: Students who engage in cooperative learning activities develop problem-solving skills, develop better social skills, and achieve at higher levels. So why is it that so many teachers, of all grade levels, tend to avoid the idea of having students work together in cooperative learning environments?

Once again, we must look back at classroom management. The following are actual teachers' answers to the question, "Why don't you use cooperative learning activities in your classroom?"

I've tried letting my students work together, and they just can't get along with one another.

I put my students in groups, and one person does all of the work.

I don't want to hold back the stronger students because of the weaker students.

Cooperative learning equals chaos. I want structure and order in my classroom.

Today's students simply cannot work together.

I tried cooperative learning once, and my students argued with one another.

I like a quiet classroom. I'm not about to put my students in groups where all they'll do is talk.

Notice that in all of the above answers, the issues of order, structure, noise, lack of on-task behavior, and chaos are evident. Again, all point to problems in classroom management.

Yes, the above fears can become realities, but NOT with true cooperative learning conducted in a well-managed environment. The key here is structure. In a nutshell, this is what true cooperative learning looks like:

Students are assigned to groups consisting of various personality types and ability levels.

Each student in the group has a specific job in carrying out the overall charge of the group.

All activities are highly structured.

Appropriate behaviors in the group are taught, modeled, and practiced.

Noise levels are under control, and all "noise" is "structured" noise.

Students of all ability levels are challenged to think critically and to solve problems cooperatively, just like in the real world.

Procedures for each aspect of group interaction are clearly established, from day one.

Students are involved in the group's mission, and they experience high levels of success.

Remember that before implementing any type of cooperative group activities, effective classroom management must be in place.

Understand Personality Types

and Communicate Better with Coworkers

Have you ever tried to explain something to a team member, and they just don't get it? Or you instantly butt heads with another, no matter the issue?

Those situations are beyond frustrating—but they're problems that can be fixed. By discovering a coworkers personality type, you can improve your communication by meeting them at their point of need.

To start you on your way to understanding the personalities, here's a summary of the four styles and some tips on how to communicate to each one:

D—Dominance

Style: They have a hard-driving, result-oriented, take-no-prisoner style. Feelings are put on the back burner—they just want the job done. Decisions are made quickly so they can move on to the next thing.

How to Talk to Them: The quicker, the better. Social chitchat will make their heads explode. Come prepared to your meeting, give them the details, get out of their way, and let them fly. They'll get the job done.

S—Steady

Style: The S has never met a feeling they wanted to hurt. They are always concerned with others and avoid confrontation as if it were the Ebola virus. They are loyal, steady and awesome team members.

How to Talk to Them: Start with friendly conversation. If you act hostile or pushy, they'll run the other way, so keep your tone even when dealing with them. When making any changes, give them time to adjust.

I—Interactive

Style: They are "party looking for a place to happen." They're impulsive, fun, and they love to be around people. They can be expressive, playful and persuasive, but they can quickly lose focus.

How to Talk to Them: Diving straight into a business conversation with lots of details will bore them to death, and they'll probably stop listening. Make sure they have clear goals with deadlines, so they can keep focused.

C—Compliant

Style: There is an easy way to make a C happy: Give them lots and lots of facts and details. They thrive on them. They know and follow the rules, and they're highly competent and all about business.

How to Talk to Them: Get right down to business with lots of facts and figures. Ask for their opinions and give them time to answer. They're great at developing procedures.

Although it's not a magic bullet that can fix all problems, understanding personality styles is a great way to improve communication, which is a major key to success. Creating a culture of communication is the only way you can really create a winning environment.

Important (and some random)

Dates in May:

National Fitness Month

1 - Mother Goose Day

2—Hawaiian Lei Day

3—National Sun Day

4 - Space Day

5 - Cinco de Mayo and Kentucky Derby

6—Eiffel Towers opens to public in 1889

7 - Teacher Appreciation Week begins

8 —NO SOCKS DAY

9 —National School Nurse Day

11 -- Twilight Zone Created

12—Limerick Day

13—Mother's Day

14—1804 Lewis and Clark began Expedition

16—First US Nickel minted in 1866

18—Mount St. Helens erupted in 1980

19—Armed Forces Day

20—Author Mary Pop Osborne birthday

21 —American Red Cross founded in 1881

23 —Penny Day

24 - Mary Had a Little Lamb published (1830)

25—National Missing Children's Day

27—Golden Gate Bridge opens (1937)

28—Memorial Day

29—John F Kennedy born in 1917

29—Author Andrew Clements birthday

31—World NO TOBACCO DAY



Keeping updated through Twitter

by Jennifer Badeaux

How many of you know what Twitter is or how to Tweet?

Okay, that's a good place to start. How many of you have a Twitter account and see that there is a wealth of information out there? Even better!



But if you answered "No" to that question you may just be missing out!

Twitter offers so much and yes, it can just be a social media site, but in reality it can be whatever

YOU need it to be.

- Do you need information on Common Core Standards?
- Do you need tips for teaching poetry in the classroom?
- Do you want to follow the latest education research?
- What about that great author you just heard about?

Trust me, it's all on Twitter.

Okay, so what do you do to get started?

Log On to Twitter and set up a profile. This isn't like Facebook where you will need to share lots of information. You don't even have to post anything. Ever. But Twitter can stream the information you're looking for directly to you. You can search topics of interest (people use a # (hashtag) symbol in their posts to make it easier for you to find information) or you can search specific people or organizations.

So who can you follow to start with? Here is a list of some helpful and Educational Related Twitter Feeds to get your feet wet!

- @education week - Education news
- @Scholastic - All things Scholastic related
- @lmtv - Learning Matters news
- @MarzanoResearch - The research lab of Robert Marzano
- @edutopia - All things education
- @common_core - All things Common Core related
- @TeachwithTech1 - That's me. I follow and share educational technology information.

But don't stop there. Try a few searches and see what information you will stumble across. Click "follow" when you see something you like. Don't worry. You can click "unfollow" at anytime if it wasn't what you were looking for.



Follow Jen on Twitter : @TeachwithTech1

the honest truth!

"In the lunch line one of my sweetest 6th grade girls told her friend to try Viagra. When I asked her why she said that, she replied, "She has bad allergies and that's what my Dad takes to help his." --

"I was explaining to one of my students how socializing in class instead of working was impacting his grades. He sighed and said, 'Well, that's life in the fast lane, sometimes you get burned.' I teach fourth grade, how much of a 'fast lane' is there?" --

"One of my seventh graders was having a middle school moment of irresponsibility and flakiness, to which he commented: 'Seventh grade could end up being the best two years of my life!'" --

"My students had to write which three things they would want to have on a deserted island in the middle of nowhere. One student wrote: 'My iPod, cellphone, and food-cell phone charger.'" (Yes, she crossed out food for the charger.)" --

"One of my first graders works in slow motion and never finishes his work on time. 'Hurry up and finish your work,' I said. 'You don't want to miss your recess.' He looked up slowly and replied, 'Don't rush me. I'm doing a professional job.'--

"After introducing the five senses to my class, a boy looked puzzled. 'You forgot one,' said David. I scanned the list. 'Which one?' He rolled his eyes and looked surprised I didn't know. 'Your sense of humor.'" --

Kid's say the honest truth- Share your funny story!



Education Directors



Don't forget to check out the latest blog:

<http://imagineeducators.webs.com/>

Topics to ask your ed director about!!

- Common Core Standards**
- Differentiated Instruction**
- Building Relationships**
- Learning Environments**
- Data-Data-Data and SAT10!**

May Birthdays

Celebrations

5/1 Beth Keough
5/1 Brittany Wamback
5/3 Kristina Lorton
5/6 Maryanne Hilton
5/7 Rachel Spires
5/10 Sarah Griffith
5/10 Michelle Haller
5/12 Tiffany Martin
5/12 Heather Bradford
5/12 Christy Ramage

5/14 Leah Wilson
5/15 Ashley Storey
5/18 Wendy Decker
5/20 Laura Bury
5/20 Sarah Justice
5/21 Michelle Tingley
5/25 Jill Morningstar
5/25 Tyler Harrington

Sarah Griffith Primary Math teacher at Imagine Evening Rose and husband welcomed a precious 7lbs 14oz baby girl April 29th at 2:34am.



National Fitness Month

**Get to know the North Florida Team
As they share their Healthy Tip for Fitness Month!**

Diane Beatty: Drink Lots of Water—Helps you feel good and keeps the pounds off!

Lisa O'Grady: For a healthy and balanced life, make time for your family and for yourself so that you are refreshed and able to give to those you serve.

Linda Williams: Limit Late night eating! General rule of thumb is not to eat within 3 hour of going to bed!

Jessica Duran: Watching Calories and Exercise—just started second week of P90X—waiting for those results!

Jennifer Fornes: Parking in the last spot instead of hunting down a close spot and always taking the stairs when possible

Stephania Sherman: SLEEP! Get 8 hours of sleep a night - lack of sleep is associated with impaired memory, slowed speech, lack of ambition, lack of focus and much more!



Common Core Frequently Asked Questions

By Kathleen Dial

Primary Education Director
Second Grade Teacher
IMAGINE SOUTH LAKE

With the timeline of full implementation of the Common Core State Standards already upon some of us and drawing near to all of us, we thought it may be helpful to address some frequently asked questions educators have as an overview to the CCSS.

Q: Are the CCSS a national curriculum?

A: No, the CCSS are a state-led initiative that Florida has adopted. While the CCSS set specific and clear goals for learning English Language Arts and Math, the pathway to meet those goals is left to the state, county and schools to decide.

Q: When will the new Standards affect my grade level?

A: Soon, soon and very soon. ☺ If you teach kindergarten, they already have. The Florida set timeline for implementation began this year, with kindergarten teachers adopting and implementing the CCSS. Grade 1 teachers will fully implement in the 2012-2013 school year, Grade 2 in 2013-2014 and Grade 3-12 teachers will be fully implementing the CCSS in 2014-2015.

Q: What about science and social studies Standards?

One of the shifts in the CCSS calls for content area teachers to incorporate literacy instruction across the content areas, integrating literacy and erasing the lines that reading and writing Standards only apply to reading classrooms. As far as actually what science and social studies students will be learning, Florida is continuing the NGSSS for science and social studies.

Q: What about the FCAT?

A: Florida students will take CCSS-aligned PARCC Summative Assessments in mathematics and ELA in grades 3-11 in 2014-2015. FCAT 2.0 will still be in place up until that time, and the FCAT 2.0 will continue to assess Grades 5 and 8 science and Grade 7 civics in 2014-2015.

Q: How can I learn more?

A: Here are some resources to help!

<http://www.corestandards.org/>

<http://www.parcconline.org/about-parcc>

<http://www.fldoe.org/bii/pdf/CCSS-ImplementationTimeline.pdf>

Imagine is also working to make revised curriculum maps available on Inside and the state of Florida is working to create 3,000 model lessons and model lesson tool kits by the year 2014 using available data. Talk to your Education Directors on your campus to learn more and to start planning how to unpack and adopt the Common Core State Standards. YOU have a voice in how the CCSS is implemented in your school and in your classroom.



Great things going on in our Schools

Culture Night at Imagine

By: Brandy Vance

"I'd like to teach the world to sing, in perfect harmony. I'd like to hold it in my arms, and keep it company. I'd like to see the world for once, all standing hand in hand. And hear them echo through the hills, for peace throughout the land."

Students and families from Imagine School at Evening Rose did their part to bring such a vision to life on Thursday, March 29th, during their annual Culture Night. Prior to the culminating event, students participated with their classes in an in-depth study of a country of their choosing. Many of the countries chosen were represented in the school's student population. The study included learning about the area's traditional clothing, language, and food, among other important facts. Students then created visual displays and presented a myriad of projects associated with their country for all to enjoy.

The final product was remarkable. Members of the Imagine family sampled food and participated in activities that enabled them to learn more about the cultures from which their fellow students came. Highlights of the evening included a showcase of native clothing from Nigeria and Ghana, belly dancers from Turkey, sushi from Japan, music from France and the Hebrew alphabet from Israel. It was a lively event that provided the perfect atmosphere for spending quality time with family members while learning something new. It also provided parents the ideal opportunity to really open up and converse with their children about what they are learning in school.



Perhaps the most encouraging aspect of Culture Night was the impact that it had on the school community. Not only did this event teach the students to value each other's differences, but it also brought a sense of wholeness. While learning about what makes each one unique, the students really came together. What an important lesson to learn as future leaders of our world. This wonderful tradition at Imagine School will no doubt continue in years to come.

Great things going on in our Schools

Imagine School at Town Center's 3rd Annual Golf Tournament

By Christine Ramage

Held on Saturday, March 24, 2012, at The Grand Club Pine Course, in Palm Coast, Florida.

The tournament was a great success!



We had a total of 89 players, 40 hole sponsors, and over 100 tournament and raffle prizes.



Golfers and volunteers had a beautiful day of golf, lunch, and fabulous prizes.

What a great way to have fun and support Imagine School at Town Center!



Science in Action

By: Jessica Carafano

Imagine Evening Rose

On April 12, 2012, Imagine School at Evening Rose was host to the Florida High School Mobile Space Shuttle Flight Simulator. Science teacher Jessica Carafano, working with the Science Department from Florida High School, was able to make arrangements for the first place winners of the 4th and 5th grade Science fair to fly in the simulator. The simulator was constructed under a grant from the Florida Department of Education to interest student in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Medicine (STEM). Using a state of the art computer and video system coupled with realistic sound and voice communication students, teachers, and administrative staff were able to try their hand at landing the NASA space shuttle at the Kennedy Space Center. This event provided all involved a chance to experience the thrill of space flight and to get a glimpse of the exciting world of astronauts.

Great things going on in our Schools

Adopt a Hallway

By Brett Cunningham

Inspired by the blooming beauty of springtime, Imagine Town Center has started a campus-wide initiative called Adopt-a-Hallway. Standardized testing season is sometimes stressful, so Adopt-a-Hallway is an optional project that classrooms can work on to freshen-up our school's outdoor walkways and possibly relieve some stress through gardening! Parents are encouraged to contribute, which gives everyone a sense of all-hands-on-deck, and offers a fun seasonal way to volunteer. By contacting a local signage company with whom we have an existing business relationship, they offered custom-designed signage for each project at a very reasonable, school-friendly price. An Imagine family is planning to donate a truckload of mulch to us, which will help us spruce-up all our existing beds and walkways. Using a shareable map on Google Maps, teachers staked their claims and sought-out areas which still needed some love.



Response has been overwhelming! Almost 100% of classrooms have adopted an area around our school to brighten up. Donations are pouring in, and plans are being drawn up by all participants. Projects are just getting underway right now, but we expect great things to bloom here at Town Center!