



TECH BYTES



Orange Board of Education

November 2014 13



What is American Education Week?

American Education Week—November 16-22, 2014—presents all Americans with a wonderful opportunity to celebrate public education and honor individuals who are making a difference in ensuring that every child receives a quality education. The weeklong celebration features a special observance each day of the week.

They include:

Monday, November 17: Kickoff Day

Nationwide Kickoff. Across the country, schools will celebrate excellence in education by hosting kickoff events and activities.

Tuesday, November 18: Parents Day

Schools will invite parents into the classroom for a firsthand look at what the school day is like for their children.

Wednesday, November 19: Education Support Professionals Day

Education Support Professionals keep schools running and students safe, healthy and ready to learn.

Thursday, November 20: Educator for a Day

Community leaders will be invited to experience the day as educators and experience the challenges of teaching and the needs of students.

Friday, November 21: Substitute Educators Day

Substitute educators play a vital role in the maintenance and continuity of daily education

Additional Resources

<http://www.nea.org/grants/19823.htm>



November is National American Indian Heritage History Month. Education World offers 12 lessons to help students learn about Native American history and cultures. Included: Activities that involve students in dramatizing folktales, learning new words, preparing traditional foods, and much more!

See more at:

http://www.educationworld.com/a_special/November.shtml#sthash.We9sWiK0.dpuf

Exploring Native Americans Across the Curriculum

Blast stereotypes with these across-the-curriculum activities for students of all ages.

Great Sites for Teaching About Native Americans

These ten sites are among the best on the Web for teaching about Native Americans. Included you will find sites about Indian groups, legends, homes, flags, and much more.

Students Use Technology to Preserve Inuit Heritage

Students in Arviat, Nunavut, Canada, interviewed local elders and studied traditional skills as part of the Arviat Iglu project. In the process, the kids used technology tools of the present to learn about the past and to preserve it for future students. - See more:

http://www.educationworld.com/a_special/November.shtml#sthash.We9sWiK0.dpuf

A Feast of November Resources

Education World has dug deep into its archive to collect teaching resources for special November topics and days. Included: Resources for teaching about Thanksgiving, Native American, Veterans Day, and the Great American Smokeout. - See more at:

http://www.educationworld.com/a_special/November.shtml#sthash.G3qRLL89.dpuf

http://www.educationworld.com/a_special/November.shtml



www.padlet.com

Padlet in the Classroom to Collaborate & Create Interactive Sticky Notes!

Padlet is a web space where you can add files, links, videos, and more. You can create various walls to add your favorite content. People can also collaborate to continue adding to the same wall space. Imagine the potential for classroom uses!

Padlet features :

- Padlet is very easy to use and has a user friendly interface
- Padlet is web based and does not require any software installation
- It allows you to easily add notes, text, images, videos, and drawings to your wall
- You can also add word documents from computer to your Padlet wall
- Padlet provides a wide variety of layouts to choose from
- Padlet works across multiple devices including mobile phones
- Any Padlet wall you create can be embedded into your blog or website.
- It enhances collaborative work. Multiple people can post to the same wall at the same time.
- Any Padlet wall can be exported in a variety of formats including, PDF, image,CSV, or Excel.
- Padlet is completely free

Some suggested ways to use Padlet in class:

- Use is as a brainstorming tool. Create a Padlet wall for the whole class where they can collect and share ideas about a given topic.
- Students can use it as portfolio where they display their best work.
- Engage parents in the learning that is taking place in class by inviting them to visit the classroom Padlet wall
- Aggregate links and other multimedia resources relevant for students learning and post them on the classroom wall for everybody to check
- Use it as a book review page where students post reviews of the books they read
- Create walls for major cultural events and holidays of the year and invite students to search for information relevant to each of these events and share them with the class.
- Classroom Padlet wall can be used as an open space where students engage in group discussions and interactive exchange of ideas.
- Students can use Padlet for sharing their reflections on what they have learned and what they need help with.



<http://kids.usa.gov/teachers/calendar/november/index.shtml>

- Military Family Month
- National Diabetes Month
- Native American Heritage Month
 - November 4: Election Day
 - November 11: Veterans Day
- November 16-22: American Education Week



Teaching with Technology Video Library



The NETS video library is a collection of video of actual classrooms, enriched by additional material such as lesson context, teacher handouts and even student work, accessible alongside the video.



Ways to Get the Most Out of Parent/Teacher Conferences

<http://goo.gl/kYV4T7>

- Be prepared - Write down your questions and information you'd like to share. Any changes at home, such as a new baby or a family member's illness that might have an impact on your child's schoolwork? Bring paper and pen so you can take notes.
- Arrive on time and work with the teacher to stay within the set meeting time. If you have more to discuss, arrange a follow-up visit.
- Ask for specifics about your child's work and progress. What will she be expected to master? How is she doing? What about behavior and social skills? Talk to the teacher about your child's study habits and what you've observed about work done at home.
- Have an open mind. If your child is having problems- whether academic, behavioral, or social- you and your child's teacher both want the same, positive outcome. Ask questions, but also listen. The conference is an important time to work together for an honest assessment of your child's progress.
- Determine the best way to stay in touch. Regular notes, emails, and calls will help create and maintain the important home-school connection.
- Follow through at home. You and your child's teacher may come up with some at-home strategies to try. Touch base and let the teacher know how things are going.

Additional Resources:

Edutopia Parent Teacher Conference Resources

<http://www.edutopia.org/blog/parent-teacher-conference-resources-matt-davis>

The Learning Community

<http://www.thelearningcommunity.us/resources-by-format/tips-for-parents/parent-teacher-conferences.aspx>

Scholastic

<http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/article/parent-teacher-partnerships/make-most-your-teacher-conference>



Alternatives to YouTube

Use the search engine below to find educational videos that are not hosted on YouTube.

Some excellent educational content can be found on YouTube. However, many teachers cannot access YouTube in their classrooms. Therefore, I compiled a list of other places to find educational videos that don't rely on YouTube.

1. **School Tube** is a website dedicated to the sharing of videos created by students and teachers. School Tube allows teachers and schools to create their own channels for sharing their students' works. School Tube also provides excellent how-to resources, copyright-friendly media, and lesson plans for using video in the classroom.
2. **Teacher Tube** has been around for a while now, but I still run into teachers who have not heard of it. Teacher Tube provides user generated videos for teachers by teachers. Many of the videos on Teacher Tube have teachers sharing lesson plans in action. Some videos on Teacher Tube are simply inspirational. And other videos don't have teachers or students in them, but contain educational lessons none the less.
3. **Next Vista** is a nonprofit, advertising-free video sharing site run by Google Certified Teacher Rushton Hurley. Next Vista has three video categories. The Light Bulbs category is for videos that teach you how to do something and or provides an explanation of a topic. The Global Views video category contains videos created to promote understanding of cultures around the world. The Seeing Service video category highlights the work of people who are working to make a difference in the lives of others. Watch this interview I did with Rushton to learn more about Next Vista.
4. **Academic Earth** is a video depot for individual lectures and entire courses from some of the top universities in the United States. Visitors to Academic Earth will find lectures and courses from Yale, MIT, Berkeley, Harvard, Princeton, and Stanford.
5. **Snag Films** and its companion site Snag Learning are great places to watch full length documentaries from producers like National Geographic for free. Snag Learning provides a catalog of educational films that are accompanied by classroom discussion questions



Top Technology Tips for New Teachers and Great Reminders for Others

<http://teaching.monster.com/benefits/articles/8506-top-10-technology-tips-for-new-teachers>

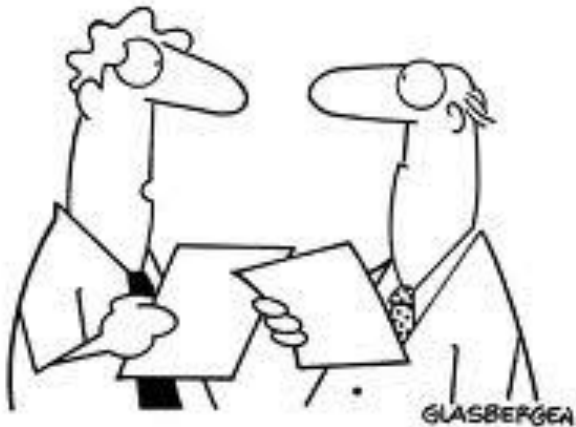
Being a first year teacher can be overwhelming to say the least. There is new curriculum to learn, unfamiliar school policies, classroom management challenges, and new teammates. Technology can help to ease some of these first year growing pains.

1. Develop a Personal Learning Network (PLN) on Twitter
2. Keep students engaged.
3. Take charge of professional development.
4. Keep yourself organized.
5. Find educational blogs to discover new ideas, encouragement, and educational news.
6. Don't reinvent the wheel.
7. Always be prepared.

Details and resources for each tip can be found at the link above.

TECHNOLOGY HUMOR

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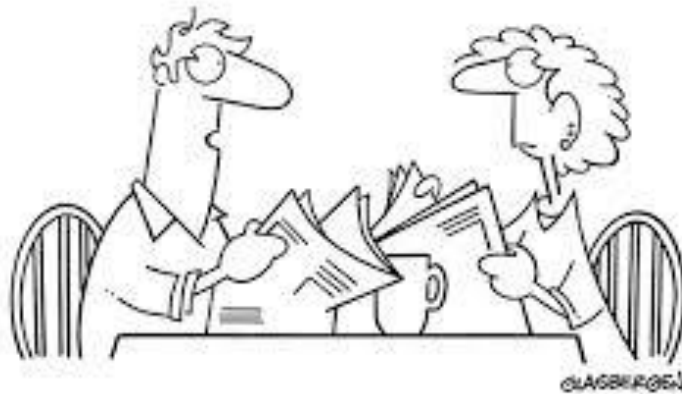
"I found a quick fix for our company's financial problems.
I removed the red ink cartridge from the printer."

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glasbergen.com



"I'm no expert, but I think it's
some kind of cyber attack!"

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"A set of Siamese twins were born yesterday.
They're connected by Bluetooth."