

Exceptional Programs for Exceptional Learners Monthly Newsletter

Upcoming Professional Development

Teacher goal for this month:

Be experts in your field

BEST PRACTICE

Vivian DePriest is one of the Special Education teachers in Caney at Lincoln Memorial Elementary. Vivian is being highlighted because of her exhausting effort during the 06-07 school year to support the needs of her students and

make sure they had the skills that they were expected to have mastered on the Kansas State Assessment. Vivian organized each indicator into a folder so that she knew what had been covered and what still needed to be introduced. She worked directly with her students to make sure each student had the skills needed and she prepared materials to focus on these needed indicators. Vivian didn't teach to the test, Vivian taught the students the skills required to be successful in reading and math, which in turn allowed her students to be successful on the state assessment. Way to go Vivian!

The beginning of the school year can be very busy. It is important to stop and think about the goals you have for yourself and your students. These goals can guide your instruction as well as the professional development opportunities you take advantage of.

The following are some of the upcoming professional development opportunities in our area.

9/21/07, Greenbush: Getting Excited About Expository Text Structure

9/24/07, Greenbush: Classroom Instruction That Works

9/28/07, Greenbush: Strategies for Struggling Math students

10/10/07, Greenbush: DIBELS, Lv 1

10/12/07, Greenbush: Phonemic Awareness

10/17/07, Greenbush: Early Childhood Coalition

10/19/07, Greenbush: The How To's of the Kansas Alternate Assessment

11/2/07, Wichita: Maximize Your Students' Reading Fluency: Practical Strategies to Strengthen Comprehension, Vocabulary and Word Knowledge (Gr 1-3)

11/5/07, Greenbush: The How To's of the Kansas Alternate Assessment

11/8/07, Wichita: Practical Strategies for Working with Students with Pervasive Development Disorders, Asperger's Syndrome and High Functioning Autism

11/8-11/9/07, Overland Park: Learning Disabilities 37th Annual Conference, "Not

All Great Minds Think Alike"

11/30/07, Greenbush: Four Square Writing

12/3/07, Greenbush: Attack the Reading Indicators

If interested, please go to www.greenbush.org or contact ebrumley@tricity607.com for information on these topics. Requests should be made to www.pdtoolbox.org.



Don't forget that you can request PDP points for Collaboration and monthly meetings if you are gaining new knowledge.

Classroom Instruction That Works

Debra Pickering is a co-author of Classroom Instruction That Works: Research-Based Strategies for Increasing Student Achievement. I had the good fortune of getting to hear Debra discuss two of the research based strategies she studied—setting objectives and providing feedback & nonlinguistic representations. The following are a few important quotes from Deb...

"We must be clear about 'what is essential?'"

"When some students are asked, 'What do teachers care about?' they say most teachers care more about assignments being in on time than the learning."

"Focus on learning, not teaching."

"The importance of setting objectives: When students know what they are learning,

their performance on average has been shown to be 27 percentile points higher than the students who do not know what they are learning."

"Try to help students process everything linguistically and nonlinguistically."

Debra Pickering will be back in Wichita June 10-11, 2008 to talk about grading, feedback to students, and strategies for building background knowledge.