

Title of Session: Teachers In Training

Moderator: Mary Thompson

Title of File: 20060202teachertrain

Date: February 2, 2006

Room: Comfy Conference

MaryFT: Hi Bj

BJB2: hi, Mary!

MaryFT: Just hangin' out waiting for some teacher education faculty

BJB2: . o O (just finished a great discussion in artssties)

MaryFT: cool!

MaryFT: any of my students?

BJB2: I believe so. Poor Lily was there...she couldn't log in as a member for some reason

MaryFT: I know! I sent her the new password but when I tried it for her it wouldn't work

BJB2: she logged in and then lost her connection...but she was still logged in as a guest

MaryFT: She's probably pretty frustrated by now

MaryFT: She's not very confident with computers to begin with

MaryFT: but at least she knew you and had you there!

BJB2: she enjoyed the discussion, but she won't have a transcript for you

DavidWe joined the room.

BJB2: it was interesting...at first the only thing everyone wanted was urls

DavidWe waves

MaryFT: that's okay...I'll let her know that I talked to you and you confirmed that she attended the session

BJB2 nods

EmilyW joined the room.

MaryFT nods

DavidWe: Hi, Mary

MaryFT waves to David and Emily

BJB2: . o O (we're ganging up on you, Mary)

EmilyW: hi

MaryFT: wheel!

DavidWe hands Mary a yummy cookie

DavidWe: . o O (food first...then we'll gang up on you)

EmilyW: I haven't seen you on here in awhile

MaryFT: thanx

MaryFT: no - last semester was very hectic

BJB2: ok...here's the thing...

BJB2: you know Jan Naher usually leads this group?

MaryFT nods

BJB2: she created a group room for teacher educators and for preservice teachers

BJB2: last week both groups were archived...she didn't renew them

MaryFT frowns

BJB2: and she hasn't been logged in since December

BJB2: no response to emails

AprilPC joined the room.

BJB2: hi, April. Welcome

AprilPC: hanks for the invite.

BJB2: good timing, April

BJB2: what brings you to this discussion for Teacher Educators?

AprilPC: I have only participated in scheduled chats with the group I am working with so I thought it would be good to see what else goes on in Tapped In.

BJB2: cool, April.

BJB2: you're about to witness some brainstorming

MaryFT: that's great April...lots of neat stuff here

AprilPC: What are you guys working on?

BJB2: David, Emily and I feel that a Teacher Ed Faculty Forum is really important...

BJB2: I am going to speak for Jeff as well

MaryFT: me too

BJB2: there are so few opportunities for teacher educators to collaborate

AprilPC: I agree!

BJB2 puts on her sweetest smile...so....

BJB2: we're wondering if you would be interested in creating a new group, Mary?

MaryFT: so that's what you meant by ganging up David?

DavidWe reads the transcript

DavidWe: Sorry, doing the dishes

BJB2 laughs...only in the best way, Mary

MaryFT: of course I would!

BJB2 cheers wildly..yay!

MaryFT is very flattered to be asked

DavidWe: You've done a great job with the students I've met, Mary

BJB2 . o O (I think Jan became swamped with PhD stuff.)

MaryFT: thanks!

BJB2 agrees with David

MaryFT: I worry about them sometimes

DavidWe: You're a good teacher

BJB2: which brings us to the next topic...

MaryFT: Dissertations tend to do that

DavidWe: In what way do you worry about them?

MaryFT: Sometimes they don't seem to understand the purpose of prof. dev.

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe: They aren't "there" yet, are they?

BJB2: we no longer have a preservice teacher group either.

MaryFT: nope

BJB2: most teachers aren't...even experienced ones

MaryFT nods

BJB2: what say you, April?

BJB2 . o O (from your profile I'm reading that you are a tech coordinator?)

AprilPC: It just so happens that I was facilitating a New Teacher Toolbox Meeting in our district today.

BJB2 listens

AprilPC: Some were new to our district and others were just new.

MaryFT: how did it go?

MaryFT: we really need the preservice teacher group BJ

DavidWe agrees

LauraD joined the room.

AprilPC: We are able to have powerful conversations about strengths so far and areas where we can work together to be more successful. Most of the teachers wanted less meetings. I am discouraged because this is a way for them to connect with one another, express their concerns and ask for help.

BJB2: I agree. I can add to your group quota if you need it, Mary. Then you can also create that group.

BJB2: Hi, Laura

DavidWe waves to Laura

LauraD: Hello, all!

MaryFT: sounds like a good plan

BJB2 nods to April.

MaryFT: I'm open to topic suggestions for both groups

AprilPC: I hate that I have to leave so soon after meeting everyone, but my family has agreed to go back to school with me to pick up some cables and stuff that I have to have to make the commercials for tomorrow's closed circuit broadcast.

MaryFT: nice family!

DavidWe: Nice to meet you, April.

AprilPC: I hope to join back up with this group again!

DavidWe: Don't sweat it

MaryFT nods

BJB2: I think perhaps the Teacher Educ Faculty Forum should be a little broader...to include tech facilitators and admin

AprilPC left the room (signed off).

MaryFT: that would be good

MaryFT: change in title?

BJB2: you can give the group any title you want to

BJB2: you can also change the time and date, but the time and date for these two groups works really well for me and the calendar

MaryFT: hmmm...going to have to give it some thought

MaryFT: time/date work well for me too

MaryFT: How about the Teaching Teachers forum

MaryFT: ?

DavidWe: Excellent idea!

MaryFT: for anyone who teaches, mentors, or supports teachers

BJB2: works for me

MaryFT smiles

DavidWe: Great idea, Mary

MaryFT: which leads me to the Teachers in Training forum for the preservice teachers

BJB2: ahhh...good also.

BJB2: because that group can be for preservice as well as first and second year teachers...who really need the support

BJB2: Hi, Sonya. Welcome

MaryFT: Yes! great idea

MaryFT: I'm really excited about this

MaryFT: I've always wanted to be involved in both these groups

MaryFT: now I'm involved in a big way

BJB2: Sonya, are you here for the teacher ed discussion?

BJB2 cheers again...great, Mary!

SonyaR: I believe so, the pre-service teachers forum.

BJB2: I upped your group quota to 3 so you'll still have a group to play with if you want

BJB2: Sonya, we're kind of discussing that now, if you'd like to join us

MaryFT: Great Sonya! I'm glad to see you here tonight

YolandaCr joined the room.

MaryFT: hi Yolanda!

BJB2: we're brainstorming what kinds of things preservice and new teachers would like to see here

YolandaCr: Hello! How are you?

BJB2 waves hi to Yolanda

SonyaR: Did I join kind of early?

MaryFT: doing well...we could really use your ideas on topics to discuss in the upcoming preservice teacher's forum

MaryFT: Sonya...we'll start the preservice group at 8:00 but stick around if you'd like

MaryFT: I'd love your input

SonyaR: Ok, great

MaryFT: What issues do you think preservice, 1st, and 2nd year teachers would like to discuss?

SonyaR: As for as technology, or in general..

MaryFT: in general

YolandaCr: Reasons why so many teacher don't integrate technology in their classrooms.

MaryFT nods

SonyaR: If they are really reaching the students.

YolandaCr: Lack of equipment or lack of interest???

MaryFT: and possible solutions or ideas for integrating technology Yolanda?

SonyaR: Certain things that they can do to motivate the students to want to learn.

MaryFT: How to tell if you are really reaching the students Sonya?

DavidWe . o O (We had a great discussion of 2nd graders in Omaha, Nebraska podcasting)

MaryFT: Motivation is a big, important topic

DavidWe is going to reboot his computer

DavidWe . o O (brb)

DavidWe left the room (signed off).

SonyaR: Are they engaged, do they comprehend the material, do they want to stop doing what they are doing..

YolandaCr: I think that some possible solutions begin with introducing the technology at an early age, even if it is something very simple.

MaryFT: so far we have: roadblocks to technology integration, assessing student engagement, motivating students to succeed...

MaryFT nods to both Sonya and Yolanda

MaryFT: great thoughts, ladies!

MariaIN joined the room.

MaryFT: Hi Maria

MariaIN: hi there Mary

SonyaR: Classroom management skills that really work.

YolandaCr waves to Maria

SonyaR waves Maria

MaryFT: we're discussing possible topics that preservice, 1st, and 2nd year teachers would like to discuss

MaryFT: I knew Classroom management would be in that list somewhere

MaryFT: I'd love to know what methods you are seeing in your classrooms

MaryFT: what strategies do teacher use?

MaryFT: I really don't believe that there are easy answers to any of these issues but I think preservice and beginning teachers can really benefit from discussing them

YolandaCr: What about....making the students care about their education.

DavidWe joined the room.

SonyaR: My teacher uses a conduct clipboard that works wonders, helpers assigned every week that do many things around the room, always giving positive feedback, and praise.

MaryFT: great! I'm glad you are seeing those things

MariaIN: So far, what I have seen as classroom management is the teacher raising her hand when the class gets too loud.

MariaIN: She notices who is paying attention because the students have to raise their hands as well

MariaIN: That works sometimes

MaryFT: I like that strategy too

YolandaCr: I think that a lot has to do with the students because there are some who don't even care to get punished if they are breaking the rules.

MariaIN: As Sonya mentioned, my teacher has something similar to that too

MaryFT: What other things do you wonder about now that you are in the classroom?

MariaIN: I agree with you too Yolanda

SonyaR: She also gives the students rewards every Monday for those students who have done their homework the week before.

MariaIN: As soon as you "get after them," they continue doing the same things

BJB2: oh...interesting thread in the reception discussion board...

BJB2: on punished by rewards

MaryFT nods

MaryFT: My AP told me to give my students candy as a motivator

MaryFT: I didn't like it at all

DavidWe wonders about that

BJB2: ackkk

MaryFT: I'm a big believer in intrinsic motivations

BJB2 agrees

MariaIN: What district is that Mary?

SonyaR: If we will have time to plan these more hands-on activities in our classroom, when having to do certain things that are required of them by the P.

MaryFT: when I was in Alief

MaryFT: How to manage hands-on activities

MariaIN: What are your opinions on a token economy system?

MaryFT: High-stakes testing environments and their effects on beginning teachers

SonyaR: Now in days it is so hard to get the students motivated.

YolandaCr: My teacher doesn't really give out any rewards, she thinks that they should behave without any rewards.

MaryFT: maybe we're trying to motivate with the wrong things

MaryFT nods

MariaIN: They should, but they don't always do

YolandaCr: I think that at least once in a while....it does motivate them.

MaryFT: token economies can be a useful tool

SonyaR: I agree with Yolanda.

MaryFT: I think I like it better when it is a class-based system

MaryFT: the whole class shares in the reward/consequences

MaryFT: I have seen that done very well with elementary

YolandaCr: Very interesting, I hadn't heard about that.

BJB2 wishes that teachers could get rewards of prof dev for participating in Tapped in discussions

MariaIN: I have heard of that, but was not sure what it was called

MaryFT: back to motivation Sonya - what techniques have you seen?

MariaIN: I agree with BJB

LauraD: Sorry to interrupt, but I just wanted to say that I'm currently pursuing my BA/MT in Secondary English Ed, and I've been keeping an eye on your chat during my Teaching with Technology class, and I've really enjoyed seeing all you have to say

MaryFT: not sure if it's strictly token economy but it does promote group cohesion and group norms

LauraD: So from the perspective of a pre-service teacher, this was very valuable to me

MariaIN: thanks

LauraD: Thanks so much, and have a great night all

CortneyG joined the room.

MaryFT: thanks Laura

MariaIN: Hi Cortney

MaryFT: Hi Cortney

CortneyG: Hi

MaryFT: The gang's all here

DavidWe wonders if he can paste something in that's a bit provocative in order to get feedback from this group

MaryFT: any objections group?

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe promises no bad language

YolandaCr: go ahead

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe: Here goes:

MariaIN: k

DavidWe: "My dangerous idea is one that most people immediately reject without giving it serious thought: School is bad for kids. It makes them unhappy, and as tests show, they don't learn much. ...Just call school off. Turn them all into apartment houses."

DavidWe: -- Psychologist and computer scientist Robert Shank, one of 117 deep thinkers who have so far responded to this year's annual New Year's question by the Edge Foundation: "What's your dangerous idea?" www.edge.org

CortneyG: go ahead

HeatherNG joined the room.

DavidWe: Hi, Heather. Welcome

MariaIN smiles

MaryFT waves to Heather

HeatherNG: Thanks David!

MariaIN: Hi Heather

DavidWe can re-paste that quote for Heather's benefit

HeatherNG: Hey Maria!

DavidWe: Just curious how you all might react to that

YolandaCr: I disagree!!!

SonyaR: Actually sitting next to the student and asking them if they are ok and why they are not working. This has seemed to work with my students. They get the feel of importance and gets them straight to work. I love it when this happens.

MariaIN: that's kind of funny, but I disagree as well

MaryFT: why do you disagree?

HeatherNG: what are we talking about?

DavidWe: I'll paste it again, sorry for the block of text

DavidWe: "My dangerous idea is one that most people immediately reject without giving it serious thought: School is bad for kids. It makes them unhappy, and as tests show, they don't learn much. ...Just call school off. Turn them all into apartment houses."

DavidWe: -- Psychologist and computer scientist Robert Shank, one of 117 deep thinkers who have so far responded to this year's annual New Year's question by the Edge Foundation: "What's your dangerous idea?" www.edge.org

YolandaCr: The students are learning....at their own pace, but surely.

DavidWe appreciates any and all thoughts on this

MaryFT: I take issue with the "as tests show, they don't learn much" part

DavidWe . o O (not my quote)

MaryFT: one of the biggest issues facing education right now is how to show what kids know - and where/whether high stakes tests are any way to do it

YolandaCr: Tests are not always a proof of how much a person knows.

MaryFT nods

DavidWe: Is "how much" a person knows important?

MariaIN: I disagree because everyone needs some type of teacher figure in their life.

HeatherNG: I think... if we make the student's learning meaningful... they will learn more. Any test would also reflect this. If it is meaningful-they will care more about the topic and they will invest more time and energy into learning it.

JeffC joined the room.

MariaIN: I agree with Yolanda. There are many different ways to measure what I student knows

BJB2 . o O (depends on the test, as Mary implied)

DavidWe: But parents and relatives are teacher-like figures, right?

MaryFT: Do we believe the initial statement: that "school makes kids unhappy?"

YolandaCr: I say this because I myself don't consider myself as a good test taker and that doesn't mean that I am clueless.

CortneyG: I don't think school makes school unhappy....

MariaIN: I think so, David

HeatherNG: I think the idea of tossing out the idea of schools is a valid point; I understand what you are saying David. The kids need to be educated though if they are to succeed in life... where will they get this education.

CortneyG: in my case, my kindergartners love school and coming to school

HeatherNG: David, I don't agree with that... some kids actually like/love school!

MariaIN: For me, I have some fourth graders that don't want to come to school

DavidWe: It's not my quote, Heather, but I found it provocative

CortneyG: maybe they're bored

MariaIN: and when they do come, they do nothing in the class

SonyaR: No, maybe we do by not providing the material in engaging ways or in different ways where all students can learn.

DavidWe: I enjoyed school, personally, but the question is what would I have done if I hadn't been made to go to school for 13 years (K-12)

MaryFT: I think that's the key Sonya

HeatherNG: I have to admit... I never wanted to go to school. I loved my teachers.. but I did not like my classmates... so that was my reason. I always made good grades... so that wasn't the issue... I never liked my peers...

MelanieDR joined the room.

DavidWe: I think I would have learned things from my parents, my grandparents (since I did that anyway)

MaryFT: Welcome Melanie

SonyaR: The environment can also be an issue, I agree

MelanieDR: Hi! What's the topic?

HeatherNG: yeah, David, but could they have taught you Trig?

DavidWe: yes

DavidWe: But would I have needed to learn it

HeatherNG: I'm sure you understand my point =)

MaryFT: lots of stuff Melanie

DavidWe has a lot of medical doctors in his family

BJB2 . o O (David comes from a very brilliant family)

MelanieDR: I'll listen for awhile and catch up!

MaryFT: David's posted a provocative quote and we're chewing on it

HeatherNG: Maybe not Trig, but I think everyone needs to have an understanding of all subjects

DavidWe: My great-grandmother was the first of three (then grandma, then Mom) women physicians

LauraStas joined the room.

DavidWe: People learn things well when they are MOTIVATED to learn them, right?

MariaIN: yes

CortneyG: yes!

MaryFT: Here's my question: if we know some kids are unhappy going to school, what can we change about the way we teach/run school to change that?

DavidWe: I am very proud - really I am - that I taught myself to type in the summer between 7th and 8th grade

HeatherNG: yes, but they also learn things that they do not care about too.

DavidWe: It's come in very handy

MariaIN: We can include hands on activities that will keep them engaged

BJB2: there are many students who are being homeschooled. Do you think they are receiving inferior educations? If the child is really unhappy, might homeschooling be a solution?

HeatherNG: BJB, I think it all depends on the reason the child is unhappy

YolandaCr: I think that all teachers should know and understand all their students and incorporate something they all enjoy to make a lesson a success.

CortneyG: I think being social is important in a child's development

MariaIN: I don't think it will

DavidWe thinks BJ asked an important question

MelanieDR: You have to show them how certain things will be useful to them in their daily lives. Some times the only way it will be useful to them is to pass a test. If so, you tell them that.

SonyaR: Ask for the students' ideas on what things they dislike, like, or would like to see happening in class.

MariaIN: If they go to homeschool, they will probably be incline not to do nothing since the student is at home

MelanieDR: You have to be honest.

HeatherNG: I honestly believe that a child can learn more in "normal" school-not home school. This is where most of us probably began learning people and social skills

DavidWe: Home-schooling doesn't mean anti-social

BJB2: keep in mind that public schooling was created for the masses...can public education be all things to all children/people?

MaryFT: I've considered homeschooling BJ...if I thought that our local school was not meeting my student's needs I would investigate all available options - private, homeschool, whatever

DavidWe: Home-school parents take it as important that their kids play sports (on teams), play instruments (in groups) do theatre, etc

BJB2 nods to Mary

MelanieDR: I agree. But social skills are learned when you are around other people. What if the teacher at home doesn't take the kids out amongst the masses?

CortneyG: yeah...but you are being isolated from a lot of social activities that occur at school

HeatherNG: I understand that David, but I think those are some things the kids miss out on. Unless they have a great social life, and the home school teacher takes actions to make sure they get those things

DavidWe: Always depends on the quality of the teacher, Heather, right?

DavidWe: Good parent/teachers are good to have - but not essential

DavidWe: . o O (people do overcome bad family influences)

DavidWe: I mean look at extreme examples - Helen Keller is always one that staggers me

MelanieDR: Yea, but that makes it harder.

HeatherNG: absolutely correct David! =) But... this is the point where the child has to overcome the odds...

MaryFT: If I homeschooled, my child and I would go outside, go to museums, do lots of experiments and field-trippy stuff

DavidWe: Of course it makes it harder, Melanie, but we can't choose our parents

MaryFT: all the stuff I would want their school to do too

HeatherNG: the child has to be absolutely motivated in their own learning....

DavidWe: We have some more control over who are teachers are, right?

SonyaR: I agree.

CandyC joined the room.

MelanieDR: gotta go, husband home. catcha later.

MelanieDR left the room (signed off).

MaryFT: Hi Candy

DavidWe: Hi, Candy. Welcome

CandyC: Hi

SonyaR waves candy

YolandaCr waves to Candy

MaryFT: we're having an interesting discussion about all kinds of things

MaryFT: we've talked about homeschooling, motivation, classroom management

LauraStas: Is this not the Pre -service teachers conference because it says that is in this room at 8:00

MariaIN: it is

MaryFT: Sorta Laura

MaryFT: We're the preservice teachers forum tonight

LauraStas: okay

MaryFT: It looks like I will be leading it for a while

HeatherNG: I know of some other girls that were supposed to be here...

BJB2: we've broadened preservice to include first and second year teachers as well as pre-service teachers

HeatherNG: I think they got lost... it's too easy to do! haha. Huh Maria!

MariaIN waves

HeatherNG smiles

MaryFT: I'm really interested to know what types of things "Teachers in Training" would like to discuss

MaryFT: I'm looking for ideas so I know what to prepare for in future discussions

HeatherNG: Are we supposed to ask questions or share some things?

MaryFT: share and ask

MaryFT: I'd like to keep things general tonight with more specific topics for the future

LauraStas: I got my teacher to go to the computer lab next week so we will see how it goes.

MaryFT gives Laura a thumbs up

CandyC: Mary how long have you been teaching?

JeffC: Is your teacher technophobic Laura?

MaryFT: 4 years in Alief and 5 years at UH (this is Dr. Thompson btw)

CandyC: oh , ok. Hi.

LauraStas: No she does use her computer in her classroom a lot, but just not the lab where they all use it together

HeatherNG: I was teaching my 4th graders about the American Revolution... so the day before I taxed them on things. I checked out play money from the school and I taxed them for things they did in the classroom (i.e. out of seat w/o permission, getting a piece of paper, restroom, water, etc.). It went great! They completely were able to relate to how the colonist felt! That has been my fuzzy feeling of the week!

YolandaCr: I am with PK and my teacher thinks that they are too small to use any type of technology.

HeatherNG: I thought it was you Dr. Thompson! haha

SonyaR: Some teachers are so use to the paper pencil system that they are having a hard time getting used to computers.

MaryFT: GREAT idea Heather!

DavidWe joined the room.

MariaIN: My school has laptops that can be checked out for the entire class

MariaIN: I have yet to use them

HeatherNG: Wanna hear another one? I'm so proud of this idea too!

MaryFT: I know you have stuff to say about PK tech use Jeff

LauraStas: That sounds really neat Heather. What did you do after that?

CandyC: I tried to suggest to my teacher she can do something as simple as a powerpoint with just a few slides to incorporate technology in the class, but my teacher just believes there isn't enough time

LauraStas: Wow Maria. What school district are you in?

MariaIN: HISD

JeffC: Actually... I'm volunteering in my daughter's second grade class... have them set up here at tapped in and collaborating with other schools now.

MariaIN: cool

MaryFT: cool...and David was going to tell us about 2nd graders podcasting

CandyC: yeah, that's a great idea Jeff

LauraStas: Cool. I think that Labtops can be a little more complicated to use. What grade?

JeffC: I'd recommend to all pre-service teachers here that they create a classroom here for their students.

YolandaCr: see....parents like you make a big difference.

MariaIN: I'm in 4th grade

MariaIN: My teacher has used them before and the kids love them

CandyC: Well I have experienced 1st graders using laptops, so it is possible

JeffC: I'm also about to start looking around for where to apply to for grants to get laptops into my local school district (the superintendent and I had a meeting, this is what he wants)... any ideas as to where to look would be appreciated.

MariaIN: have you thought about fund raisers?

DavidWe: Here's the web site for the Omaha schools that are doing podcasts:

DavidWe: <http://www.mpsomaha.org/willow/radio/>

SonyaR nods Jeff

HeatherNG: For a quiz, after I get done with this unit- American Rec., Louisiana Purchase, etc. I'm going to make "Quiz Bags". Each day I am having the students draw a pic of the main events. So like Bag 1 will be the American Rev. and it will have all the "clue" cards they drew of the imp. ideas from the lesson. So, bag 1 will have a pic. of money, representatives, revolution, Declaration of Independence, etc.) and they will look at the clue cards and tell me which historical event it is, what the clues are, and why they

are important. There will be 5 bags total (5 events) and they will write their own answers and pass the bags around the room. This is so much better than a paper pencil test.

MaryFT: Classroom grant ideas would be another great topic for this group don't you think?

HeatherNG: yes, Mary! It would be good to know how to find out and apply for them

MaryFT: Wow...another wonderful activity Heather!

CortneyG: Heather...that sounds like a lot of fun

HeatherNG: There's a lot more to it, but that's the "gist",

MaryFT: It's an innovative assessment

MariaIN: sounds very interesting

HeatherNG: Yeah! Cortney! The kids are so excited! They are like are we going to do Social Studies today?!

JeffC: yeah... but my grant application will be for getting laptop carts in all the elementary schools here... we're talking about a dozen schools (none of which is large enough to have a computer lab)... times 30 computers and a dozen carts... so... big \$\$\$

HeatherNG: It's amazing. It makes me feel so good!

CortneyG: awesome!!!

MariaIN: I might just have to BORROW your idea

HeatherNG: Thanks Mary

HeatherNG: sure Maria!

LauraStas: How do you make trading cards? I remember doing them in 3111, but its been so long.

CortneyG: it's always good when you can get kids into liking social studies

MariaIN: That is a lot of money you are talking about

HeatherNG: you want me to email you the lesson plans when I get them written up? I'm doing the bags next Thursday... they got pushed back b/c of Mock TAKS

YolandaCr: These ideas are great!

HeatherNG: Laura, I think I just made a table and inserted pics and info

LauraStas: Is anyone in third grade right now?

CortneyG: I'm in kinder

LauraStas: Thanks Heather

MaryFT: Here are the tutorials from 3111 Laura:
<http://www.coe.uh.edu/courses/cuin3111/wordtradingcards.htm>

LauraStas: Thanks a bunch Mary!!!!

MaryFT: Heather - are you getting these ideas from your SBTE or is it because you feel comfortable in your classroom and have the freedom to try new things?

HeatherNG: I've been coming up with them.. unless I need some help. For example, she asked me to teach inferencing.. and I was like how do I do that. haha

MaryFT nods

LauraStas: You have some really great ideas Heather you should post them up.

CandyC: I plan to use the Microsoft Excel program in a lesson on bargraphs next week, and I'm glad I remembered what this program can do from 3111, because it fits perfect with the lesson and the students have the opportunity to use the computers

HeatherNG: Thanks Laura! Y'all are making me feel so great!

HeatherNG: what grade do you have Candy?

MaryFT smiles at the enthusiasm over technology

CandyC: 1st grade

MaryFT: so is student teaching all that you expected it to be? less/more/different?

HeatherNG: You could do a pictograph! I've been wanting to do one of those ever since we learned how to do them in 3111! haha

CortneyG: I am really enjoying my time.....

CortneyG: I really didn't know what to expect with kindergarten, but I love it!

YolandaCr: I am learning a lot of things, but of course a lot of work to get done.

MariaIN: Me too!

DavidWe hopes Cortney likes small children

HeatherNG: It is better than expected! It is so great not having to write lesson plans to get a grade. And not having to worry about all the classes and everything else that goes along with them... It's just about teaching.

CandyC: they are somewhat knowledgeable about computers, and visit the computer lab every other week, but I am excited about this lesson

CortneyG: I do

LauraStas: It is very challenging because I have a few kids who are really trying to push me.

CandyC: Heather, you r lucky, my lessons r still being graded

LauraStas: Ya so are mine .

HeatherNG: I have 4th grade in the 1st rotation. I wish I would have gotten the little ones. I want Pre-K through Kinder. But I had 3rd grade last semester, 4th now, and 2nd for the next rotation... 3rd and 4th have surprised me.

HeatherNG: By your University Supervisor?

CandyC: yes

LauraStas: yes

SonyaR: It is a learning process candy, but I know you are doing great..

HeatherNG: My SBTE is turning in my lesson plans to the principal, haha.

MaryFT: provocative question #2: Do you feel that your education classes prepared you adequately for what you are now experiencing?

CandyC: yeah, I think UH has a great education program for future teachers

HeatherNG: They are giving you like a numerical grade? Mine just gives me feedback and says great job. lol. Maybe she is taking a grade and hasn't mentioned it.. who knows.

CortneyG: somewhat....being in a class is the real preparation and where you learn the most

YolandaCr: Yes, I am experiencing situations that we have discussed before hand and how to approach them.

SonyaR: I know classroom management has, I always find myself using those helpful skills.

CandyC: yeah , Heather u may want to make sure

MariaIN: I think they give us the education, but once we are in the classroom, it is different

LauraStas: In some areas and in others no, but I think that they have done a pretty good job.

HeatherNG: I think UH has done a great job. The best thing is the Collaborative we had to do. All the classes have helped, of course, but we learn from doing it and being in that environment

SonyaR: It is a learning process.

HeatherNG nods to Sonya

MaryFT: how is the classroom different Maria?

MariaIN: We can only apply so much of what we have learned and the rest is up to us

YolandaCr: I agree, my teacher tells me that it is very different once you begin teaching and I can somewhat see that.

CandyC: I learned my first day of school without CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT, you might as well find another profession, the kids really tried to test me, but I wasn't having it.

HeatherNG: I think the Classroom Management was also very useful

MaryFT: many students feel that there is a disconnect between what they learn in university and the "real world" of the classroom

MariaIN: The classroom is real and sometimes scary

MaryFT: sometimes they see things that are different than what they've been taught

HeatherNG: Mary- how do we find out about classroom grants? We can get them just for our classroom? I know there are school grants, but I haven't heard anything about classroom grants

YolandaCr: I agree Maria.

MaryFT: I know Kappa Delta Pi - the education honor society offers small classroom grants

SonyaR: I love it when I step up to the plate and hit a homerun with the kids, they have to know we are here to have fun and learn, but in order to do so we must follow directions and do what is expected of us.

MaryFT: there are several out there...I can make it a topic for next time and do some research

LauraStas: I think that it would have been more beneficial if we would have been taught more strategies on how to deal with students and their behavior because sometimes it gets tricky.

MaryFT: I found that my students thrived on structure

HeatherNG: and you would put it on the Tapped In calendar?

MariaIN: When certain situations occur, you just act on them and sometimes not applying what you have learned

HeatherNG: I need structure. I am very organized and I like structure! =)

SonyaR: I agree, they need the structure.

MaryFT: I bet BJ would do that for me - next Teachers in Training forum

CandyC: I have also noticed how the teachers love to chat about different students in the lounge, I try and stay positive about everything

MaryFT: me too! I go bananas without routine

MariaIN: I agree with Laura

LauraStas: I totally agree and I am just glad that my teacher is all about that.

YolandaCr: That is very true because in my classroom, I have tried so many things with once of the students and she just doesn't seem to focus on what is going on.

HeatherNG clueless... Teachers in training forum? haha

MaryFT: I think that's why routine was so important in my classroom

MariaIN: That is how my teacher has it

MaryFT: new name for Preservice Teachers forum

MariaIN: It is all routine

MariaIN: Most of it

BJB2: the next meeting of this group will be on the first Thursday of the month at 8pm CST/7pm MST

SonyaR: I am really enjoying this chat, Thanks Mary.

MaryFT: particularly since so many of my students did not have routine in their lives

HeatherNG: I did that last semester Yolanda... what finally worked... I did a lesson that I knew I could pull my 2 kids into... that were completely uninterested and unfocused on everything... I was able to briefly pull football and critters into it. They were into every lesson after that...

SonyaR: That is why getting to know the student is very important.

HeatherNG: The kids need their routines... I have noticed that more this semester... b/c my class is doing Mock TAKS right now... and it's all thrown off

YolandaCr: Thanks for the advice.

MariaIN: I know how you feel Heather

LauraStas: Ya we had a practice math TAKS Tuesday.

MariaIN: My teacher is on TAKS mode

MariaIN: Us too, but it was writing

HeatherNG: We did the Reading last week.. and the Math yesterday and the writing today... but let me tell ya, I am now a pro at analyzing the data!

LauraStas: Ha

MaryFT: sounds like lots of emphasis is being placed on the TEST

MariaIN: YEP

HeatherNG: It is so interesting to see the ones they are all missing... now I can include some of those skills into my future lessons.

MaryFT: excellent Heather - without analysis, data is meaningless

HeatherNG: Yes, there is. I am in a title I school... so it is very important.

LauraStas: Yes, but it is so frustrating when you know the kids can do it, but they are just being lazy.

MariaIN: I agree

MariaIN: I have some of those in my class

MaryFT: You're doing exactly the right thing - assessment should be used to guide instruction and help us understand our students better

MaryFT: no testing just for the sake of testing

HeatherNG: I know Laura!

YolandaCr: I agree!!!

SonyaR: I agree... that can let us know what it is we need to be reteaching.

MaryFT: is it laziness or fear of failure/bad grades, Laura?

LauraStas: It sure makes you feel good though when they do do good.

HeatherNG: Y'all know we can't be in there for the real testing right. Since we are not certified. It is sooo strict! I sat in on a meeting about the rules. The only thing the teachers can say that day is straight from the book where it says "teacher say this"

MariaIN: For me, I think it is laziness

MariaIN: Because when this particular student does do his work, he does great!

LauraStas: No I know my teacher shows them so many different ways to do things and practices with them a lot, but they just do not do any of it.

MariaIN: I think he is just not motivated

LauraStas: Dido with Maria

CandyC: I have a question? My teacher uses a color change chart for behavior with green, yellow, orange and red. When students get on orange or red they miss half of recess. This really gets to them. But once recess is over they feel they can do what they want since recess is over and they have nothing to lose. They feel they don't care if their color is changed. Any suggestions what can occur after this?

YolandaCr: I have seen that too with PK, can you imagine?

YolandaCr: They are too small to even begin having that mentality about school and their education.

MaryFT: My suggestion would be to carry over the colors to the next day Candy

MariaIN: I dont agree with PK, they need their recess

LauraStas: I think that all kids need their play time.

MariaIN: I agree

HeatherNG: that's what I was thinking Mary. I hate to take the recess away though...

LauraStas: It ends up being your punishment too in the long run.

SonyaR: The punishment has to relate to the offense,

HeatherNG: does your teacher let them "earn" the color back.. like if they are good can it go back to green?

CortneyG: I agree!

MaryFT: how about having them do something structured during that time - pick up litter for instance

LauraStas: Okay miss classroom management. Smile.

CandyC: the teacher I work with hates to take away recess too, but that is a good idea
Mary

MaryFT: then they're still outside getting exercise but with a little extra

MariaIN: true

MaryFT: I like the idea of earning back their color too - great one Heather

MariaIN: Or like my teacher in Quest 2, she would make them walk around the track during recess

CandyC: another great idea Maria

HeatherNG: yeah, I was going to say that Maria. Mine did that too!

LauraStas: Hey some parents will complain if you have their children pick up trash. Been there done that before.

CortneyG: that's what my teacher does now...when the lost recess

MaryFT: that's too bad Laura

MariaIN: As a reward, some teachers at my school would let their students wipe down the tables after lunch, and the parents did not agree with that

CandyC: that's a reward?

LauraStas: The way laws are now you cannot really make children do much of anything for punishment.

CortneyG: kids love to help out

MaryFT nods

MariaIN: Yeah, they loved doing it

MaryFT: almost anything can be a reward

MariaIN: My teacher does not implement that in her classroom, but others do

MaryFT: sitting in the "spinnny" chair was a treat for my kids

MariaIN: But they had to stop because of the complaints

LauraStas: I know when I worked for a day care they loved it to. It gave them responsibility and made them feel special.

HeatherNG: wiping off the boards in the classroom! I have 4 girls that ask to do it everyday!

CandyC: Maria where was ur Quest 2 school

MariaIN: HUMBLE

MaryFT: okay...we're coming to the end of our session tonight...

MariaIN: but his is in HISD, the wiping down tables

HeatherNG: go Humble! (I'm doing Quest 3 in the same place I did Quest 2)

MariaIN: I mean, this

HeatherNG: I was in the school with Maria, haha

MariaIN smiles

CortneyG: me too!

MaryFT: for closure, I'd like you to speak to what you've learned tonight OR

HeatherNG: yeah! Cortney too

MaryFT: to what you'd like to see for future discussion topics

HeatherNG: I learned that there are classroom grants... and I am curious to find out more info!

LauraStas: I love hearing about lessons

MaryFT: great!

MariaIN: I learned of many different ideas to try to implement into my classroom

SonyaR: Things we can do for low social-economic students to progress in school.

MaryFT: maybe we'll have a night on best activity ideas Laura

MariaIN: Different classroom management strategies

LauraStas: that would be Awesome

CandyC: the suggestions on different topics such as obtaining grant information, and incorporating technology from past tech. classes, and better classroom management has helped me out

YolandaCr: This was a very interesting discussion, I learned that I am not the only person who is dealing with issues about classroom management, testing, student motivation, etc. Thanks for all the great advice and ideas.

CortneyG: I liked the technology integration talk

MariaIN: You are not alone

MaryFT: Candy, we'll talk more about incorporating tech during our 3113 group meetings

LauraStas: See you later guys

SonyaR: I have enjoyed everything, thanks

MariaIN: I think my biggest thing in the classroom right now is classroom management

MaryFT: That's what this forum is about Yolanda - getting support when you need it

SonyaR: It is great to have these lines of communication.

CortneyG: I agree

MariaIN smiles

MaryFT nods

CandyC: did u say u were with the older kids Maria

MariaIN: It nice to get everyone's thoughts and opinions

HeatherNG: Thanks to everyone! I really enjoyed this!

MaryFT: Learning about resources for teacher communication is one of the goals of 3113

MariaIN: Yeah, I'm in 4th

YolandaCr: thanks everybody and good luck with everything!

SonyaR: Thank you

CandyC: It seems they would be more responsible and easier to work with as far as classroom management, but I guess it just depends

MariaIN: They like to TALK

MariaIN: and can not stop

MaryFT: so do you guys

MaryFT smiles

MariaIN: hahahahaha

CandyC: oh yeah that can be an issue

YolandaCr laughs

MariaIN smiles

SonyaR laughs

YolandaCr: Bye everyone!

SonyaR: Ok, Thanks you guys. adios

HeatherNG: bye guys! Good luck with everything!

MariaIN: Adios

MaryFT: take care ladies

CortneyG: See ya...it's been fun

HeatherNG: bye Maria and Cortney!

MariaIN: Same to everyone

CandyC: later

MariaIN: bye Heather

CortneyG: bye

BJB2: if you want me to list a specific topic for March, Mary, you can email me

MaryFT: thanks so much for all the great ideas - I'm looking forward to chatting with you all again

MaryFT: BJ - I can do better than that - let's go with classroom grant ideas for March

BJB2: ok

BJB2 folds up her tent and steals off into the night

BJB2: thanks, Mary, for taking care of these groups...you're perfect!