

How was your semester?

Perhaps the snow is finally ending and spring is finally coming. Surely we have all earned a well-deserved break from one of the worst winters in recent memory. As we move into milder weather, our thoughts naturally turn to vacations, but remember that GOOD teachers can turn even vacations into time for generating ideas for the next school year. This edition of the Teacher Education Newsletter offers you some food for thought and suggestions to consider as you move forward in your teacher education preparation.



Helping Our Young Ladies to be Leaders

In our last issue, we spoke about helping our young boys to become readers. Interestingly, this issue provides insight as to how we can help our young ladies become a word that rhymes with readers—LEADERS. It is also ironic that boys are often considered assertive leaders (a plus), if not readers, but that same assertiveness in women is considered bossiness (a negative) if they demonstrate leadership skills and interests. There is now an effort, however, to see female leadership as a plus, not a minus, and to ban the word bossy with regard to describing young ladies. The following report is summarized from the 2014 March 9 PARADE article by Lynn Sherr, *Leading by Example*.

Sheryl Sandberg, author of the best-selling book *Lean In*, has begun a push in our society to eliminate the word bossy from our vocabulary when talking about leadership potential in our young ladies. Along with former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Anna Maria Chavez, CEO of the Girl Scouts of the USA, these women are “launching a public service campaign to ban the word bossy, a negative label they say is too often applied to young girls, and one of the many ways we discourage them from speaking up.”

“Words matter,” says Rice. “We are trying to get at the subtleties, the messages that keep girls from achieving.” For Chavez, “the campaign is about allowing all children the opportunity to reach their potential.” And Sandberg says, “I tell parents, instead of saying ‘My daughter is bossy,’ try ‘My

daughter has executive leadership skills.’ I’ve never had anyone say that without laughing. Now say it for a boy: ‘My son has executive leadership skills.’ There’s no humor in that sentence, which reveals the difference in our expectations.”

Sandberg continues her discussion by focusing on how our society hasn’t “[accepted and encouraged] female leadership...by parents, teachers, managers...” She continues, “One of the reasons why I wrote *Lean In* is that my daughter, when she was 4, asked me, ‘Mommy, why are all the presidents boys?’”

Chavez adds, “When we talk about investing in girls, we’re not saying to divest from boys. It’s about ensuring that we have every capable person prepared to lead.”

All three of these women have advice for future leaders that we as teachers should keep in mind as we groom all students for success, but particularly our young ladies for leadership. Sandberg said, “Believe in yourself, because the world will not always encourage you.” Rice added, “Leadership is hard because everybody who doesn’t actually want to do it wants to tell you how to do it. You’d better have thick skin.” Chavez urged, “We’re all born with innate qualities to lead, but it takes a lot of practice. And there’s no time to waste. Research shows that almost half the girls in the United States are living in [low-income households]. We’ve got to invest in them so they can break the cycle.”

Both Rice and Chavez see our young ladies as “unique” in today’s environment: “They are ready to lead...their world is the globe. It’s time.” “Our job is to make certain the pathways are open to both our boys and our girls.”

The “Ban Bossy” campaign is designed “to help parents and teachers empower girls to stand up and speak out.” It offers some tips such as these:

- 1. Parents:** Discuss with your daughter ways that she can use her voice in situations like requesting service or responding in the classroom.
- 2. Teachers:** Observe dynamics in group work. Girls often complete the work of peers who slack off. If they get used to doing work without credit, they don’t learn to push for recognition when they deserve it.
- 3. Girls:** Don’t precede your ideas with “apologies: I’m not sure this is right, but...” Avoid behaviors that you might use to make yourself insignificant. Speak up, be heard, and don’t make your statements “sound like questions.” Be firm and secure when you have something to say.

For more information about this topic, go to banbossy.com

Commitment to the Profession Begins NOW

You might think that joining a professional organization is what you do after you receive your degree and teaching license. But you should realize that joining a professional organization now gives you the opportunity to take advantage of resources, networking, and enhanced learning opportunities that you probably won't find on your campus. Those benefits can also place you at the head of the line when you begin to look for that first teaching position.

The National Association for the Education of Young Children is offering student memberships. You must be registered as a full-time student at a college or university and obtain a valid student ID from your institution. Then, as part of your student membership, you have benefits such as a 20% discount on products in the catalog and through the online store, print publication package of either Young Children or Teaching Young Children; reduced registration fees for NAECY-sponsored conferences; membership in your local and state NARYC affiliate. There are other benefits as well that make it more than worthwhile to join.

For more information, call 1-800-424-2460 or email membership@naeyc.org. Be sure to select WMAEYC (#235) as your local affiliate.

Best Prom Ever

Karianne Brown, one of the Teachers of Tomorrow scholars, shared this with me during the Donors Appreciation Breakfast:

On March 1, 2014, Sparta High School held the "Best Prom Ever," an event for students with special needs. It is an activity designed to make these students feel special in another way that doesn't focus on disability but on Ability. There was dinner from 6-7:30 p.m., and dancing and interaction from 7:30-10:30 p.m.

If you would like more information planning an event like this, contact Mrs. Redwine at (616) 234-4664 or credwine@grcc.edu and she can put you in touch with Karianne.

Remember: Our job as teachers is to support the dignity and self-worth of all students.

Looking for Summer Volunteering?

Volunteer at the Center at United Way (118 Commerce Ave., Suite 100). Contact Ms. Royer at (616) 752-8603, or visit the website at hwmuw.org.

Summer 2014 Dates for the Michigan Test for Teacher Certification

May 15-17, 19-21 • June 12-14, 16-18 • August 14-16, 18-20
For additional information, visit www.mttc.nesinc.com

Fall 2014 Semester Courses

SP 101	Section 4512	MW 9-10:30 a.m.
BI 101	Section 2624	MW 9-10:30 a.m. (Lab 10:45-11:45 a.m.)
BI 101	Section 2625	MW 1-2:30 p.m. (Lab 2:45-3:45 p.m.)
ED 220	Section 4674	MW 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Have a Laugh on Me!

We test math, we test science, and we test writing, but we don't test wit. If we did, this student would surely pass with flying colors. Read each question, and after you read each of his/her answers, think about them carefully after rereading each question. You'll find that they really make sense in a unique way (even though the student failed the subject content part).

Q. In which battle did Napoleon die?
A. His last battle

Q. Where was the Declaration of Independence signed?
A. At the bottom of the page

Q. River Ravi flows in which state?
A. Liquid

Q. What is the main reason for divorce?
A. Marriage

Q. What is the main reason for failure?
A. Exams

Q. What can you never eat for breakfast?
A. Lunch and dinner

Q. What looks like half an apple?
A. The other half

Q. If you throw a red stone into the blue sea, what will it become?
A. It will simply become wet.

Q. How can a man go eight days without sleeping?
A. No problem; he sleeps at night.

Q. If you had three apples and four oranges in one hand, and four apples and three oranges in the other hand, what would you have?
A. Very large hands

Q. How can you drop a raw egg onto a concrete floor without cracking it?
A. Any way you want; concrete floors are very hard to crack.

teacher EDUCATION

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