



A Newsletter for Beginning Teachers in NC

Regional Education Facilitators-NC Department of Public Instruction
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A Message from Randy Pressley: Western Region Teacher of the Year

Helpful Websites

This North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching site has videos on a variety of topics related to the classroom experience.

- <http://www.nccat.org/beginning-teacher-support-program>

Want to know about North Carolina's Teacher Evaluation Process?

- www.ncees.ncdpi.wikispaces.net/NCEES+Wiki

Check out the state wikis!

- www.ncdpi.wikispaces.net
- www.wikicentral.ncdpi.wikispaces.net

Are you in need of professional development? Try this site.

- rt3nc.org

NC Department of Public Instruction can be found here:

- www.dpi.state.nc.us

State Board of Education-
stateboard.ncpublicschools.gov

Congratulations – if you are reading this, then you have survived the initial onslaught! I hope that you have made a positive start towards not just surviving, but thriving in a job that is very challenging. Your reward is (drum roll please) more work a math problem! Suppose a teacher, me, has been teaching for 30 years. He has not been on the block, so he has taught 5 classes a day. His average class size has been 26. How many students has he encountered in his classes over his career? That comes to 3900 children. Call it 3000 since I have taught many kids in multiple classes. Let's talk a little bit now about all the work that those 3000 children have caused me to do over those 30 years. Just think of all the tests that have been given, the homework that has

been graded, the calls to parents that have been made, the number of bathroom passes written, the reminders to pay attention, and all the other things that can be frustrating and time consuming. The list of tasks goes on and on. I believe that the work we are required to do is not only harder, but takes longer than at any other time I can remember. Why would anyone that is in their right mind want this for a career? To answer that question, here is some more math for you. The things I just talked about take up about 2.3% of my thoughts, maybe less. I've got no time for such worries. What I do have time for is trying my best to prepare quality lessons for every class, every day. Trying to be a role model who leads by example. Trying to give each of my chil-

dren what they need to be successful in my class, and more importantly, to be successful in what comes next – life! Trying extra hard to love the children that are not always easy to love. As you go forward in your teaching career, I encourage you to think about the opportunity you have been given to change the life of a child. You not only have the opportunity, you have the duty to be a positive influence in the life of each and every child you teach. What a wonderful chance and blessing. I hope that each of you has a great year. If your career makes you as happy as mine has made me, you are in for a wonderful ride! Lou Gehrig once stated that he "was the luckiest man on the face of this earth" so I can't use that quote. I can say that I have been blessed beyond compare in my life at Tuscola High School and I would do it all again if I had a chance. Let's do this, together, for the children!

Randy Pressley-Tuscola High School- Haywood County Schools

Phases of Teachers: From Anticipation to Survival

Teachers experience several different phases throughout the year. The year begins with anticipation as teachers look forward to decorating and organizing the classroom to meeting new students. But once the first weeks have passed, teachers often find themselves in survival mode and this can last for several months. The lesson planning, assessing of students, grading of papers,

meetings, and other expectations of the job can be overwhelming. It can be a juggling act and it's important to find balance. Lean on your mentor for support in managing this phase. Your feelings are normal and shared by all teachers. Look for ways to be rejuvenated. Remember you are making a difference, and given time, this phase will pass.

