



Professional Times

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Special Project Recipients-Congratulations!

For the past five years the Professional Learning Center has been awarding "special projects" (these were formerly known as mini grants). The primary focus is to embed professional development into technology integration. New applications will be available in September, 2010; consider submitting a proposal to enhance your professional learning.

Ryan Johnson of Arcadia HS received a Smart Technology Wireless Slate/Air liner. According to Ryan, "The air liner will allow students to manipulate documents, identify key parts, or even add missing parts using their prior knowledge. The air liner has tools that allow teachers and students to highlight and focus on important aspects of visuals or even movies." This will be shared as a department resource and in a co-teaching classroom.

Christina Calarco-Wawrzyniak of Olympia HS received Upper Algebra Combo pack software. This allows teachers to create questions with multiple choice and free response similar of those on the NYS Regents exams. The goal is to extend students and teachers thinking. Unit assessments would now need to show coherent work as step one, then step two would be the multiple choice. "Our goal is to eliminate guessing and to guide thinking, show work and build logic skills", Calaraco said.

Cathryn Franchino of Craig Hill received a document camera. This camera will allow teachers at Craig Hill to not only present information from any text without making copies, but it would allow students and teachers to visually demonstrate the processes used to solve a math problem, revise a sentence and edit a paragraph. It will also be used to provide professional development to easily present any data, text or manipulatives needed to accurately and clearly portray their message. In addition, it will reduce costs in copying.

Ann Fox of Parkland received two flip digital camcorders. Second grade students will be invited to join a video club. Their application will be a persuasive letter or an interview. Students and teachers will receive professional development on how to use these cameras. The goal is to have students become the official videographers for their classrooms. In the process students will be able to teach their teacher how to use the cameras as well. "Watching these videos will be an opportunity for students to do self-critiquing." Fox said.

Carl Stressing (ATHS), Abby McMonagle (ARHS), Karen Harris (ARMS) and Lyn Walker (West Ridge) received Smart Boards. This was a very competitive process. Each one of their projects emphasized technology integration in the classroom as they increase their own professional development knowledge. Congratulations to all of our recipients this year!

USB Transfer Express has just arrived at the PLC!

What is this?? If you have your students work on a flash drive, with a click of a button you can transfer anything from your flash drive to 15 students flash drives (i.e. writing templates, study guide template, reading response forms, test prep questions, make up work); the possibilities are endless. You can also copy student work from the student flash drives onto yours. Just call Peggy at ext. 2709 to borrow this item at no cost to you.



How to Develop as a Professional: Being a Positive Force

Your state of mind defines you as a professional! Each year and every day we educators are faced with incredible challenges. I have learned over the years that when I seem to have lost control of many pieces of my life, I still have absolute control over one thing - my attitude. I can face my challenges with a smile or I can grumble and grouse about them, but the reality is that they will be there no matter what. I choose to face each day with a smile, with enthusiasm, with humor, and with the welfare of my students uppermost in my mind. This is my first step in presenting myself as a professional.

If you are feeling overwhelmed, maintaining an upbeat, positive attitude will go a long way toward helping you cope with your situation. Here are some tips.

1. Maintain a sense of humor. Look for those crazy things that give you a laugh each day.
2. Try to avoid jaded, discouraged experienced teachers. The few that there are can wear you down and make you feel discouraged, too. Sometimes this means avoiding the faculty lounge!
3. Find some time for yourself each day. Try to find a little nook at school where you can find a few minutes of solitary to reflect, rest, and recoup.
4. Walk into the school each morning with a smile. Stop and talk to students, other teachers, custodians, and secretaries. Ask how they are doing and really listen. This only takes a few minutes and it connects you with the people at your school. Sharing a few words and a smile with other people really sets off my day in a positive way.
5. Get together with other teachers at your school. Our teachers like to meet Friday afternoon at some local restaurant to share their week, to laugh, and to let some of the stresses roll off their shoulders. This helps to build friendships and builds strength around shared experiences. And it might only take one hour a week.
6. Reflect on your students one-by-one. Think about them as unique individuals each with gifts and each with many things to learn. When I do this, I appreciate even more the problems they face and the efforts they are making. It gives me joy to be part of their lives.



Written by Judy Jones @ www.teachersnetwork.org

How to Incorporate New Media into Your Classroom

Many schools in the past couple of years have undoubtedly been conserving resources in order to save money, as well as to “go green.” Since a majority of students own or have access to a computer and the Internet, many homework assignments can be found online. For those students who may not have use of a computer with internet access at home, a few of the assignments should be printed or the boys and girls may use the public library. Some examples of online homework assignments are:

- Find an online newspaper from another part of the world and compare and contrast a social issue or the weather. Then write an opinion essay of what life would be like living there.
- Download menus and write a “restaurant review” of the food
- Type their own menu using adjectives other than the menu that was downloaded
- Look for the rate of exchange from a country whose money is different from the local area
- Find a recipe online and double, triple or change it for a large crowd. If the recipe indicates that it will feed four then have the students enlarge it to feed twenty-seven, for example.
- Research online regarding a current event, such as a planet that was discovered, a promising cure for a disease, or a historical figure, etc., and paraphrase it into an essay.
- After reading and finding information on The Great Depression, make a table and compare and contrast the differences between the economy of the 1930s and that of today.
- Create a Scavenger Hunt (http://faculty.usiouxfalls.edu/arpeterson/scavenger_hunts.htm) using such topics as “how to raise money for a school event” or “how to go green in the classroom or school.”
- Look for a classic poet online and “translate” one of his/her poems into modern day language.
- E-mail a chamber of commerce asking questions about their city.
- The possibilities are endless and to add to the list, ask students to write or find ten online homework assignments.

Written by: Ann Stephenson @ www.teachersnetwork.org

Resources:

Be sure to visit "The Olympics" at:



<http://olc.spsd.sk.ca/de/resources/olympics/>. It is devoted to the Vancouver Winter Olympic games February 12th to the 28th.

The U.S. Census Bureau has created a **Census in Schools** program called **2010 Census: It's About Us**.



The program will provide K-12 educators with resources to teach the nation's students about the importance of the census.

http://www.census.gov/schools/2010_census/



The goal of the Literacy Matters project is to improve the literacy development of middle grades and secondary school students, especially those students who are struggling to succeed. The content within this web site focuses on what matters most in adolescent literacy development.

<http://www.literacymatters.org/about.htm>

<http://joy2learn.org/> brings America's greatest artists into the classroom free of charge via the Internet. Navigate through exciting videos and interactive multimedia elements including performances, history, artists insights and quiz games.



Interactive Smart Board Resources

The Amphitheater School District in Tucson, Arizona has created a wonderful site to enhance classroom instruction.

www.amphi.com/departments/technology/whiteboard/eleminteractivesites.html will access K-5 activities and

www.amphi.com/departments/technology/whiteboard/midhighinteractivesites.html will access activities for grades 6-12. Included on this site you will find Smart Board installation tips, training and tutorials.

Visit Newseum World Newspapers at:

<http://www.newseum.org/todaysfrontpages/flash/>.

Just put your mouse on any city in the world, and the front page of the local newspaper pops up. Double click and the page gets larger. Changes daily. Great resource for language arts, social studies (humanities), research projects.

New Books @PLC

- *No Quick Fix: Rethinking Literacy Programs in America's Elementary Schools*
- *Shades of Meaning: Comprehension and Interpretation in Middle School*
- *When Actions Speak Louder Than Words: Understanding the Challenging Behaviors of Young Children and Students With Disabilities*



MyLearningPlan
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Credit Card Payments Now Accepted in MyLearningPlan! You can now pay for your courses in MyLearningPlan (MLP) using your credit card, debit card or e-check. This safe, secure and quick payment method has been incorporated into MLP with [Authorize.net](http://authorize.net). In addition, when you are purchasing academic resources, you can charge your laminating, poster making and paper purchases at the Professional Learning Center. It's quick, secure and easy!

Tuition Reimbursement: Any employee who is seeking tuition reimbursement for a college course must submit an electronic tuition reimbursement form on MyLearningPlan BEFORE the course has started. **No more paper forms will be accepted.** After the course is completed, you must log back into MyLearningPlan, type in the grade you received and click on "Mark Complete". Any questions regarding tuition reimbursement? Please call Susan Brown, Benefits Clerk at 966-2324.

Conferences: Any professional development that occurs outside of Greece Central is considered a conference and a conference request from must be submitted BEFORE the conference occurs. Do not submit the request after the fact and expect to be reimbursed or receive hours. Please note that GTA members do not earn points for conference attendance. **No more paper forms will be accepted.**

MyFileLibrary What is this? MyFileLibrary is a section in MyLearningPlan (MLP) where you can view helpful documents on how to use MLP. Here is a short list of the documents you can view: How to: redeem your points, complete a conference request, complete a tuition reimbursement, IEP Writing Day Log, print out a sign in sheet, register for an on-line course and more! Don't forget if you are completing a conference request from, you need to first scan a completed registration form (with principal signature) into your MyFileLibrary. See your policy board member for assistance.

Greece Professional Learning Center
(PLC)
Greece Teachers Association (GTA)

Professional Learning Center
1790 Latta Road-Upper Bldg.
Rochester, New York 14612
585.966.2130
Hours: 8-4:30 p.m.

Greece Teachers Association
3670 Mount Read Blvd.
Rochester, New York 14616
585.621.7970
Hours: 8-4 p.m.
www.greeceteachers.com



Teamwork: Many hands, many
minds, one goal.



Greece PROFESSIONAL LEARNING CENTER

Hours: PLC office hours are **8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** We are open during December, February and April recesses. We are also open during the summer (8-4:30). We are closed on weekends and major holidays.

PLC Contacts:

Email marguerite.dimgba@greece.k12.ny.us Director, Professional Learning Center, for professional development and teacher center questions. For appointments for academic resources (laminating, poster making or equipment loans), Shadow Day, Special Projects and MyLearningPlan information please contact Peggy Donlon at ext. 2709 or email peggy.donlon@greece.k12.ny.us For professional development day questions contact Patrice LaPlaca at ext. 2945 or patrice.laplaca@greece.k12.ny.us

New Die Cuts!



Save the Date: 2009-10

Log into www.mylearningplan.com
Your user name is now your
[firstname.lastname](#), your initial pass-
word is [changeme](#).

Second/Third Year Collegial Circles:
2/10, 3/3, 4/7

Portfolios for 1st Year Teachers:
3/25

Portfolios for 2nd/3rd Year Teachers
3/18

Make it and Take it
4/15

Professional Development Days
May 11 and May 19

Other opportunities:
(log into MLP to view dates and times)

- On-Line Classes
- Comprehension Tool Kit
- Nova Net

- Collegial Circles
- ALL Committees
- ALL Conference Requests
- Shadow Day Applications
- Co-Teaching
- Technology Classes
- American Images
- CPI
- Developing Mathematical Ideas
- Parents as Partners
- Quality Questioning
- Running Reading Records
- PBIS
- Auditory-Linguistic Processing Disorders in Children
- Inspiration for Secondary Teachers
- Digital Story Telling

This is just a highlight of the hundreds of courses available to you.

Don't forget you must register in MLP for any committee you serve on or course you participate in.

Note: GTA members only earn points for courses listed in MLP that are outside of the work day.
PLC Policy Board and
*Steering Committee
*2/4, *3/4, 4/8, *5/6, *6/10
Time: 4:-5:30 p.m.

GTA Rep. Assembly Meetings
4-6 p.m. All Teachers Welcome
2/10, 2/24, 3/10, 3/24, 4/7, 4/28,
5/5, 5/26, 6/9



Student Learning is the Goal