

C AND I UPDATE

Director of Elementary Curriculum and Instruction
www.teacherweb.com/PA/AOP/ElementaryCurriculumandInstruction/index.html

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THOUGHTS FOR THE NEW YEAR

“Ring out the old! Ring in the new!” This is a phrase often used at this time of year. This, however, is not a new concept. In this year of St. Paul, we can reflect on the fact that Paul emphasized this same theme so many times in his writings:

In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul wrote: *“You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”* (4: 22-24) The same theme is repeated in the letter to the Romans: *Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.* (12:2) and again in the letter to the Colossians: *you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.* (3:9-10)

The question for us is, “How can we who have been called to the vocation of forming the minds and hearts of the young, ‘put on the new self’ as we begin a new year?” How can we be messengers of hope in a world concerned with war, a poor economy, health care issues and the need for a quality education for the next generation. Paul encourages us again and again to “put off the old self.” As Catholic educators, we must continually examine current and past practices and be open to those that will help our students to be “transformed” and “renewed in knowledge in the image of [our] Creator.” We must, as Paul encourages, “be made new in the attitude of [our] minds.” I am almost sure that if Paul were living today, he would be encouraging us to change our primary focus from the Quadrant A lessons of the past and give more attention to teaching in Quadrants B, C and D—using higher level thinking in real-world learning.

Putting on the “new self” is not always easy. It can only come with determination and perseverance. Shortly before Christmas, a friend shared with me the following words of advice found on a handwritten sign in Mother Theresa’s room:

- *People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered; forgive them anyway.*
- *If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives; be kind anyway.*
- *If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies; be successful anyway.*
- *If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you; be honest and frank anyway.*
- *What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight; build anyway.*
- *If you find serenity and happiness, others may be jealous; be happy anyway.*
- *The good you do today, people will forget tomorrow; do good anyway.*
- *Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough; give your best anyway.*
- *For you see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.*

This new year, put on a “new self—anyway! May 2009 bring you many blessings.

Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply learned information to abstract and real life situations • Solve problems using required skills • Use concepts and theories in abstract situations and real life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe • Explain how • Apply
Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify/describe cause and effect • Make inferences • Make a decision • Recognize unstated assumptions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze • Decide • Extend
Synthesis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generalize from given facts • Make Predictions • Draw conclusions • Relate information/knowledge from several sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summarize • Generalize • Substitute • Predict
Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verify the value of evidence • Make choices based on reasoned argument • Compare and discriminate between ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justify • Explain why • Conclude • Support • Judge

Source:http://www.fsk.org/teachers/writing_BCR1.html

Catholic Schools Week

January 25-31, 2009



What will you do to “Celebrate Service” this year? How can you keep the focus on learning while participating in the events of this week? How can you let your community witness to the value of a Catholic education? More than ever, the focus for this week should emphasize the value of a Catholic education. Learning and service should be at the forefront of the week’s activities. This week should not be an interruption in learning. Instead it should be a real display of the quality education our students receive and of the service they are encouraged to give. Bingo, crazy hats and dress downs, are not good reflections of the values of a Catholic education.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT - ACT 48

Worth Repeating --

We continue to receive applications for approval of activity that are incomplete or unable to be processed. Please keep the following in mind.

- The forms are posted on the C and I web site listed at the top of this newsletter. Please do not use old forms.
- Forms must be submitted **30 days prior** to the activity. This applies to both group and individual requests. Forms submitted later than this will not be considered.
- Forms should not be faxed as an **original copy** is needed for our records.
- **A copy of the schedule for the activity must be included as well as the background of the presenter.**
- **Presenters must have some background/training in the field in which they are presenting.** Attendance at a workshop does not qualify someone to be a "presenter" for an Act 48 activity.
- **The original signed attendance sheet must be received within 30 days of the completion of the activity.** If not received in time, the activity will be closed without credit being received.

Evaluations

- Need to be completed on line. If not completed within designated time, your name will be removed so that those who have completed the requirements can receive credit. The activity will be removed from your Coursewhere transcript. Paper evaluations can not be accepted for this purpose, nor can evaluations completed for other purposes.
- Should be completed even if you are not applying for Act 48 in order to add activity to your transcript.
- Needs to be thoroughly completed. A one- or two-word response does not satisfy the requirement for a "thorough response."
- **Participant does not need to wait for an e-mail to complete the evaluation.** This can be done by logging on to the system and clicking on the word "Evaluations" under the gray bar. Incomplete evaluations will be listed there.

Duplicate registrations

- We are still receiving duplicate registrations when we register a faculty for a workshop. This will occur when someone has registered in the system more than one time. If this happens, the teacher needs to go into one of the profiles and delete the data from that profile. With more than one profile you will not be able to keep an accurate transcript of your activities.


Individual Applications

- Are not necessary for faculty meeting activities. The faculty activity is listed on Coursewhere for the faculty to register on line.
- **Must be pre-approved. These will not be processed after the activity unless pre-approval has been received and unless the completed evaluation form accompanies the certification of attendance at an activity.**
- Will not be processed for college courses or activities conducted by other Act 48 providers. These must be processed by the college or Act 48 provider.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS



January

- 4 Feast of the Epiphany
- 5 Feast of St. John Neumann, third bishop of Philadelphia
- 10 Early Childhood Winter Conference
- 13 Early Childhood Rigor and Relevance Healthy Living Workshop
- 14 Meeting of Elementary Curriculum Chairs
- 16-18 Technology Conference in Avalon
- 19 Martin Luther King Day
- 20 Inauguration Day 
- Terra Nova Meeting for Principals and Test Coordinators at Carroll
- 22 March for Life - Washington, D.C.
- 25-30 Catholic Schools Week - Celebrate Service
- 30 Hall of Fame Dinner

February

- 6 - 8 Title I Conference in Avalon
- 6 Elementary Honor Band Concert at Archbishop Wood H.S.
- 21 ILA/Math/Assessment/ Library Workshop at St. Christopher

Elementary Music Festivals

Following is the schedule for the elementary music festivals for this school year. Please support the efforts of our talented young musicians as they display their talents at these concerts. Participating principals will be recognized at all of the concerts. Please let us know if you will be attending so that we can pass this on to the Festival Committee. The students and parents always like to see that their school principal attends their special concert

Honor Band Concert
 Friday, February 6, 2009
 Archbishop Wood HS
 7:30 PM

Festival Band Concert
 Sunday, March 8, 2009
 Archbishop Prendergast HS
 4:30 PM



Elementary Choral Concert
 Thursday, March 19, 2009
 Bishop Shanahan HS
 7:30 PM

Elementary String Concert
 Sunday, March 22, 2009
 Archbishop Ryan HS
 4:30 PM

Concert of Excellence
 Tuesday, March 31
 Kimmel Center
 7:30 PM



Year of St. Paul

Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul - January 25

We are preparing "Gold Seal Lessons" based on the writings of St. Paul for use at every level, K-8. Look for these to be distributed to the schools prior to the January 25 feast. These lessons will integrate skills from the Religion, ILA, Art and other curriculum areas. St. Paul was certainly a "Quadrant D" thinker! Hopefully, his words will help us to become better teachers and learners.

We are also hoping to display some of the products of these lessons at the liturgy celebrating the close of the Year of St. Paul in June. Watch for further details which will come shortly.

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Did you know—St. Paul is the patron of the following:

- against snakes
- authors
- Catholic Action
- Cursillo movement
- evangelists
- hailstorms
- hospital public relations
- journalists
- lay people
- missionary bishops
- musicians
- newspaper editorial staff
- poisonous snakes
- public relations personnel
- public relations work
- publishers
- reporters
- rope braiders
- rope makers
- saddlemakers
- saddlers
- snake bites
- tent makers
- writers



ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMINDERS. . .

- Early Childhood Winter Conference at Dougherty on Saturday, January 10. Registrations due by Wednesday. You must register on Coursewhere for this conference: www.solutionwhere.com/aop/ Checks should be sent to Office of Catholic Education.
- New Directions for Standardized testing workshop in the Auditorium at Carroll. There will be two sessions:
 - A.M. Philadelphia and Delaware Counties
 - P.M. Chester, Bucks and Montgomery Counties.

It is important for the principal to be present for this meeting. You are welcome to bring the test coordinator, but it is important for the principal to attend. Information packets will be distributed only to those principals in attendance and will not be given to others to "pass on."



Early Childhood teachers—don't forget to check into the Please Touch Museum's offers as described in the December newsletter

Watch for announcements coming shortly for. . .

CONTESTS:

- Year of St. Paul - Art and Writing Contest - details to be sent mid-January.
- "Do the Write Thing" Essay contest for Grades 7 and 8 sponsored by the National Campaign to Stop Violence and Judge Paul Panepinto. Details will arrive early in January.

SPELLING BEE

- Preliminary Rounds to be held on April 27 and 28. Finals will be on April 30. Information will be sent during January.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Return of the popular "Foldables" workshops held last year. Focus will be on using foldables for Science and Social Studies. To be held late February/Early March
- The popular Math/ILA/Library and Assessment Day will be held on Saturday, February 21.
- Several national speakers, Kevin Colleary and Paul Beaudin will present workshops in three areas of the diocese, March 10-12 on "Raising levels of Thinking: Using language Skills Across the Curriculum"
- A "Scintillating Saturday for Science and Social Studies" will be held on March 21. One part of this workshop will afford participants to receive a grant for summer study using nanotechnology.
- An integrated Governor's Institute for all disciplines will be held at the Hershey Lodge from July 19-24, 2009. Participants will learn about the new Standards-Aligned System model curriculum framework and discover tools for improving instruction. Watch for details and registration information at www.pde.state.pa.us/institutes

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<p>New Custom Test Building Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Search and View by Passage ▪ Search by Genre ▪ Item selection preview ▪ “Assign All” skills button 	<p>These new Custom Test enhancements enable educators to more quickly find the items needed to create optimal classroom tests.</p>
<p>Integration with Student Response Devices (a.k.a. Clickers)</p>	<p>We will be working closely with several Acuity customers in early 2009 to pilot “clicker” devices with Acuity assessments.</p> <p>This new administration mode will eliminate the need for paper and pencil testers to create, barcode, print, scan, distribute, and transport answer sheets. For online testers, clickers will enable the use of valuable computer labs for instruction rather than assessment.</p> <p>The availability of clickers for all customers is anticipated to occur in Fall 2009.</p>

All of these new enhancements are made available to you as part of your existing Acuity license agreement and require no changes to your Acuity Web site address or login details.

A schedule of free webinar trainings will be provided in early January to enable you to learn about these improvements in greater detail.

An appeal... Please share your **GOOD NEWS** in education. . .

Every day I hear about the wonderful things going on in some of our classrooms—weather stations, integrated lessons, fine arts programs, student-created lesson videos, world languages programs. I have been to quite a few “Middle States” openings and seen some absolutely marvelous learning experiences on display. I’d just love to share them with others. If you have something wonderful happening in your school that shows real learning going on, please write it up and send it to me electronically. Perhaps you’ll see it in an upcoming C and I update. . .or even a local newspaper!