

Robyn Silbey <rsilbey@hotmail.com>  
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## Robyn Silbey Professional Development Raising Teacher Quality and Student Achievement in Mathematics



This time of year is a great opportunity to appreciate the relationships we have, both professionally and personally. Perhaps you will find something here to enjoy and pass along to others. I wish each and every one of you a healthy and

happy holiday season!

### In This Issue

[75 Years and Still Going Strong](#)

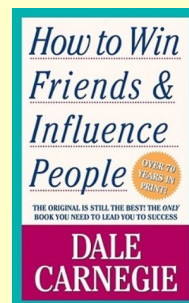
[Standards for Mathematical Practice...at Home](#)

[Conceptua Math Video](#)

[Coming Up in February's Newsletter](#)

### How to Win Friends and Influence People

Dale Carnegie's groundbreaking book is enjoying its 75th year. After reading this book twice, I fully understand its longevity. The concepts are simple: remember folks' names, see an issue through multiple lenses, admit when you err, among others. As basic as it sounds, implementation of the ideas in this book have the power to facilitate positive changes in your relationships with



### Shout Out! Thomas Stone Elementary



The staff at Thomas Stone dove into the Common Core Standards as they observed a demonstration lesson and analyzed both content and process. Later, selected staff created content-rich lesson plans that align with the Standards for Mathematical Practice. Thomas Stone students, get ready for some motivating mathematics!

Coaches' Corner

everyone. For less than \$10, it's the deal of the season. After reading or rereading it yourself, buy a copy for a loved one or friend.

## The Standards for Mathematical Practice at Home

People have often asked, "Do we really use math everyday?" To accentuate your resounding response to that question, challenge students and their families to experience [Standards for Mathematical Practice](#) at work while they are enjoying the holiday season. Here are a few examples:



*Use Tools:* Cooking, anyone? Food requires measurement--start to finish. Measuring cups, mixing bowls, pots and pans, and storage containers show capacities and are perfect math tools for families to identify and use.



*Make Sense of Problems:* Traveling, anyone? All trips require some reasoning and thoughtful planning. For example, families might discuss when they have to leave in order to arrive somewhere at the appointed time. Make sure to include all pit stops and other breaks.



*Use Precision:* Shopping, anyone? Mental math is critical when calculating discounts and estimating tips. Adult think-alouds assist students in hearing the vocabulary and number sense strategies as the solution unfolds in someone else's mind--and in recognizing the continuous use of mental math strategies in daily life.

## Conceptua Math Video



The powerful [Conceptua Math](#) video, [Math vs. Broccoli](#), challenges

## teaching children mathematics

In the December/January Coaches' Corner of [Teaching Children Mathematics](#), [Robyn](#) provides tips for promoting the regular use of mathematical tools. A few highlights from the article are:  
--Help teachers feel comfortable by modeling the use of all kinds of tools during planning time.  
--Promote mathematical tools for all students, not just a select few.  
--Encourage proper use of tools by (a) allowing students to explore and (b) making them accessible at all times.

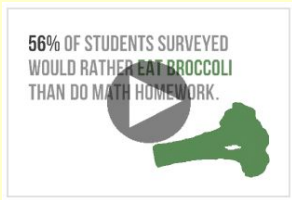


Mathematical tools are so critical that the [Common Core State Standards for Mathematical Practice](#) specifically refer to their instructional use. You will find more tips,



publishers to step up to the STEM challenge.

Conceptua Math supports STEM as it embraces the Common Core State Standards, both in content and in the mathematical practices.



### Coming Up in February's Newsletter



PARCC Assessment  
Coaches' Corner  
Shout Out! A School with *Data-Driven Professional Development*

along with detailed explanations, on page 280 of the journal.

### Customized Visits to Suit Your Needs



Reach out to Robyn today! Call 301-802-5285 or email [rsilbey@hotmail.com](mailto:rsilbey@hotmail.com) to arrange a visit to your district or school.

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Robyn Silbey Professional Development | 5 Tuckahoe Court | Gaithersburg | MD | 20878