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Have a Sweet 2016!

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Robyn Silbey Professional Development Raising Teacher Quality and Student Achievement in Mathematics

Sweet 2016!



May your joy in 2016 spread to the lives of your loved ones, colleagues, and students.

Shout Out! Early Childhood Academy Public Charter School

In This Issue

Every Student Succeeds Act

The Most Magnificent Thing

Ten Things Master Teachers Do

Quote of the Month

The Every Student Succeeds Act



President Obama signed into law the Every Student Succeeds Act in December, which goes back



Teachers at Early Childhood Academy Public Charter School in Washington, DC used the Progressions documents and Illustrative Mathematics to dig into



December, which scales back federal involvement in public schools and returns it to states and local school districts.

Unchanged:

- States will be required to annually assess students in math and reading in grades three through eight and once in high school.
- States will publicly report data in terms of race, income, ethnicity, disability, and whether students are English-language learners.

New:

- States may develop their own methods for judging school quality.
- States will decide what to do about the most troubled schools.
- States will set up their own goals for assessing academic progress and teacher quality, as well as determining the degree of parent involvement.

Every Student Succeeds Act: A Progress Report on Elementary and Secondary Education

More to come as the law is implemented across the nation!

The Most Magnificent Thing, by Ashley Spires



Writer and illustrator Ashley Spires has created a powerful picture book about a girl and her very best friend, who happens to be a dog. The girl decides to make The Most Magnificent Thing. She plots and plans, and then embarks on the project. She finds that making the most magnificent thing is anything but easy. The girl tries and fails

the Common Core State Standards. Robyn guided teachers as they worked through tasks, explorations, and activities that would ensure students' thorough and lasting conceptual understanding in place value and early number concepts. Once favorite tasks and explorations were selected, teachers embedded them into their daily whole group or differentiated small group instruction. Teachers were delighted with their pedagogical growth and the workshop's usefulness in their day-to-day work with the students.

Making Sense of Math



What happens when sense-making and reasoning are embedded in daily instruction? In the December/January issue of Teaching Children Mathematics, Robyn shares student thinking as they

several times. Eventually, the girl gets so mad that she quits. But after her dog convinces her to take a walk, the girl returns to her project with renewed enthusiasm and manages to complete it.

The Most Magnificent Thing provides a candid look at frustration and anger along with options for dealing honestly with them. Young readers learn that it's okay to make mistakes and nothing is ever absolutely perfect. Best of all, Spires' story ignites the imaginations of children eager to create their own inventions and is a great tie-in to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math).



students thinking as they work through problems containing challenging, not-yet-taught concepts. Read several examples in which the problem is provided along with the students' logical reasoning process. Here are the problems:

Compare:

- a) $2k + 20$; $2k + 10 + 10$
- b) $24 + 24 + 24$; 4×24
- c) $800 - 130$; $800 - 140$
- d) 4×76 ; 4×74
- e) $3/4$; $3/8$

Students' fascinating responses, available by reading the article or emailing Robyn, offer proof that logic is a critical component of mathematical understanding.



Ten Things Master Teachers Do, by Annette Breaux

In this ASCD Express article, Breaux briefly outlines practices that make teachers successful.



Many revolve around positivity toward the job, colleagues, students, and parents. Here is the list, and more detail can be found in the article.



1. Ask for help.
2. Avoid negative people at all costs.
3. Have a classroom management system plan and stick to it.
4. Be the happiest-looking teacher

in the school.

5. Convince students you care.
6. Make lessons fun, meaningful, and doable.
7. Avoid power struggles with students.
8. Use social media appropriately.
9. Act like a professional.
10. Communicate with parents.

Quote of the Month

"Success is the result of perfection, hard work, learning from failure, loyalty, and

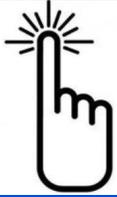


Which do you already do? Which will you try in the near future?



persistence."

Colin Powell



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