REFLECTION AND CREATIVITY DURING THE MOST CHALLENGING OF TIMES

"And I know what I have to do now. I got to keep breathing, because tomorrow the sun will rise. Who knows what the tide could bring?" - Chuck Noland in Cast Away

One of my favorite films of all time is Cast Away. I used to begin the school year with my seniors by showing the film and then on their last day, I would have a certain scene pulled up on the screen as they entered the classroom. I won’t share what scene it is just in case you haven’t seen it. There are so many lessons I pulled from the film, but the most important is that life will throw so many obstacles your way and just remember that you have to keep breathing, because the sun will come out and you never know what tomorrow brings.

During these most challenging times, we are all faced with obstacles we could never have imagined a few months ago and with obstacles comes opportunity. These times have provided us with an opportunity for creativity and reflection. Think of all the ways you have had to be creative in these last couple of weeks. I used to plan my meals and hit the grocery store armed with my list. Now I go and buy whatever is left and then create meals around what is in my cart. Those of you with young children have certainly had to be creative to keep them focused, safe and hopeful. I have learned of games called "Bear in the Window" and driveway chalk art in neighborhoods filled with idle children. People are using exercise apps in place of the gym. And it goes on and on. However, just like the blossoming trees below, no profession’s creativity has blossomed more than ours. It’s so inspiring to read all the emails going back and forth in our district. So much creativity. We all know that educators are incredibly creative, but this is a whole other layer!

Times like these also give us time to reflect on our lives. We miss the people we see everyday like our family members, friends, colleagues, students, and community members, people we sometimes take for granted. We reflect on the brighter side of humanity as people reach out to help one another, especially our School Nutrition and Bus Drivers who have delivered so many meals to those in need. We reflect on the need for technology in our lives as it keeps us connected to one another and our students. We reflect on why we chose education as our profession in the first place.

So keep creating, keep reflecting and keep breathing.
WORKING FROM HOME...
Now that most of us are working from home, we need to create a space without distraction that is respectful of our home space or as I like to refer to it as, my sanctuary. As educators, we are used to bringing our work home. In our profession, we are never caught up until our grades are recorded and keys passed in on the last day of school. Even then, we race out the door for a summer vacation that is filled with professional development, teaching summer school and lesson planning on the beach. I used to give myself through July 4th, and then I would get back at it, by taking a course on-line or searching for that new contemporary novel to teach.

But this is different. Read the following article by Kiesha Easley, "5 Essential Tips to Structure Your Day in This Unstructured Time", for some solid advice on how to work from home.

"That the powerful play goes on, and you may contribute a verse." Walt Whitman

Caesar Compana IV, the Western Regional Teacher of the Year for 2019, has some words of inspiration for Beginning Teachers who have found themselves on a level playing field with veteran teachers in this new age of remote learning. Actually, he suggests that Beginning Teachers may have a leg up on veteran teachers. Click on the link below to read his article.

"What will your verse be?" Mr. Keating, Dead Poet's Society

Something funny happened in class the other day...

Just before the final exam in my college finance class, a less-than-stellar student approached me. “Can you tell me what grade I would need to get on the exam to pass the course?” he asked.

I gave him the bad news. “The exam is worth 100 points. You would need 113 points to earn a D.” “OK,” he said. “And how many points would I need to get a C?"

-Reader's Digest
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU...
Christina Santiago - April 5th
Terrance Wardlow - April 10th
Tracy Owens - April 13th
Reyna Hinson - April 19th
We hope you enjoy your special day. It will definitely be a birthday you will not forget!

YOU DESERVE A PAT ON THE BACK!

Although this is Anna Boyle's first year teaching English, she operates like a veteran in her room when it comes to lesson design and delivery. She takes the time to weigh her student's individual needs along with the timeline of the unit to provide time and space for students to practice skills and gain mastery. Her students flood through her door at every opportunity to say hello and share updates about themselves with her. LSHS is so lucky to have Anna Boyle as part of our team.

Elizabeth Cox is a 2nd year BT at LSHS. Mrs. Cox teaches Health Science. She is a one woman show, always eager to learn and jump in to lend a hand. She oversees the HOSA Club, organizes blood drives and teaches 3 different preps! We are so lucky to have her on our CTE Team.

And Congratulations to Mr. Nathan Grant and his wife for welcoming a new baby Grant into the world! We hope you are all doing well!

A FEW REMINDERS...
If you have not completed your journal from the on-line module assigned last fall, now would be a good time to do so. Contact cjohnson@lexcs.org to check to see if you passed yours in.

If you missed a scheduled BTSP meeting, please contact Carolyn Johnson to complete the make-up assignment.

Take advantage of Professional Development offered for free. Focus on an area you would like to improve such as curriculum, instruction, classroom management, student feedback or differentiation.

Most importantly, stay safe and stay positive. We miss you!