February Is Here!

January was a busy and long month. It was the beginning of a new semester, and new schedules for some. We held two BT meetings for the 2nd and 3rd year teachers. Journal modules were due for BT 2’s and 3’s.

We’ve had much rain and warmer temps. My camellia bush just began blooming and then the cold weather last week shut her down. Hopefully, the warmer temps will get her back on track. And, Friday we got paid. Yay! It seems like months since our last check in December.

Here is a great news story. Our own Tikyah Holloway was featured in an article written by Antoinette Kerr in The Dispatch. Click on the link and well done Tikyah!

Important Upcoming Dates
February 3rd-7th-National School Counselor Week
February 5th-Mentor Meeting at LMS at 4 p.m.
February 12th-BT 1 Meeting in Central Office p.m.
February 12th-BT 1 journal modules due
February 14th Valentine’s Day
February 17th Optional Teacher Workday
February 18th-BT Twitter Chat from 7-8 p.m.
February 28th -Pay Day

This newsletter features an article and video on the necessity of student feedback, a video on keeping it relevant in the classroom, and the highlights from our BT activity that asked you to examine the teacher evaluation model and bullet how you met the standard or hope to meet the standard moving forward. There is news from around the state. Of course, we highlight our BT birthdays for February and throw a few shout outs your way. And, Valentine’s Day is coming up so our "A funny thing happened in the classroom ” will keep with that theme.

Only 48 days ’til spring!
At the Beginning Teacher Meetings in January, teachers were asked to examine each of the 5 evaluation standards and in small groups bullet how elements of the standard had been met or how a teacher could improve on the element. Here are some of your responses:

**Standard 1: Teachers demonstrate leadership**
- Participate in more professional development
- Become active in after school activities
- Help other teachers
- Create safe classrooms
- Model ethical standards
- Communicate clearly defined roles in classroom
- Lead our profession in the community

**Standard 2: Teachers establish a respectful environment for a diverse population**
- Hold classroom meetings
- Allow students to create classroom rules
- Provide a calendar in English and Spanish
- Include reading materials that highlight characters from diverse backgrounds
- Give students choice
- Expose students to the world we live in
- Lead by example

**Standard 3: Teachers know their content**
- Use pacing guides
- Write standards on lesson plans
- Integrate real world material
- Develop life-long learners
- Integrate literacy
- Co-teach and create cross curricular units
- Access webinars and outside research

**Standard 4: Teachers facilitate learning for their students**
- Encourage peer feedback
- Guide student reflection
- Provide multiple opportunities for success
- Use technology effectively
- Align instruction to meet students' needs
- Practice effective differentiation
- Create a student-centered classroom

**Standard 5: Teachers reflect on their practice**
- Meet with mentors
- Participate in professional development and ongoing education
- Use social media such as twitter and Facebook to collaborate with teachers in the district, state and country
- Observe other teachers and compare lesson plans with colleagues for feedback
- Reflect on feedback from administrators and peers
FEEDBACK: STRATEGIES AND TIPS FOR FASTER STUDENT FEEDBACK

One word that made an appearance on each standard of the evaluation model is feedback. As teachers, we understand that giving student feedback is crucial to moving students along the pathway to success. We also understand that feedback comes in many forms. However, when your class size hovers around 30 students, the challenge becomes creating means of feedback that are immediate and effective. Check out the link for the article by Matt Miller, "10 Strategies for Lightening-Quick Feedback Students Can Really Use".

Then watch the video on Edutopia entitled "6 Teacher Approved Tips for Faster More Effective Feedback."

MAKING STUDENTS' LEARNING RELEVANT TO THE WORLD THEY LIVE IN

Another recurring theme for the evaluation model activity was relevance. How do we make learning connect to our students' lives outside the classroom? How do we create lifelong learners? How do we teach them that learning is not something that occurs Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.? Watch this video from Edutopia for some advice on making students' work relevant.

"Student Motivation: Making Students' Work Relevant"
NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE...

NC CENTER FOR THE THE ADVANCEMENT OF TEACHING

Here are some upcoming FREE workshops for teachers during spring break. Also, offered are free workshops over the summer with lodging and food included. Check out the link below.

April 14, 2020 to April 17, 2020

• 15242 - Expanding Your Technology Toolbox: Getting the Most Out of Digital Learning - Ocracoke
• 15243 - Reaching Reluctant Readers: Bringing Boys to Books - Cullowhee
• 15244 - The Physically Active Academic Classroom - Cullowhee

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY'S DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION has partnered with Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools to bring you edCamp336 on Saturday, March 28, 2020. All educators are invited to this FREE EdCamp. Please visit this link to find out more information.
Dear Ashley

Would you please be my girlfriend? I like you a lot.

Yes  No
Maybe

Ps. please put yes no or maybe

I'm sorry I already have a boyfriend Kyle, but when we break up your my next choice.

Ps. that will probably be a month or two

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
Michelle Boutazar from Charles England-2/3
Quentin Fuller from Southwest-2/7
Elizabeth Cox from LSHS-2/12
Phil Sandoval from LMS-2/26

YOU DESERVE A PAT ON THE BACK

In the short 1 and 1/2 years that Phil Hartley has been with LSHS as a CTE teacher, he has connected with students and helped with graduation activities. He has also grown the number of students who wish to take his courses. He has quickly become an asset to the building. Well done Phil!

In her 2nd year at Southwest, Christina Santiago has consistently worked hard and volunteered new ideas and helped wherever needed. She is a breath of fresh air and demonstrates her love for her students and the profession every day. She is a ROCK STAR TEACHER! And to all the BT's-Keep on keeping on...WE APPRECIATE ALL YOUR HARD WORK!