WELCOME BACK BEGINNING TEACHERS AND MENTORS!

The Glass Is Half Full-The importance of focusing on the positive

It feels like I wrote my last newsletter 3 years ago! So much has happened in such a short time. While a global pandemic looms large, we are also dealing with our country’s history of systemic racism, along with protests and boycotts, an upcoming presidential election, hurricanes, fires and an earthquake in North Carolina! Is there any good news out there in 2020?

Yes!!! Teachers are back in the classroom...albeit without their students but...our students are logging on to their devices from home and are engaged and learning.

My son is a high school teacher in Kernersville. I asked him how he felt teaching remotely now as opposed to last spring. He said, “Mom, last spring we all put our hands up and ran from the building. Kids thought it was an early spring vacation, and then it turned into summer vacation. Now kids are back and want to be back and they’re all showing up!”

As Ms. Piggott and I listened to the Beginning Teachers during last week’s meeting, everyone had something positive to say. It was so refreshing to hear. We heard feedback like, “I had an aha moment.” “I am really enjoying myself.” “They all showed up!” Other comments focused on the amount of collaboration that is happening between colleagues, as well as having that one on one time with a student on Fridays. The EC Department is finding the time it needs to be proactive with contingency plans as opposed to reactive. What a difference extra time makes! Many of you were thrilled with the number of parents who are actively engaged and connected with their child’s learning. Some of you commented on how your skills on Canvas were improving by the day. Others are offering tech support to colleagues. And, there are not enough sticky notes for all the steps you need to remember.

While so many positives were shared, Mr. Hogrefe reinforced what we are all feeling. Virtual learning will never come close to in person learning. Students need to be together with their peers and teachers and the country is learning this reality every day. Virtual learning may work for some, but for the majority, we need to be together. Soon...patience and positivity. We’ll get there, together.
AND THE AWARD FOR BEGINNING TEACHER OF THE YEAR GOES TO...

Beginning Teacher of the Year in first year goes to Aundria Dukes from the Middle School. Ms. Dukes teaches 7th grade science.

Beginning Teacher of the Year in second year goes to Sean Davis from Pickett Elementary. Mr. Davis is an Exceptional Children Teacher.

Beginning Teacher of the Year in third year goes to Leia Stone from Pickett Elementary. Ms. Stone teaches 3rd grade at Charles England.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THREE OF OUR AWARD WINNERS!

The Beginning Teacher Program is successful because of our dedicated mentors. They are our educational leaders both in and out of the classroom. We thank you for your time and willingness to share your experiences with our Beginning Teachers!

AND CONGRATULATIONS TO SHA MOSLEY FROM SOUTHWEST OUR MENTOR OF THE YEAR!

Read the article entitled, "The Importance of Mentoring New Teachers."

The article stresses the importance of an effective mentoring program to help train and retain our beginning teachers.
HOW TO SUBMIT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In the spring, many LCS teachers took advantage of the time at home to complete professional development workshops, courses, webinars, and training sessions. In addition, the Apple Initiative has provided teachers with Mac Books and Ipads and training to go along with them. As the HR Assistant, one of my responsibilities is to enter all those CEU's (continuing education units) into our Human Resources Database. I have had close to 500 emails with certificates attached. Some emails have up to 7 or more certificates. So at this point it's safe to say I have entered close to a 1000 certificates. That is a lot of PD!

In order to expedite this process, here are some tips:
First, you may submit hard copies to me via district mail.
Or you may use the email...renewalcredits@lexcs.org
Second, all certificates **MUST** contain the following information:
Your name (If it is not printed on certificate, please write it in.)
Date of Event
Source of Event
Title of Workshop/Webinar ETC...
The Number of CEU's or Hours
If any of the above is missing, I will send it back to you. 😁

Please access **THE HIVE** 🐻 for all your professional development needs! Use the link below which takes you to the Employee Page on the LCS Home Website.

Grant Opportunities>DonorsChoose and Bright Ideas

**DonorsChoose** empowers public school teacher across the country to request much-needed materials for their students.

**Bright Ideas Education Grants** supported by NC Electrical Cooperatives—helping light up NC classrooms for over 25 years.
Happy Birthday to our August babies...
Latricia Bennett from LMS-August 6
Milton Wallace from LMS-August 20
Sadareius Palmer from LMS-August 23
Elizabeth O’Connell from LMS-August 25
Aundria Dukes from LMS-August 29
Happy Birthday to our September babies...
Alexandra Yarbrough from LMS-September 27
Alexandria Wall from SLDC-September 29

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED WHILE I WAS REMOTE TEACHING...

Tales from the internet
"I had a kindergartner who was on camera and I looked away and looked back and there was a big Woody doll in his place! I cracked up."-Amanda R.

"I had a middle school student with a live cockatiel on her head the entire meeting."-Ashley S

"Please don't use the webcam and computer screen as a mirror when you floss." and "Yes, your cat is beautiful but if he's hiding under the bed and growling, maybe this isn't the best time to show him to us."-Rachel O

Do you have a funny story to share? Please submit to cjohnson@lexcs.org

SEPTEMBER IS A GREAT MONTH TO...

Go for a hike, go apple picking, cook with apples, buy a mum plant, enjoy outside dining, start drinking pumpkin spice coffee, buy a candle that smells like fall, and enjoy these cooler nights and the drier weather. Take some time for you and have a great month!

One more thing before you go. The first 3 BT's to respond to our code question will receive a prize. Align your phone's camera over the qr code and follow the directions. GOOD LUCK!!!!