



# MENTORSHIP TIDINGS

August 20, 2009

Issue #11

## Beginning Teachers' Conference

Just a reminder: If you are going to attend you will need to register as soon as possible.

- Edmonton
- September 24-26
- 1-800-232-7208

*Don't forget your subs!*

Talk to your school Office Manager for P.D. procedures. (expense claims, etc.)

## Do Not Reinvent the Wheel

You cannot do everything yourself. A smart teacher learns from their colleagues. They ask questions, borrow resources, and share ideas! Beg, borrow and steal! Your colleagues have been there, they know what it is like and are happy to share, just remember to offer thanks. It will not be long before you will be "paying it forward".



## Help Students Know What to Expect

Because many students come from non-traditional and unstructured home environments, they are often not accustomed to the order that is evident in the classroom. These rituals and routines are extremely important in providing the feeling of stability that students gain when they know what to expect.

## Tips For "Meet the Teacher Night"

- ☞ Smile, introduce yourself, post up an agenda if you are presenting in your classroom. Practice what you are going to say.
- ☞ Let parents know that you are a team working together with them to provide the best learning for their child (you are always on the same side!).
- ☞ Make sure your room is clean and organized. Have student work posted in your room and work on display.
- ☞ Have the outline of your school year available to parents and share with them how their children will be assessed. Also have resources up for display for parents.
- ☞ Share with parents your rules on homework and your discipline plans are aligned with the school's policies/plans.
- ☞ How are you ensuring kids are learning—what do you do if assignments aren't done—how can parents help you?
- ☞ Remember that parents don't like surprises—especially about difficulties their child may be having in your class. Communication through K-12 is critical—have you designed and sent home a classroom newsletter?
- ☞ Know what interventions are in place at your school and what you might do in your program for students that are having learning challenges.
- ☞ If you don't know the answer to a question that is asked of you, don't make up an answer. No one will mind you saying, "Let me get back to you on that question". Then, when you have an answer and thought about it and talked about it, call them back! No one knows everything right on the spot!!



## "Take a Look" Websites to Visit

[www.teachers.net](http://www.teachers.net)

[www.2learn.ca](http://www.2learn.ca)

[www.aac.ab.ca](http://www.aac.ab.ca)

User ID:  
holyfamilycatholic

Password:  
hfcrd