

The Kindergarten Chronicles

Robyn Markovic, RPDP

Sam Tippett, Paul Culley Elementary School

Summer Bucket List

The concept of "summer vacation" may be lost on kindergarten students, as it is their first summer vacation from school. Every May, we make a **Summer Bucket List** of activities we can do over the summer. The students then discuss and share with a partner which ideas they want to do the most. Each student makes an **individual** Summer Bucket List. First, they list everything they want to do over the summer. Then they use their list to write sentences about their hopes and goals for the summer. We are always sure to add reading to our Summer Bucket Lists!

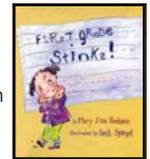


Organizing an Entire School Year

As another school year comes to an end, there are various emotions that teachers experience. Of course we are sad to see our little ones leave and move on to first grade; however, we are excited for our summer vacation! It doesn't take long though for us to start thinking about the beginning of the next school year. One way to help prepare yourself for the new school year is to organize! Debbie Diller states in her book, *Spaces and Places*, "The amount of space we have cannot be changed—the amount of stuff you have can." When closing up your classroom, it is a good idea to discard any materials or resources you did not use this year. Teachers tend to hold onto things "just in case" we need them for the next year. If you are not using the materials this school year, chances are you will not need them and should consider discarding them. You may also want to keep in mind that someone may be in need of what you are not using. As you are organizing, be sure to label everything you put away. When you come back in August to unpack your classroom, you will thank yourself! Here is a link to Debbie Diller's **website** that has great tips and resources for organizing your materials!

First Grade Stinks

When kindergarteners realize they are leaving kindergarten and entering first grade, they have a lot of questions. Some students may feel nervous, confused, or curious. The book, *First Grade Stinks*, by Mary Ann Rodman is a glimpse into the differences between kindergarten and first grade. Hayley, the main character, quickly finds out that first grade is very different from kindergarten, but in all the wrong ways! Hayley eventually realizes that first grade may be different, but the differences can be wonderful. After reading the book, we made a list of all of the wonderful things Hayley got to do in first grade.



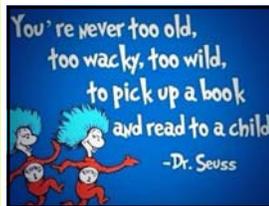
We are Grateful for our Specialists!

As a class, we wanted to show our gratitude to our other teachers. Those teachers being P.E., music, art, and library. Each student chose their favorite special and wrote **their opinion** about why they enjoy that subject. The students then created a **book** for each specialist and hand delivered them to the teacher. When teaching students how to write opinions, you may want to add the words *prefer* and *because* to your word wall. When the students begin to independently write their opinion, they can use the word wall as a resource for important vocabulary they will need.



Parent Engagement

Some families may not realize that summer is a crucial time for children to continue practicing their skills and to extend their learning. Sending home an educational **list of resources** can be extremely helpful. Along with the list of resources, it is useful to send home activity calendars for June, July, and August. The **calendars** attached are based on the Nevada Academic Content Standards (NVACS) and are engaging for families to do together. These calendars will give parents ideas for supporting their child academically while school is out of session. Most importantly, these activities help prepare their child for first grade. Encourage parents to read daily to their children over the summer!



First Grade Field Trip

How can you help your students transition into first grade with ease? The idea of changing classrooms, teachers, and classmates can be confusing and hard to understand for five and six year olds. Each year, we take a "field trip" to a first grade classroom. Before we visit, we make a **list of questions** about first grade. We take our list to the first grade class and ask the teacher and students to answer them. While in the first grade classroom, the students write down what they see. When we get back to class, the students write a **thank you note** to the first grade class. In their note, they must include something specific they learned or saw in the first grade classroom. We put all of the pages together to create a **class book** that we gift to the gracious first graders!



Have a wonderful break, kindergarten teachers! Look for the new *Kindergarten Chronicles* in August 2015!



Volume 10, Issue 8

Bill Hanlon, Director

Southern Nevada
Regional Professional Development Program
www.rpdp.net



May/June 2015



"Like" us on Facebook (Southern Nevada RPDP). Follow us on Twitter (@SNRPDP).