

April-May 2008

CREATIVE JUICE

News-to-Use

Complimentary material from Art work on the web site, COMING SOON: A virtual art room MEMBERS ONLY site with cool stuff!

“You are a product of your own brainstorms”

Rosemary K. Steinbaum



SUCCESSFUL CLOSURE TO END THE SCHOOL YEAR

Tools that brought my school year to a successful end included; checklists, portfolios, questions for reflections, and a system of organization for clean tools and orderly materials to bring closure to another good year.

As an educator having the school year draw to an end is always exciting. It feels good to know that your job has been done well. Having students submitting good work and following the guidelines is the kind of evidence that proves you have done a good job of reinforcing and communicating those rules. It is also pretty exciting knowing that each day you are just a little bit closer to Summer where time will soon be your own. However before you pack your bags for that summer trip. Let's think about what you need to consider to bring this

school year to a successful end.

1. Checklists: This is the time you want to remind your classes of all the things that must be completed. Late work cannot be accepted as school is out after this deadline. I enjoyed the use of checklists for each class. Developing a checklist of what is needed for the end of the year is helpful for both you and your students. Making one for each class that you teach will make your life easier when it comes time for the students to turn in all of that required work. My checklists



Working with familiar in new way
Plants always filled each of my classrooms. These green friends became the subject of Jackie's color study.

also gave the number of points that each project was worth.

2. Portfolios: Secondly, making a container for all of the work for each student was helpful to have the students begin filing their work into folders, or paper portfolios large enough to house all of their work. Placing projects into a folder as you check it off is calming and gives you a feeling of completion. If students were continuing their study of art in school or college, I encouraged them to put their work in a safe place so they could refer back to it. If you happen to teach technology like I did for a portion of my teaching life, students can archive their works electronically and present to the remainder of the class as end of the course exams. If you don't they can simply share work or create slide sound shows which was one of my

favorite things to do to send of my seniors.

3. Reflections: Allowing students the time to "reflect " on what has been accomplished is another teaching practice that always served me well. I gave the students a writing assignment to answer a couple of questions. What project did you enjoy most? least? What did you learn about yourself in this class? What else would you like to tell me? I told them that "in order for me to get better as your teacher, I must know where to begin. Your comments are important to me." I always enjoyed reading written reflections about the projects and the school year as it gave me input as to what the most popular projects were and on the others I could perhaps improve upon how I went about teaching them. The other wonderful



END OF YEAR



Student Made-Presentations

My favorite projects for ending the school year are student presentations. From teaching new art and craft processes to showing slide sound shows of their favorite breakthrough art pieces while sharing why art has been an important part of their lives. This exchange of positions is cool with them teaching and me as their audience.

SUMMER TIME..IDEA INSTITUTE

Join like minded educators in a natural setting
Eve's Garden to make plans for the new year!

discovery that comes out of written reflections is that students sometimes say the nicest things about something in the class they liked or disliked (that you would not have had a clue about) and it simply helps me to make things better as well as know more of how the students felt.

4. Teaching Portfolio: This is also an ideal time as work is left behind to pull together a strong teaching portfolio. As many students will not want to take their work home. Grab the good teaching samples so you can use them next year. You might even get some samples of how not to do the project. Chances are one student may have misunderstood the instructions or followed their own creative muse. If your teaching portfolio is in good shape, you will be ready to begin the next school year with great teaching samples.

5. Clean up: It is imperative that students assume part of the responsibility of getting the room back into the best order possible to end the

year. This requires cleaning and storing art supplies and materials back into their proper place for the closing of school. Part of my end of the year procedures involved all of us taking some time to get things back in order. We would play some upbeat music, put on aprons and gloves and get to work. Teams of students took assigned jobs and upon their completion, I checked that it was done to my specifications and that job was then scratched off the list. Good citizenship in the classroom sometimes involves taking some more challenging tasks and less favorable chores and as the Nike ad says, "Just Do it!"

6. Conclusion: as the teacher, I always thanked my students for the time we spent together while encouraging them to continue to follow their dreams, keep the positive mental attitude and to stay in touch letting me know where they were in the world



Lesson
planning made
easy and fun!

and what they were doing. If they were in a class returning the next year, I gave some fun yet challenging summer assignments. When this is all said and done, the bell rings, summer arrives, and students go barreling out the door. I can sit back and know we did all we needed to bring another good year to an end. You can now think about those summer plans.

How about you? Do you have any great ways to end the year? Let's talk!

"At the height of laughter, the universe is flung into a kaleidoscope of possibilities." Jean Houston

Visit the BLOG and leave a comment so I know what you need. Email a-wow@mac.com to let me know what challenges you face. Thanks

Staff Development with an Art-itude

Watch for details & offerings of the Summer Staff Development at Eve's Garden, Brookshire, Texas. Bring 10 friends, get your fee waived so you attend FREE! Gather like minded art educators who want to have fun planning next year while making some art of their own in relaxed garden setting.

Membership Site 2008 Launch!

- Virtual art classroom
- Lesson Plans
- Sketchbook ideas
- Video presentations
- Webinars and more 24/7

Pajama Positive Podcasts

Listen to inspirational messages to make your day and year go more smoothly!

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111 Main Street

Sugar Land, Texas 77478

281-494-2678

Joan Maresh-Hansen
a-wow@mac.com