

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Hi Denny,

My staff is on fire.

Thank you for the evaluations, I just sent them to my boss and the Assistant Superintendent who makes those decisions regarding training. I have many requests to have another workshop in April. Is this possible with your schedule? I want to make sure all staff have the opportunity to attend. I am certain we can easily have a full workshop.

Our first ARFF support group is Thursday at Jitters, the hip coffee shop. **Thank you for making our school sparkle!**

Clare

Principal

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Hey Deni,

High Trust will be the reason that I stay in education for the rest of my life. I've always been told that I have a lot to offer to students, families and teachers. Teachers often tell me I am best psych they have ever worked with. Yet, prior to your workshop I was thinking about leaving the educational field because I was being infected with all the negative energy. I was even thinking about attending counseling to deal with my frustrations and anxiety about work. Your workshop was all I needed. The double scoop theory has been a profound revelation. I no longer have to personalize people's negative comments about kids or the things I suggest to help them. I feel so energized with ideas and positive energy, I think sick people would probably say that I meet the criteria for a bipolar manic episode! I have gone into classrooms telling teachers that I am glad they are here because the kids need them. I'm telling kids that I am glad they are here today. It's just been great. You have helped me unlock something that I have been trying to access my whole life. And can't wait to see where it goes. I hope your enjoying time with your family.

Thank you,

Chris

School Psych...Eagle River AK

Performance Evaluation Input

from a teacher for Clare G...Principal at the school I was at in Alaska: November 2013!

1. The administrator provides leadership for the educational organization: **Excellent**
2. The administrator guides instruction and supports an effective learning environment: **Excellent**
3. The administrator oversees the implementation of curriculum: **Excellent**
4. The administrator coordinates services that support student growth and development: **Excellent**
5. The administrator provides for staffing and professional development to meet student-learning needs: **Excellent**
6. The administrator uses assessment and evaluation information about students, staff, and the community in making decisions: **Excellent**
7. The administrator communicates with diverse groups and individuals with clarity and sensitivity: **Excellent**

8. The administrator acts in accordance with established laws, policies, procedures, and good business practices:

Excellent

9. The administrator understands the influence of social, cultural, political, and economic forces on the educational environment and uses this knowledge to serve the needs of children, families, and communities: **Excellent**

10. The administrator facilitates the participation of parents and families as partners in education of children:

Excellent

11. Additional input: Clare has handled a great deal of change with grace, patience and respect. Clare has supported and encouraged our staff to grow in ways we haven't thought of before. Clare has provided us with opportunities to challenge our way of thinking and has encouraged us to be better educators and better people. Clare is a positive, solution based thinker and a true transformational leader.

CLASSROOM SHOWCASE

← Back to Classroom Showcases

Ekphrastic Poetry

Susan Garsoe – Susan retired this year from Buena Vista Public Montessori School

Susan Garsoe had her students write poems about abstract photographs.

What was the project?

I gave my students abstract photographs and the children wrote their impressions in their writing journals, and then made those into a poem. This process happened over several days. My husband is an abstract photographer so they were familiar with his work, and his way of seeing. They had a lot of time just to look at the photograph, to write about it during a couple of writing sessions, then talked with friends about the making of the poem. We write poetry all year, and it is integrated into all subject areas, so this was not a new process.

Why do you feel the lesson was a success?

Lovely poems came out of it, but even more, great conversations were buzzing all over the room. Children asked to see each other's photograph, talked about the best choice of the writing piece, listened to each other read. Everyone had fun.

Why do you think it's important to incorporate creativity into your teaching?

My classroom is where I can express all of my own creativity. I like to paint, write, make science experiments, read good literature, solve interesting math problems, talk, laugh, sing. I do all of this with my children. In the words of Denny McLoughlin – "If you're having fun, they are having fun." The way that teachers put things together - incorporating art with science, drawing with math, singing with reading – is part of the creative process, and helps children see how everything is connected to everything else. It's a way of thinking.

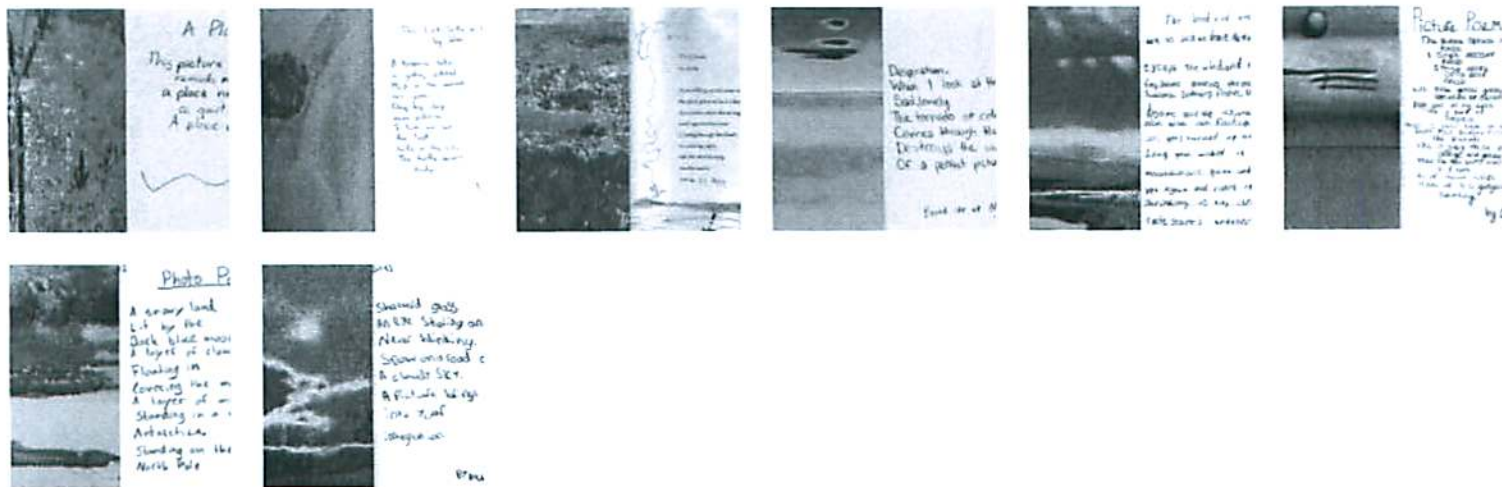
This project was featured in the Denver Art Museum's "Poetry and Art" webinar on April 9, 2012.

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Grade Level: Elementary
Subject Area: Language Arts, Visual Arts

Student Gallery



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