



Open Your Eyes To



From Harcourt



To see the New Secondary Catalogues - please call for an appointment.

Some material or articles in this newsletter are copyrighted and used

T-Break is a publication of Rearden Educational, published every two months during the academic year.

Rearden also offers: Publisher Representation | Teacher Recruitment | Teacher Training | School Consulting | Publishing

REARDEN Educational

Lebanon
Badaro Trade Centre,
Sami el Solh Avenue, Beirut
T: +961 1 392 492, F: +961 1 396 065
E: info@rearden-educational.com

UAE
Dubai Knowledge Village,
Block 8 Office G-01, PO Box 502919 Dubai
T: +971 4 390 2227, F: +971 4 366 4524
E: info-uae@rearden-educational.com

Jordan
Shaker Bin Zeid Street,
No 28, Shmeisani, Amman
T: +962 6 567 5607, F: +962 6 567 5686
E: info-jordan@rearden-educational.com

www.rearden-educational.com

REARDEN presents

The T-Break

in its 41st issue
May 2007

Information from all over for teachers who are under.....piles of work

Editorial

Summer vacation is looming in the not so distant horizon. As the temperature rises, motivation drops. Students are just trying to get one day closer to that never-ending stretch of freedom that invariably ends too soon. It isn't very different for the teachers and administrators. We all want to experience that release, the complete freedom from responsibilities for days and days and days at a time. ...And then there is summer homework. We've all experienced or at least witnessed the struggle and suffering it causes. It's the allegorical fly in your soup, except your waiter comes back and checks that you ate it all.

You may be a person who believes that it is crucial to keep children's minds in gear for school; to keep them in the mood so they don't lose the habits and skills they worked hard to attain. You may be a person who believes that children should be completely left to themselves to recharge and release before they go back into the classroom.

However, for the love of chocolate cake, why would anyone give those children booklets and booklets of Xeroxed math and language



exercises? Pick one of those up and you'll find you can't even bring yourself to finish flipping through it much less do the actual work. It's page after page of dummy work. All the child is getting out of this are wrist cramps.

This isn't a rant against summer work. It's a rant about that specific type of summer work. We are calling to eradicate that dull, repetitive and completely pointless stack of papers that is handed out just for the sake of keeping the child busy.

Make the work reasonable, purposeful and fun. Replace that fly with a crouton; it's much easier to swallow.

Rearden's Teacher Training Programme

Rearden Educational's Teacher Training Sessions were held on the 28th and 29th of March 2007 at the Dubai Knowledge Village.

Dr. Cheryl Duquette presented two successful sessions: "Learning and Instructional Theories: What are they? How can I Use them in My Classroom" and "Preventive Discipline: From Models to Classroom Practice" to a diverse audience of teachers, coordinators and principals.

Both sessions were very well received and we are looking forward to the Educational Conference planned for November. Keep an eye out for news on that.

Agenda



Teacher Appreciation Week 2007

May 7-May 11

The Rearden 7th School Book Exhibition, Badaro, Lebanon

10th & 11th of May 2007

BookExpo America:

01-06-2007 till 03-06-2007

Tokyo International Book fair

05-07-2007 till 08-07-2007

Beijing International Book fair

30-08-2007 till 03-09-2007

London Remainder and Promotional Book fair

16-09-2007 till 17-09-2007

Istanbul Book fair Turkey

27-10-2007 till 04-11-2007

Frankfurt's Bookfair

10-10-2007 till 14-10-2007



Teacher Appreciation Week 2007

May 7-May 11 is Teacher Appreciation Week 2007. Take special care of your teachers this week, and surprise them with a gift on National Teacher Appreciation Day, May 9, 2007.

Teachers agree that good teaching is their own reward, but Teacher Appreciation Week 2007 is a great time to let teachers know how they have touched your or your kids' lives.

There are many ways to show appreciation for your teachers, for example:

- Find former students of your school and encourage them to say a few things about the teacher who made a particular difference.
- Find someone in the local area willing to speak at your school about the history of education. You might check with historians or education professors at a nearby college. Have lecturers highlight the people whose contributions have meant the most to the teaching profession.
- Give your teachers a little present every day during Teacher Appreciation Week, for example a chocolate, and add a little poem to make it extra special.

So don't forget about National Teacher Appreciation Day on May 9, 2007 and make that extra effort for your special teacher!

http://www.teacher-appreciation.info/teacher_appreciation_week.asp



What to Do on the Last Day of School

The last day of school can seem like such a waste of time. I often think, "Why can't we just skip it?" But, the truth of the matter is that there always has to be a last day of school. It's the only way to get to summer!

At school, the last day will be a half day, releasing the students around noon. But, whether you have a full day or a minimum day, there's still plenty you can do to make the last day fun and memorable - definitely not a waste of time! Consider these ideas:

- Write a Letter to Next Year's Students - Ask your students to write a letter to the students you will teach next year. The kids can offer tips for success in your classroom, favorite memories, inside jokes, anything that a new student in your room might need or want to know. You'll get a kick out of seeing what the kids remember and how they perceive you and your classroom. And, you have a ready-made activity for the first day of school next year!
- Make a Memory Book - Design a simple little book for the kids to fill out on the last day(s) of school. Include sections for my favorite memory, a self-portrait, autographs, what I learned, a drawing of the classroom, etc. Get creative and your students will appreciate a memory book of their year in your room.
- Focus on Next Year - Give the kids time to write, draw, or discuss how things will be different in the next grade level. For example, third graders will love to imagine what they will learn, look like, act like, and feel like when they are finally in the world of fourth grade! It's only a year but to them it seems a universe away!
- Write Thank You Notes - Teach your children to recognize and appreciate those individuals who helped make them successful this school year - the principal, secretary, food service workers, librarian, parent volunteers, even the teacher next door! This may be a good project to start a few days before the last day of school, so that you can really do it right.

<http://k6educators.about.com/library/weekly/aa052701b.htm>

Chewy Granola Goodies

Ingredients

- 1 10-ounce bag regular marshmallows
- 1/4 cup butter or margarine
- 4 cups granola with raisins
- 1-1/2 cups crisp rice cereal
- 1/2 cup sunflower nuts

Directions

1. Line a 13x9x2-inch pan with foil. Butter foil. Set aside.
2. In a large saucepan combine the marshmallows and butter. Cook and stir mixture until the marshmallows are melted.
3. Stir in granola with raisins, crisp rice cereal, and sunflower nuts.
4. Press mixture into the prepared pan. Cool. Remove foil lining with uncut bars from pan. Cut into bars. Makes 24 servings.

Keeping kids reading in the summer

What can parents do to increase the likelihood that their children will make reading an important part of their summer activities?

- Have lots of reading material, but no television, around where your children eat their snacks.
- Buy lots of magazines and paperbacks that you think your children will enjoy and spread them around the house. If they manage to resist their allure, temporarily disable the television. Say "Oh no! The television is broken and I can't afford to get it fixed this month."
- Keep a supply of comic books, magazines and short paperbacks in a bag for pool, beach, sports and long car trips.
- Plan a vacation where there are no televisions; brings lots of reading material. Why? Many children won't consider reading as a source of entertainment unless there is nothing else to do. Students have said that they started reading when traveling or when they were at a remote camp or vacation house. By the time they were able to watch television again, many found themselves bored by it and continued reading.
- Don't pressure your children to do the reading on their school reading list. Why? Children who worry about doing their required reading often don't do it, nor any other reading either. With a book hanging over their heads, they stop reading altogether. Tell them they don't have to read the required book, but they

Prevent summer learning loss in your kids

All students experience learning losses when they do not engage in educational activities during the summer.

On average, students lose approximately 2.6 months of grade level equivalency in mathematical computation skills during the summer months.

Low-income children and youth experience greater summer learning losses than their higher income peers.

Students may not have the same structured meal schedule and sometimes access to nutritious meals during the summer.

Studies show that out-of-school time is a dangerous time for unsupervised children and youth.

Important Facts:

- Only approximately 10 percent of students nationwide participate in summer school or attend schools with non-traditional calendars.
- A majority of students (56 percent) want to be involved in a summer program that "helps kids keep up with schoolwork or prepare for the next grade".
- Research shows that teachers typically spend between 4-6 weeks re-teaching material that students have forgotten over the summer.
- At least 11 percent of children between the ages of 6 and 12 care for themselves over the summer months (unsupervised).



have to read something. Bottom line: Not doing required summer reading won't have that much effect on their grade, but not reading at all will affect their reading competence and their image of themselves as readers.

Exposure to books also benefits children beyond reading skills. Books encourage social and emotional development as children read about how characters deal with difficult situations; memory skills are enhanced as children recall plot details; and imagination is fostered as children create pictures in their minds when reading chapter books. When children read, the world becomes a big place. Reading gives us the chance to read about people like us and about people very different from ourselves. Reading lets us see what other places are like and gives us an appreciation of places we know well. For children who include reading in their summer activities, vacation destinations are everywhere at anytime. Once we become readers, the size of the world depends on our imagination and on our eagerness to learn.

Declaration of the Rights of the Child

Principle 2

The child shall enjoy special protection, and shall be given opportunities and facilities, by law and by other means, to enable him to develop physically, mentally, morally, spiritually and socially in a healthy and normal manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity. In the enactment of laws for this purpose, the best interests of the child shall be the paramount consideration.

