#### America Reads/America Counts at SUNY Geneseo



# Reading Counts



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# Simple Ways to Say Thanks

Jennifer Joseph

Team Leader - Mt. Morris

Are you looking for some simple and thoughtful ways to thank the teachers and students in the classes that you are tutoring? As the end of the semester nears, you may want to show your appreciation and thank the teachers and students that you have been working with. Let the teachers and students know that you enjoyed working with them and that you are thankful for the opportunity to have been involved in their classrooms.

Here are a few simple and effective ways to say thank you:

- Donate a game or activity that you have made or used with the students
- Donate a book to the classroom
- Make a giant thank you/I will miss you card for the class
- Bring a special treat on your last day (candy, baked goods, etc.)
- Create a book of math or reading activities for the class

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Stephanie Osborne with a group from Geneseo Central

## **Useful Websites for Tutors**

Stephanie Osborne

Team Leader - Geneseo

With technology being incorporated into classrooms more and more for students, why shouldn't teachers and other classroom adults use technology to assist with their needs? The internet offers an array of creative ideas for lesson plans and activities that can be used by teachers and tutors alike. Please visit the following websites to get some great ideas to liven up your tutoring sessions. You will feel good about it and the students will love the fun tutoring activities!

1. This is my all time favorite site for acquiring teaching and tutoring ideas and it's simple to navigate. Just click on a subject area, then click on a grade level, and numerous activities are broken down into categories.

http://www.lessonplanspage.com

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## **Thanks**, continued from page 1

- Teacher's Survival Kit- include the following items in a bag each with a label explaining the significance of the materials.
  - Bottle of glue "to hold your class together."
  - A Lifesaver candy "because as a teacher you can make a difference and save lives."
  - A puzzle piece "because without you the class wouldn't be complete."
  - A shiny penny "to remind you that each student will shine in their own special way."
  - A candle "for when you are up late grading papers."
  - A Mounds Bar "for the mounds of stuff you teach and mounds of confidence you give your students."
  - A Band-Aid "because teachers do more than teach, they help heal hurt feelings, broken dreams, and lend an ear to a problem."
  - A rubber band "because things don't always go the way we plan, but with a little flexibility everything will work out okay".
  - *Box of crayons* " to remind you of the color with which you fill your student's lives."
- Make or purchase a teacher's mug, pencil holder, or something to put on their desk to remind them of you and their impact as a teacher.
- Make certificates for the students you tutor, thanking them and congratulating them on a job well-done in math or reading!
- A THANK YOU NOTE

I hope that these simple and inexpensive ideas help you to show your appreciation for the opportunity and experience you have had tutoring. It will certainly put a smile on the faces of the children and teachers you work with! Some of these ideas can also be used by teachers to show their appreciation for their tutors! So remember, end your semester tutoring with a smile and a thank you of some sort!



### Websites, continued from page 1

2. This site has a wide range of activities and so many to choose from! You can choose a subject, topic, and grade level to get a list of activities or you can browse their collection.

#### http://teacher.scholastic.com/lessonplans/

3. At this site, scroll to the bottom of the page, click on a subject (language arts, literature, math), click on a grade level, choose a category, and away you go!

#### http://www.lessonplanz.com/

4. This simple website offers ideas for three great activities to use with beginning readers including Your Story Ending, Picture Play, and Word Tag.

#### http://www.readwriteact.org/tutoracts.html

5. If you are a math tutor look here! You can make any type of math flashcard in a snap including addition, fractions, money, shapes, and much more.

http://www.aplusmath.com/Flashcards/

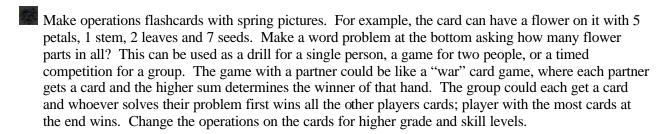




## **Spring Into Math and Reading**

Emily Tatar Team Leader – Livonia/Avon

## **Spring Math Activities:**



With teacher permission, take students outside and review measurement with parts of nature. Find the circumference of a tree, the length of a flower in cm and inches, the mass of a rock, or how far a shadow is cast. If a student actually sees how they might use their measurement skills in real life, they are more likely to remember them.

# **Spring Reading Activities:**

- Pick any book dealing with spring and have child read it aloud to you. Tell them beforehand that they should be looking for certain words (for example, consonant blends, long or short sounds, etc...depending on what that student needs help with). Mark the pages where the student finds the words. After the book is done, make a colorful paper kite and decorate the kite with the words found in the book so the student can practice and review.
- As the tutor, choose a seasoned book (not spring...specifically one with a winter, fall or summer theme), and have the student create a book jacket for a similar story only changing it to a spring theme. Read the original story together, and have the student rewrite the story, making creative changes to make it fit with the spring season theme. For example, "Emily and her friends got together to build a snowman" can be changed to "Emily and her friends got together to plant flowers". Illustrations can also be drawn to correlate the students understanding of her new story.

# **Dear Stacy – Advice for Tutors**

Stacy Jusianiec

Team Leader - Dansville

Dear Stacy,

The end of the year is approaching, and I would like to do something special with my students. I plan on doing some sort of game or activity on the last day of my tutoring sessions, but I do not know what I should do.

Signed, "Any Ideas?"

Dear "Any Ideas?",

I have heard of this great, fun activity that can act as your goodbye gift and also prepare the students for summer. I have never tried this, but it sounds like fun. It may take some time, but I think it will be worth it. Here is the idea:

#### **Have a BURSTING Summer!**

Write a different summertime activity on a paper strip for each student. Roll each strip and tuck it into a balloon; inflate each balloon and tie it. Have each student select a balloon, pop it, and pantomime the activity written on his paper strip. The other students try to guess his activity. Some ideas to write on the strips may be - swimming in a pool, eating ice cream, riding my bike, laying in the sun, playing volleyball, helping dad grill, eating a hotdog, playing ball...If balloons sound like too of a hassle with the popping and everything, just make paper balloons or some sort of shape/animals/etc. and have the strips taped or stapled to them. Instead of writing down summer activities and having them act them out, you can just write little notes to them or words/activities that you have done with them. Either way- there are a lot of ways you can modify this fun activity!

Hope this helps! Stacy

Dear Stacy,

I would like to give my students something that they can keep- to remember me and our tutoring sessions. I have given my students pencils and notes before, but I would like to try something different this time. Any ideas?

Signed, "End of Year"

Dear "End of Year",

Certificates are a great way to end the year and also to keep your students motivated and proud. The students think of them as awards, and get super excited! You can make individual awards, if you work with one student or a small group, or you can make general awards if you work with a large group or the whole class. Either way, be careful with what you write- as you do not want to hurt anyone's feelings or make someone feel left out.

I know that it may be hard to make the certificates, they are time consuming, and sometimes you are at a loss of ideas for designs or what to say. I have the solution! Here are a few websites that have certificate/award templates that you can customize and print out. You can also see what types of designs or words of encouragement the site is using for ideas on making your own.

- \* www.certificatecreator.com (click on the free tab for certificate templates free of cost)
- \* http://www.night.net/kids/certificates.html-ssi
- \* http://www.teachnet.com/how-to/endofyear/certificates060399.html
- \* http://www.billybear4kids.com/show/awards/certificates.html

If the sites are not working, you can also type 'certificate templates or awards' in a search engine, or search teacher resource websites. The internet is a great resource!

Hope this helps!

Stacy