

# America Reads/America Counts Newsletter

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## Interested in Tutoring Next Year?

If you would like to continue your tutoring experience next semester, or you know of someone who is interested in tutoring, please let Andrea know at [digiorgi@geneseo.edu](mailto:digiorgi@geneseo.edu). The more students Geneseo has to offer, the better! It is a great experience for all who are involved! You can even tutor for internship credit!

## Thank You from your Team Leaders

We would like to thank everyone for a wonderful semester! You gain knowledge, confidence, and experience when you use personal time in helping others and we are certain that you made a positive impact on every student you worked with!

Thank You!

## From Tutor to Student Teacher

I began working as an America Counts/America Reads tutor in Fall 2008 in Mt. Morris with Mrs. Bean, a fourth grade teacher. She was very accepting of the additional help in the classroom and helped me transition into the classroom. The first semester I only volunteered a few hours a week not knowing how I would like my position in the classroom. By my third week I knew that I had found a wonderful placement. I felt at home in the classroom and was able to make a connection with many of the students. I have maintained the same placement each semester since fall 2008 and have loved every opportunity. I feel right at home in the classroom and I am able to learn so much from both Mrs. Bean and the students. This coming Tuesday is going to be my last day acting as Mrs. Bean's tutor. I am sad that time

is ending, but am elated that a new experience working with Mrs. Bean will begin next fall. I will be Mrs. Bean's first student teacher. This is one of the reasons that I really enjoy America Counts/America Reads. It allows opportunities for students like myself, giving us the chance to work with wonderful teachers without having the stresses and requirements of practicum placements.

- Kristin Ververs

## Upcoming Events

- ◆ Final Reflection
- ◆ Wednesday May 5, 2010
- ◆ 11:00am
- ◆ College Union Room 322-323

## Students Love for Reading

Tutoring at Geneseo Central helped me learn a lot of important things. Probably the most significant, and valuable as a future teacher, was the importance of letting students read for fun. Each day, my 5th grade class would have independent reading time. During this time they could read any book they chose. There were a ton of books in the classroom and parents were encouraged to take their children to the library once they finished a book. While it seems like such a simple idea, I had never seen students so excited to be reading. Even when the teacher wanted students to focus on a specific genre, she would bring in a wide

variety of books for students to choose from. Students are always more excited to complete an assignment when they feel they have control over what they do. Now, whenever I go into the classroom, at least one student will want to show me his or her latest book. Others will brag about how they are reading what they believe to be "the longest book ever." I could not believe how something so simple as letting students pick out a book could have such a positive impact.

- Christine Dennis



*"It must be remembered that the purpose of education is not to fill the minds of students with facts... it is to teach them to think, if that is possible, and always to think for themselves."*

*- Robert Hutchins*

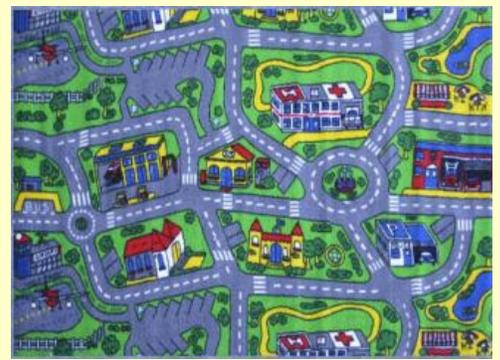
## Games Make Learning Site Words More Fun!

In first grade at Dansville Primary School, games are a central part of learning and reviewing sight words. Games such as "Go Fish", "Memory Match" and "Slapjack" are simple and fun ways for students to learn without even knowing it! These games are especially useful for centers or free time in the classroom. Students can also make their own sight word cards and take them home to practice with their parents each week. The games are very easy to make: simply write the desired sight words on index cards two times and have a reference for students to use in or outside the classroom!

Another great sight word game involves a "driving rug" and cars so that students can drive on the road. Teachers write or type different sets of sight words on index cards to keep with the game.

To play, students lay the cards on the rug, all around the town. They take turns driving on the road and stopping at sight words. Once a student is stuck on a word or says a word incorrectly, it is the next student's turn. When all of the words are taken from the rug, students count their cards. Whoever has the most cards is the winner!

- Emily Barron



## Internship Opportunity

This semester I have had the wonderful opportunity of holding an internship position at Geneseo Elementary School. I have worked with Mrs. Ridler's second grade class and have learned a lot regarding math and reading instruction. In the beginning of the semester, I primarily worked with the students on different math concepts. Mrs. Ridler would create different centers and place each adult in the classroom at a different station. Although I did not feel ready to work with the entire class on my own, this teaching technique gave me a chance to work with all the students in small groups. I felt very comfortable leading instruction in these situations. Some of the different concepts I reviewed with the second graders were subtraction, multiplication and fractions.

Half way through the semester, Mrs. Ridler altered her class's schedule in order to meet the needs of all her students. Instead of working on their math when I was in the classroom, they worked on their

spelling and reading. Mrs. Ridler continued to use centers as a teaching technique. Instead of leading a center however, I met with two advanced students and worked on their reading comprehension with them. We read Surprise Island and answered questions after completing each chapter. I was surprised to witness that these two second graders were reading at a fifth or sixth grade level. I thoroughly enjoyed working with them and providing them an opportunity to read a challenging book.

Overall, this internship was a great opportunity. Mrs. Ridler is a fantastic teacher and demonstrated a lot of different classroom management techniques that I hope to integrate within my classroom. This experience was very refreshing and inspiring, and I look forward to having another American Reads/America Counts Internship in the future.

- Kara Zimmerman