

The Administrator

From the Superintendent's Desk

By Michael J. Sieh

Home is a Classroom Too!

Currently, the teaching staff is reading a book by a well known educational author, Robert Marzano. Anything bearing Dr. Marzano's name is selling in the world of education. The book we are reading is titled *Classroom Instruction that Works*. During each monthly in-service, the staff analyzes two chapters. In other words, during September we read chapters 1 & 2, October 3 & 4, etc.

Following each in-service date, I wonder if the learned strategies are implemented in the classrooms and if these strategies could help our parents teach their children. Then I realized that home is a classroom as well, and I need to let the home classroom teachers know how to apply these strategies as well. After all, we never can expect too much from our children.

Dr. Marzano's study focuses around nine strategies.

1. Identifying similarities and differences
2. Summarizing and note taking
3. Reinforcing effort and providing recognition
4. Homework and practice
5. Nonlinguistic representation
6. Cooperative learning
7. Setting objectives and providing feedback
8. Generating and testing hypotheses
9. Cues, questions, and advance

organizers

These nine strategies are placed in order as to the effect the strategy will have on student learning. For this article, I will be summarizing the first two strategies.

Identifying similarities and differences

This strategy has students involved in comparisons, classifications, metaphors, and analogies. Comparing is the process of identifying similarities and differences between or among things or ideas. The key to an effective comparison is the identification of important characteristics. Many times the comparison is between something the student is familiar with versus something the student is trying to learn.

Classifying is the process of grouping things that are alike into categories on the basis of their characteristics. One of the critical elements of classifying is identifying the rules that govern the class or category membership.

Creating metaphors is the process of identifying a general or basic pattern in a specific topic and then finding another topic that appears to be quite different but that has the same general pattern. The key to constructing metaphors is to realize that the two items in the metaphor are connected by an abstract or nonliteral

relationship. For example, "love is a rose" is a metaphor. Love and a rose have no obvious relationship; however, at an abstract level they do.

Creating analogies is the process of identifying relationships between pairs of concepts (in other words, identifying relationships between relationships). Analogies help us see how seemingly dissimilar things are similar, increasing our understanding of new information.

Summarizing and note taking

To effectively summarize, students must delete some information, substitute some information, and keep some information. In other words, the student must paraphrase the information into words they understand; yet, keep the main intention/meaning of the material.

Note taking is closely related to summarizing. To take effective notes, a student must make a determination as to what is most important, and then state that information in a format that is easily reviewed and understood.

I just reviewed the first two instructional strategies. During the following months, I will address each of them. Please understand that these strategies are proven to have a high effect upon what a student is learning.

Volume VII, Issue 4

October 30, 2009

Reporters

Mr. Sieh..... Superintendent
 Mr. Stogdill H.S. Principal
 Mrs. McKeon..... Elementary Principal
 Mrs. Marshall..... Guidance
 Mrs. Holoubek..... School Nurse
 Mrs. Schwartz FFA
 Mrs. Dahlkoetter 1st Grade
Matrix Dewberry, Jace Lowe, Hanah Wehrle, & Ben Wilke.....
 2nd Grade Students

Events Calendar

November 6

- Curriculum/School Improvement Workshop for Staff (K-6: No School, 7-12: 11:35 a.m. dismissal)

November 9

- School Board Meeting (7:00 p.m.)

November 25

- 1:20 p.m. dismissal for Thanksgiving

November 26 & 27

- No School (Thanksgiving)

First Grade Students Are Giving Back

(Dahlkoetter) The first grade students are planning a service project in support of the soldiers in Iraq. Starting in November, both first grade classes will begin a month long collection of supplies to be sent to troops. Care packages will be sent by Thanksgiving.

Two area veterans will be visiting the classrooms to share their experiences. Through these presentations, the first graders will be able to understand life as a soldier. They will learn what soldiers do, how they spend their free time, and what they need or would like that is a comfort from home because they are away from their families.

If you would like to be a part of this service project, contact me: at adahlkoetter@esu8.org or by calling Stanton Elementary at 439-2639.

Please check back for a follow up in the December newsletter for more of this project's success.

Visit www.scs-ne.org to sign up for cell phone text school closing announcements or listen to the RADIO.

The Principal's Perspective

By Chris Stogdill

Veterans' Day Program

About a week ago, I was reflecting on the Veterans' Day program and luncheon that we have hosted at Stanton Community Schools for eight years and the importance of this event to show the respect for individuals that were willing to give the ultimate sacrifice that guarantees the rights of freedom that we are granted by being a citizen of the United States. I can tell that this concept is hard to grasp for many students and adults alike. It reminds me of a book that was referred to me by a colleague that described the ownership and responsibility that a small community took to heart when the young men went to fight in World War II. It was an inspirational story of the North Platte Canteen and the impact it had on about six million U.S. soldiers.

My wife, Cindy, purchased the book *Once Upon a Town* by Bob Greene for me as a gift. I started to read the book and read one snapshot at a time allowing the thoughts and emotions of the people sharing the stories to linger in my mind. It was a heart warming story that touched me by the commitment of many rural communities to allow these men one last thank-you for fighting for our freedom and beliefs. It is not a book that I would recommend reading in one sitting, but to read a little each day and be filled with the spirit that engulfed the people of those communities.

Now let me give you a brief geography and history lesson. North Platte is in the middle of the United States, in what is called the 'sand hills' of Nebraska. The Sandhills are the old dunes from a long gone ocean that are now covered by prairie grass. This vast area goes on for miles and miles.

In 1941, North Platte had 12,000 residents and was a quick

stop for the Union Pacific train. On Christmas day 1941, something truly magical occurred, and it became a 5 year love story. The citizens of North Platte were expecting a train load of soldiers to come through the area. They were part of Company D of the Nebraska National Guard. Without any formal announcement in the town or being driven by some hierarchy, 500 citizens showed up to greet their soldiers from Nebraska. The townspeople brought food to share with the Nebraska soldiers, many young boys on their way to war. To everyone's surprise, it was company D, but not Nebraska's company D, but rather the Kansas company D.

The soldiers had 10 minutes in North Platte before having to get back on the train. The townspeople quickly decided that the jugs of milk, chicken sandwiches, cakes and so forth should be given to the soldiers to take on their journey. They began to distribute and share the goodies, to the troops' utter amazement. Throughout their long and lonely trip across the U.S., no one had met the train except for the citizens of North Platte. It was in this moment, that the idea for a canteen was born, and it was based on a mistake.

Following this mistaken moment, a collection of people who were all rationing their own food like everyone else in the country at that time, decided they as a community would meet every train that stopped in North Platte. They would greet their soldiers for the 10 minutes they spent in North Platte and share what little they had with these young men going to fight for their country. The trains arrived at 5am and the last one usually left the station after midnight. During the war, over 6 million soldiers stopped in North Platte and, like company D of the

Messages from Mrs. McKeon

By Mary McKeon

The Power of Positive Thinking

It was a warm summer morning. Logan, my ten year old son, was preparing to play golf with his Dad.

1. golf bag; check
2. golf clubs; check (you would think that all the clubs would be in the bag, but sometimes this 10 year old leaves things lying around)
3. tees; check
4. towel; check (really doesn't need it but it looks good)
5. golf shoes; check (new this year!)
6. black Nike cap; check (never plays without it)
7. toy; check (just in case you get bored on the 5 minute ride to the course)

As the two golfers began their nine hole adventure, things started off pretty well. They breezed by holes one and two. Hole three got a little shaky and by the time the golf cart rolled to hole four, things were falling apart for the ten year old. His seven iron was, as he called it, "junk". "I can't do it" he told his dad. Dad, being the patient teacher said. "Logan, you have to

think positive. You don't have to be perfect, just try your best." Again, Logan addressed the ball. He tried to keep his head down and focused on taking a slow back swing. Oops, grounder in the trees. The seasoned teacher continued to try to build his young son's confidence.

Throughout the golf season, Dad persisted in providing Logan with positive support. In the final parent/child tournament Logan came home with a "Most Improved" medal for his age group. He came into the house and showed me the medal. He said, "Mom, I told myself I could do it and I DID IT!" He was elated to say the least.

We as educators and parents can learn something from this. As much as I am thrilled that my son came home with a medal, I'm even more delighted in the fact that he thought positively and kept trying. Using positive phrases on a consistent basis may just train our minds to think positive! So when you face that 18 foot putt in life, think positive!

Kansas National Guard, they were greeted each time with sandwiches, cakes, milk, cookies, magazines, a short sing along on the piano and usually many hugs.

There are many stories in the book told by the citizens of North Platte, where they recounted driving oftentimes 2 to 3 hours to bring cakes to the canteen from rural farms. They recalled running out of chicken eggs and using turkey eggs to make cakes. Adults remembered being awakened in the middle of the night as children to pack up their cars to travel to the canteen in time for the train.

I share this story because I have come to believe that the basis of everything that is profoundly good is based in small communities. Where people have

developed that deep sense of ownership, there is love for what they do, why they do it, and for whom it is done. I want to thank those veterans and their families that have made sacrifices and continue to make sacrifices to guarantee the freedom that we have. So the next time the National Anthem plays, stop and pay proper respect for those who sacrificed everything for the freedom that we treasure. Thank a veteran for everything that he or she has done and continues to do for us and our country. Listen to their stories and the pride that they feel from fighting for something they believed in.

A Parent's Guide to Seasonal and H1N1 Flu

(Holoubek) The flu has been greatly publicized recently and many parents are confused about what to do, how to protect their families, and how to manage flu signs and symptoms at home. Here are some quick facts about the seasonal flu and H1N1 taken from the Nebraska Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control.

WHAT IS THE FLU?

The flu (or influenza) is an infection of the nose, throat, and lungs caused by influenza viruses. Flu viruses cause illness, hospital stays, and deaths in the United States each year. There are many different flu viruses and sometimes a new flu virus emerges.

WHAT IS H1N1 FLU?

Novel H1N1 flu is a new and different influenza virus that is spreading worldwide among people. This new virus was called "swine flu" at first because it has components of flu viruses found in pigs in the past. However, novel H1N1 virus has not been detected in United States pigs.

HOW SERIOUS IS THE FLU?

The flu can be very serious, especially for younger children and children of any age who have chronic medical conditions such as asthma or other lung problems, diabetes, kidney disease, heart disease, neuromuscular or neurological disorders, or weakened immune systems. These conditions can result in more severe illness from influenza, including the new

H1N1 virus.

HOW DOES THE FLU SPREAD?

Both H1N1 and seasonal flu are thought to spread mostly from person to person through the coughs and sneezes of people who are ill with influenza. The virus may also be spread by touching surfaces contaminated with the flu virus and then touching the mouth, nose, or eyes.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF THE FLU?

Symptoms of seasonal flu and H1N1 include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, fatigue, and occasionally nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea.

HOW CAN I PROTECT MY CHILD AGAINST THE FLU?

Get a seasonal flu vaccine for yourself and your child(ren) to protect against seasonal flu viruses. Take everyday steps to prevent the spread of all flu viruses: cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or forearm, wash hands often with soap and water, or use hand sanitizers; avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth and teach your children to do the same; throw away tissues and other disposable items used by sick persons in your home; wipe surfaces such as bedside tables, bathroom surfaces, kitchen counters and toys with a safe household cleaner according to the product label directions.

IS THERE A VACCINE TO PROTECT MY CHILD FROM H1N1?

A vaccine against H1N1 is being distributed and may be available in the coming months as an option for prevention of H1N1. A seasonal flu vaccine is available every year to protect against seasonal flu viruses.

WHAT IF MY CHILD GETS SICK?

If your child develops flu-like symptoms as mentioned earlier, ensure that your child stays hydrated with plenty of liquids as well as rest. You may consult your health care provider if you are concerned about your child's illness, or if you notice fast breathing, or trouble breathing, severe or persistent vomiting, not waking up or not interacting, extreme irritability, such as an infant not wanting to be held, or with the presence of other chronic health conditions as mentioned earlier.

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN TO SCHOOL?

Keep your ill children at home for at least 24 hours after their fever is gone without having to take fever-reducing medicines. However, if your health care provider recommends a longer time at home, please follow his/her recommendations.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call the school office. You may also check the CDC website at www.cdc.gov or www.flu.gov. Our local health department is a valuable resource as well. To contact the Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department, call (402) 529-2233.

November FFA News

(Schwartz) In October, 19 FFA members attended IMPACT at NECC. This year the theme of IMPACT was "*The Perfect Recipe*"—helping students discover their personal strengths, talents and ways to serve through FFA. The State FFA Officers put together a day of activities for FFA members. The members were split into groups based on their grade in school. The 9th & 10th learned about topics such as: *FFA—It's More Than You Think!* They also talked about developing strengths with a session called, *Discover, Learn, Maximize*. And finally about teamwork: *Team, What Does It Really Mean?* The 11th & 12th graders discussed topics such as; *Actions Speak Louder Than Words*, *The Next Steps*. And about agriculture—*There's a Place For You!* Both groups also discussed how they can each "*Live to Serve*". *Living to Serve* is part of the FFA motto and the FFA strives to teach our members the importance of this action.

While the FFA members were in their sessions, the Agriculture teachers and FFA advisors were also in sessions. Donnell Johnson, our state FFA Director updated us on the latest happenings in Agricultural Education and FFA. She also shared some interesting facts about agriculture just to remind us how important agriculture is to the world and how we need to continue to be advocates for the agricultural industry. Here are a few of those facts.

In the developed world, fewer people are employed in agriculture than at any point in history. Today, this means that very few people possess first-hand knowledge of farming. The following facts and figures provide a glimpse of the challenge facing farmers to produce more, while conserving more resources and helping to improve peoples' lives.

How to Help the Environment?

(Dewberry, Lowe, Wehrle, & Wilke) This year in the elementary, class 2A is recycling. We are in charge of all the boxes for the classrooms in the elementary. We collect lots of paper in each box once a week. This is helping to clean up the earth, make the environment clean, and be kind to nature. We send out one or two people to each classroom to collect the boxes. Then we come back to our classroom where we combine the paper into 3 to 4 boxes. Our teacher then takes those boxes to the recycle bin. If we recycle, we can make the world a better place. In reading, our unit is about kindness. This is the way our class can be kind to our earth.

By Kendra Marshall

Red Ribbon Week

FFA

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True or False: The world grows enough food to feed its population. Generally true, although to eradicate hunger, people in the developing world need to be able to access food either by growing it or through purchase, which means it needs to be affordable. (*UN Food & Agricultural Organization*)

True or False: Agriculture must increase food production by 42 percent to keep pace. False. Increasing demand for food, fuel and fiber in developing countries combined with other factors actually require agricultural food production to double by 2050. (*International Policy Council, October 2007*)

True or False: The expanding world population has cut the grain land area per person to just the size of a typical suburban yard. True, or about one-fourth of an acre. (*Earth Policy Institute*)

Also, in October, 9

members traveled to Leigh to attend a Land Judging Contest. The agriculture students who participated were Brittnei Hart, Jeb Nordby, Brennen Borgmann, Colby Wolff, Beth Kethcart, Olivia Domogalla, Alyssa Estes, Micheal McCarthy, and Melissa Christiansen. The students competed very well even though they were competing against 200 or so other agriculture students from the area. I believe this was a good experience for the students to get out of the classroom and apply what they learned to a "real" situation. Everyone did great!

FRUIT SALES ARE STARTING! This year the Stanton FFA has a total of 35 members! All members will be selling fruit from October 28th through November 19th. More information about the sales will be in the local newspaper and on the Stanton Telecom Channel.

Red Ribbon Week was observed by grades K-6 during the week of October 26th - 30th to promote drug free living. The week began with a Red Ribbon Week Assembly. Sheriff Mike Unger and Deputy Kirk Van Pelt from the Stanton County Sheriff's Office talked to the

children about the dangers of drugs and alcohol. During Red Ribbon Week, students participated in dress up days, competed in a coloring contest, learned about drugs and their ill effects, and wore red ribbons all week to show their commitment to living a drug free life.

Important Dates:

Just Juniors - Wayne State College, Nov. 7th (9am - 2pm)

While you are on campus, you can expect to gain great college search information, a *FREE* ACT prep course and financial aid information for families, connect with faculty and staff, free lunch in the student center cafeteria, a walking tour of the campus, a special gift just for visiting!

Financial Aid Night for Seniors and their parents

Stanton High School, Dec. 2nd 6:00 p.m.

Check out the school website for a complete list of important dates and scholarships.

Student Athletes MUST Register with NCAA!

(*Marshall*) Students looking to participate in a Division I or II collegiate sport must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center during their junior or senior year. Students must request that their ACT scores be forwarded directly to the center by entering code "9999" as a reporting selection when registering for the test.

For more information on the NCAA's core course requirements, GPA computation, and contact information and to complete the amateurism questionnaire, visit ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter.

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