

Workshop in Rothesay

This workshop is from 1-4 p.m. on Saturday, June 7. It is a 'special' on the Rotation method of teaching Sunday School and I will be teaching it with help from Susan Webb, the superintendent in Rothesay. It is being held in Rothesay because this parish has now successfully used the Rotation method for two years.

September Bookings

If you have been thinking about having a workshop in September, or anytime in the fall, please call as soon as possible as I have already made one or two bookings. You do not have to have a large group to have a workshop - 5 or 6 people is fine. E-mail and phone number at top of page. I am available for an evening talk or workshop, or for all day on Saturday or a half day. Costs are paid by the Diocese.

Passing Out Jobs Fairly

Children love to help, but it is often difficult to be fair in the giving of jobs as one or two are more vocal than others. How do you ensure that the shy child who hesitates to volunteer gets his/her share? When teaching my class, I used to use popsicle sticks or tongue depressors. I would write each child's name on one of them (or have them do it) and put them in a container. When I needed to choose someone, I would pull out a stick without looking. That child got to do the task, and his/her stick was put somewhere else. When I had used up all the sticks, they would all be put back again and I would start over. There is an element of fun in this that children love.

Getting Information to Parents

Often, if notices about forth-coming events are given to children, they do not make it home, but end up as paper air-planes, or dropped in the parking lot. To make it more likely that parents will receive the information, consider enlisting the help of someone familiar with computers and using this idea: get some large format labels, about 2 1/2 X 2 1/2 (diskette labels would do). Print the information you want to go home on the labels. It can easily be copied any number of times. Stick a label on each child before he/she goes home. You could add an eye-catching sticker if you like. This costs 10-12 cents a label.

Summer Training

Get gift bags for each of your Sunday School teachers, and fill them with the following: a thank you card for a job well done, few small treats, photocopies of interesting articles you think they might enjoy for their own spiritual growth, or to help in their teaching, or maybe a book resource to read and return. If they return the bag over the summer, offer to refill it!

Useful Art Ideas

Crayola is now making twist up crayons that have built-in erasers. (They do erase - I tested them!) \$3.77 for 8. They are more expensive than regular crayons but don't break if not twisted up too far, stay more pointed, and can be changed if a child makes a mistake. Also available are packages of 8 fabric markers (\$6.99) They are best used on white or beige cotton, or on denim. Setting the colour is easy - it can be done by ironing on the reverse side with a hot iron for 4 mins, or by putting in the dryer set at hot for 30 mins. You could use the dryer for quickly setting a whole class's or Sunday School's projects. These markers could be used to make a class 'quilt' or wall hanging at the beginning of the new year of Church School to hang in the classroom. Or you could make a banner of the names given to Jesus, or colour white t-shirts in Vacation Bible Club.

To Keep In Touch Over the Summer

Begin a "round robin" letter. Decide on who will send the letter to whom and make sure each person has the address of that person. The teacher sends a paragraph to one child about his/her summer so far. That child adds a paragraph about what they have been doing and mails the letter to the next person, and so on. When all the children in the class have added to the letter, the first child returns the letter to the teacher.

A Church School Closing Prayer

O God hear our prayers. We thank you for this community of believers. We have worked and played, listened and talked, written and read together. We have explored what it means to be followers of Jesus Christ. Be with us and guide us in the days and weeks ahead. Help us to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen

(From the Seasons of the Spirit curriculum)

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!