



Reumors

September 2008

A Reumors Newsletter, two months in a row! At least my good intentions have lasted more than a month.

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NAWD on Facebook

Our talented Webmaster Lou Miller has created our own Facebook group, and we hope you'll join us. I have to admit, I was new to Facebook, but it was easy to join, and so far, I haven't been bombarded with unwanted emails and spam. I hope we can use this to share ideas on a regular basis. Please check it out. Remember to join the NAWD group when you sign up. If you have any question about our Facebook group or the NAWD website, please contact Lou at webmaster@nawd.com.

National Conference on Student Activities

The conference continues to come together and I'm already getting conference registrations. As usual, one of the first was from Joan Bovee in Indiana, but Phil Gugliuzza from Louisiana and Nancy Moen from Oregon got theirs in early, too. Registration materials have been snail mailed to all current and newer former NAWD members, so be looking for it, and pass it along to someone else who should attend. If you need additional copies of materials, they are on the website at www.nawd.com. We know that everyone is doing their best to keep costs low, so I'm informally compiling a list of people who are looking for a roommate. If you'd like to have a roommate, send me an email (genel@nawd.com) and I'll pass your name along so you can connect and set something up. I already know of one female looking for a roommate, so if you're interested, let me know. The hotel rates are the same for four people in a room as for one, so why not share the conference experience and save a little money. If you have any questions, just email me. Maybe others have the same questions, and I can answer them in the next Reumors.

Parade of Ideas

Stu Shaffer of California has some ideas to share this month. Stu is a Master of Class Competitions and has made many presentations to NAWD conference delegates and others from his Traveling Junk Show. Here are three of Stu's ideas:

Tournaments:

Class competitions are good, but in addition, try some lower scale events where kids can just sign up on their own. Pairings can be done like a tennis tournament.

Tournaments that work are Ping Pong, Air Hockey, Fozzball, video games, etc.

Asphalt Classics:

Put together a week of games the students played in elementary school: dodge ball, four square, hop scotch, tether ball, jump rope. You can just have everything there and allow teams to form at the time of the event or organize competitions using pairings like a tennis tournament, drawing the first pairings. The older kids forget how old they are and enter into the old games with the enthusiasm of an elementary school student.

Battle of the Sexes Game Show:

Some school districts might not approve of this event. If they do, it's fun!

Have a committee of all boys and another of all girls brainstorm questions to ask the opposite sex. Of the girls, boys might ask, "There are two types of screwdrivers. One is a blade screwdriver, what is the other one called?" The girls might ask the guys questions like, "What is a 'french manicure'?"

IMPORTANT: You will need to go over the list of questions carefully, eliminating sexist questions or questions about bodily functions.

Students form their own teams of five boys or five girls. You can make it more interesting by requiring at least one teacher or one student from each grade. Pair teams with a drawing. Appoint thoughtful and fair MC's, one girl and one boy. Use buzzers from the academic decathlon.

Set up tables for the teams and a podium at lunch. Rope off the audience to reduce answers coming from the audience. To keep it fair, one male and one female teacher should be the judges. Alternate one question from the girls for the boys and one question from the boys for the girls. Ask a specified number of questions of each team 20-30. Keep track of who won. New teams participate the next day.

Lyn Fiscus of Virginia shares this idea and website:

Good Deeds:

Join myGoodDeed.org in its effort to establish September 11 as a national day of voluntary service, charity, and good deeds. Their mission is simple: to encourage people everywhere to set aside time every September 11 to perform good deeds of their choice to help others in need. In this way, they hope to keep alive forever the spirit of giving and selfless service that unified our nation following the terrorist attacks. If you'd like to join the effort, visit www.myGoodDeed.org and post your planned good deed for 9/11. You can also check out their ideas for further guidance or to find opportunities in your community.

Instant Activities for September:

- Set aside one week this month as your high school's Substitute Appreciation Week. Welcome each substitute who visits your school during that week with a "Substitute Survival Kit" (including a list of helpful telephone extensions or names of people to contact like the Dean, principal's secretary, custodian, and the names of the teachers in the rooms next door, a mini packet of aspirin, an adhesive bandage, pen, pencil, candy bar, attendance forms, and a note welcoming them to your school.) Don't forget to include the substitute custodians, school security people, and substitute cafeteria people.
- The battle that inspired Francis Scott Key to write the Star Spangled Banner was fought on September 13, 1814. Use this event to hold a Flag Raising at your school on Friday, September 12...maybe a few minutes before morning break or before the first class starts. Have the band go through the halls playing your school fight song, then gather around the flag pole for the raising of the flag and a mini pep rally. A two minute lesson on respect for the flag in social studies classes the day before turns this into a learning experience, and someone on your student council can easily prepare a short announcement for each teacher to read to their class the day before.
- The Lassie TV show premiered on September 12, 1954. Your kids won't know who Lassie was/is, but use the event as the stepping stone for the "cutest pet" competition. Students can bring in pictures of their pet which can be put on a bulletin board. One or two of your student council kids can man an election booth at lunch, and the winner can be announced at a pep rally. An inexpensive prize might be a large bone-shaped dog toy, spray painted gold and mounted on a board made by the industrial arts students. Add a computer generated tag declaring "Wiggles" as the 2008 Cutest Pet selected by the students at ABC Intermediate School. Don't forget to send a picture of the presentation to the local newspaper.

Do you have an idea you'd like to share? Send it to me and I'll include it next month.

Our thoughts go out to all the hurricane victims. NAWD has a lot of members in areas affected or threatened by hurricanes and other weather related problems like the flooding that affected Iowa and other states earlier this year, and our members were able to help members and schools affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita several years ago. Please keep your NAWD Friends in your thoughts.

Best wishes for a great new school year. See you in San Diego.

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