

To embrace, encourage, and empower through a network of Christian educators.



Catching a Spark in a Student's Eyes

By Cindy Alsip - Public School Representative

One of the joys God gives a teacher is to recognize the spark that shows in a student's eyes when something connects and interest grows in his or her mind. The way the students respond shows how their mind works. It is fascinating to see the infinitely different ways God has created each one of us in how we think!

- Some students are so quiet as they receive the information that you have to gently pull a response from them.
- Some students can't wait to interact with you and will do just about anything to get your attention.
- Some students take a little longer to understand but they recognize the kindness in your voice. They hang with you until they get it.
- Some students close up immediately. They need a little one-on-one with you before they will let you see who they are.

Time is so precious in a public school classroom. We are always fighting the clock for instructional time as we allow for field trips, announcements, fire drills, standardized testing, snow days, and other classroom interruptions. Remember, however, it can be just as important to re-connect with your students through exploring their questions for a bit as it is to teach content. Talk about something they are interested in and help them make connections wherever you can in that conversation. When handled the right way, these types of interactions help both students and teacher to re-focus and work in tune with each other when you move them back into the content of your lesson.

More importantly, it is another way to show Christ's love and interest in His children in a public school classroom. Your students need to connect with you in the same way that we need to connect with our Heavenly Father just to remember that He is there and is still vitally interested in us. Your students want to know the same thing about their teacher, even when their response to you may not show it.

Love your students in this way!



Vancouver Team Helps a Nazarene School in Kenya

NCN News, March 6, 2014

A team of ten people from Vancouver, British Columbia, went to Kenya in July of 2013. The team, led by Matt Smedley, expanded the two-room Kawangaware Nazarene Community School by adding five more rooms. The group raised \$35,000 for the project which included furnishing the school with blackboards and school desks. The expansion included space for an additional 125 students. Each team member raised an additional \$3,000 for his or her personal journey.

Gail Andreas, a missionary for the Church of the Nazarene's Africa East Field, spoke at Vancouver First Church recently. She showed pictures of the completed project filled with happy students. Andreas also helps to lead the Kawangaware Church of the Nazarene and expressed her delight in what this expansion means to the church and the community it serves.

Grant Zweigle is the pastor of Vancouver First Church which celebrated last year 75 years of ministry to the city of Vancouver and the surrounding areas.

Nazarene Educators Worldwide congratulates this work and witness team from Vancouver for their interest in and support of the Kawangaware Nazarene Community School. Through their efforts many more African children will receive a Christ-centered education.

This article appeared originally in NCN News, Thursday, March 6, 2014. For pictures, go to www.ncnnews.org. Click on the Africa tab, and find the article, "Vancouver W&W Team Reunites."



CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

NAZARENE EDUCATORS WORLDWIDE

17001 Prairie Star Parkway

Lenexa, KS 66220

Guidelines for Selecting Music

By Mike Wonch

There are very few people who do not like music. Whether their choice is Christian Contemporary, Gospel, Rhythm and Blues, Hip Hop, Country, or Rock, people become inspired by tuning in to music. It has a tremendous influence on a person's thoughts, feelings, and culture. George Barna says, "Our research confirms that music may be the single, most important cultural creation of a generation, a special form of communication that is theirs forever, even if it is borrowed or mimicked."

Here are some tips to help anyone make healthy listening choices:

1. **Explore**—What is the message of the song? Does it contain coarse and/or offensive language? Would I be embarrassed if my family or my pastor listened with me?
2. **Evaluate**—Is the message something I agree or disagree with? Does the message conflict with the Bible's message? Is this song moving me closer to, or farther away from, God?
3. **Elect**—Decide, "Is this a song I should or should not be listening to?" Weigh the evidence and pray, asking God to help in the whole process.

Keep these things in mind when talking to young people about music.

First, be positive. We lose ground by putting down their music or laying a guilt trip on them. Patience and understanding go a long way!

Second, introduce alternative choices. There is a Christian music to fit any secular style. We create a sense of discouragement if young people believe there are no options for their musical tastes.

Young people (and adults) need to understand the benefits of filling their minds with music that will not hinder their walk with God. The Apostle Paul says, "Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things" (Philippians 4:8, NIV). Giving young people some guidelines will enable them to make positive listening choices throughout their life.

(Mike Wonch is a former Preteen Editor for WordAction Publishing Company. This article originally appeared in the Children's Ministries Leadership Newsletter.)



Have Fun Being Messy!

By Debbie Hallman - Childcare/Preschool Representative

What can parents or teachers do with preschool children for fun? That is a common question. Parents and teachers are always looking for fun things to do with their children. I love to make and experiment with things with the kids. It is exciting to see their faces when items are mixed in front of them, and they are part of the process.

In this society, we have forgotten about good homemade items, because it is so easy to go to the store and buy something. My goal is to share some great recipes with you. Save these recipes and put them on the front of the refrigerator. Use them on those days when you say, "What can I do with my child?"

Kool-Aid Paint

Unsweetened Kool-Aid packet(s)
¼ cup glue

Mix one or more Kool-Aid packets with the glue. This makes a thick, bright paint. Give the child a paint brush, and let the fun begin.

Puff Paint

1/3 cup glue
2/3 cup shaving cream

Mix the glue with the shaving cream. The mixture will puff up. Add food coloring for more fun. The children will love to see the change in the glue and the shaving cream. You will have great art projects to hang on the wall.

Shampoo Paint

3 teaspoons shampoo
Small amount of water
Food coloring

Stir shampoo, water, and food coloring until frothy. Use to paint pictures. These are items you will have at home. Keep the recipes in mind to provide unique art experiences that show the children how science works at home or at school or at church.

Have fun being messy!

