The Digital Camera: A Versatile Tool for Principals

I am a digital camera junkie. Since it is second nature for me to grab my camera when heading out the door, it was a natural evolution to begin using one in school. Although the digital camera has not yet found its niche in the day-to-day activities of the school principal, I suggest that it should be made an essential part of every administrator’s toolbox because of its ease of use, small size, and instant viewing. Here are some suggested uses. Just don’t forget to follow your district’s safety and permission procedures when it comes to taking and displaying pictures.

- New students can be given a sheet with pictures of key staff, including administrators, school nurse, secretaries, cafeteria manager, and custodians. Parents will find this sheet useful, too.
- Parents are often overwhelmed when introduced to the school psychiatrist, social worker, and other staff at child study meetings. A sheet with everyone’s picture, title, and contact information is a friendly reference.
- Pictures taken before, during, and after school renovations can be used for documentation, a PTA presentation, and thank-you notes to the various contractors.
- Pictures provide evidence of graffiti, school damage, and physical injury.
- Pictures of projects and activities can be digitally stored in grade-level or curriculum folders. These can be invaluable resources for new teachers or for experienced teachers who are changing their grade level.
- Pictures of a new teacher in front of his or her class on that first day can be framed and presented to the teacher during the November/December slump with a reminder of why what he or she is doing is special.
- Pictures of events throughout the year can be digitally stored and then assembled for an end-of-year PowerPoint presentation. It’s an easy way to look back with your staff...

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