Humor Us
We need more stories! We’re looking for humorous anecdotes about school life like the ones you’ve read here. Include your full name, title, and address and send your favorite stories to publications@naesp.org. If any of yours are published, we’ll send you a copy of the magazine and a pencil that says “I’m a funny principal!”

“Are you in the experimental or control group?”

Dennis Comrow, Principal
Fairview Elementary School
Carthage, Missouri

Is There a Doctor Available? Part 1
One day when the assistant principal and I were visiting a kindergarten class, the teacher told the children that two very important people were here to visit and introduced me as Dr. Welborn, the principal. The teacher then asked if the students wanted to guess who was the other special person with me.

Without hesitation, one student deduced that if I was the doctor, then the person with me must be the school nurse.

Dr. Michael C. Welborn, Principal
Wicoff Elementary School
Plainsboro, New Jersey

Is There a Doctor Available? Part 2
One of our families drove by the school one evening and noticed my car parked in the lot. The third-grade student asked, “How can the principal be at school? Why isn’t she at her other job?”

The mother was surprised and asked what he meant.

“Well,” he responded, “she is our principal during the day, but she is a doctor at night.”

Dr. Deedee Slagle, Principal
Harrison Street School
Geneva, Illinois

Safety First
One morning I arrived at school with a blackened and lacerated eye due to a wood-chopping accident. In an effort to avoid repeatedly explaining to my students what had happened, I decided to use a public address announcement as a perfect opportunity for a teachable moment about safety while working with tools.

Via the announcement, I told the students about the accident and how I should have been wearing safety goggles to prevent the injury.

Later that day, a first-grade student approached me and said, “I learned a good lesson today. I promise I will always wear my safety gargles.”

Robert J. Homer, Principal
Joseph D. Sharp Elementary School
Cherry Hill, New Jersey

A Boost of Confidence
As I was walking up and down the breakfast line greeting students, a first grader stopped me and said, “Mr. C., I really like your tie. It is very nice.”

I thanked her and said, “You have on a pretty dress and you look very cute.”

She looked up at me and seemed to ponder, then said, “Mr. C., you know what we are doing?” Beaming her great smile, she proudly replied, “We’re building self-esteem!”

Robert J. Homer, Principal
Joseph D. Sharp Elementary School
Cherry Hill, New Jersey

“I’m sorry, Mrs. Andrews, but we do not supply substitute teachers for home-schooling moms.”

Dennis Comrow, Principal
Fairview Elementary School
Carthage, Missouri

“Most of that is just pedagogic mumbo-jumbo.”

Principal ▉ March/April 2007

www.naesp.org
Reading Recovery: Powerful, Proven, Cost-Effective Results

Reading Recovery...

...delivers measurable results in weeks, not years.
Reading Recovery is a highly successful short-term intervention for first graders. Children receive 30-minute daily lessons taught by specially trained teachers. After just 12 to 20 weeks, more than 75% of these lowest students meet grade-level expectations.

...provides powerful professional development for literacy teachers.
Reading Recovery’s yearlong training develops remarkable literacy teachers and leaders for your school. In 2005–2006, the average Reading Recovery teacher taught 8.1 Reading Recovery students and 41.4 students outside Reading Recovery.

...works with any good classroom literacy model.
More than 7,500 elementary schools in the U.S. use Reading Recovery as the early intervention in their comprehensive literacy program.

...is validated by scientifically based reading research.
Reading Recovery is the most widely researched and evaluated early reading intervention in the world. Learn more about Reading Recovery’s research base at www.readingrecovery.org and about Reading Recovery evaluation at www.ndec.us.

...qualifies as an essential part of compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
Reading Recovery fits with the concepts of Early Intervening Services (EIS) and Response to Intervention (RTI). As RTI, Reading Recovery provides early intervention for struggling first graders, limiting referrals and placements in special education for children who respond to the intervention. Reading Recovery also provides a full diagnostic history for children who may be identified after a completed intervention.

Can you afford NOT to have Reading Recovery in your school?

Contact us to learn more about how school districts calculate their cost savings with Reading Recovery

Phone 614-310-READ
Email Principalinfo@readingrecovery.org
www.readingrecovery.org