



Pepin-Pasco News

November 2015

Thankfulness...

(During this time of Thanksgiving, I would like to share a story from "Chicken Soup for the Teacher's Soul." It reminds of why I am thankful to be in this profession and serving these students.)

There is a story about a teacher named Mrs. Thompson. And as she stood in front of her 5th grade class on her very first day of school, she told the children a lie. She looked at her students and said she loved them all the same. But that was impossible, because there in the front row, slumped in his seat, was a little boy named Teddy Stoddard.

Mrs. Thompson had watched Teddy the year before and noticed that he didn't play well with the other children, his clothes were messy and he constantly needed a bath. Teddy could be unpleasant. It got to the point where Mrs.

Thompson would actually take delight in marking his papers with a broad red pen, making bold X's and then putting a big "F" at the top of his papers.

Mrs. Thompson was required to review each child's past records and she put his off until last. However, when she reviewed his file, she was in for a surprise. Teddy's 1st grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is a bright child with a ready laugh. He does his work neatly and has good manners...he is a joy to be around." His 2nd grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is an excellent student, well liked by his classmates, but he is troubled because his mother has a terminal illness and life at home must be a struggle." His 3rd grade teacher wrote, "His mother's death has been hard

on him. He tries to do his best but his father doesn't show much interest and his home life will soon affect him if some steps aren't taken." Teddy's 4th grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is withdrawn and doesn't show much interest in school. He doesn't have many friends and sometimes sleeps in class."

By now, Mrs. Thompson realized the problem and she was ashamed of herself. She felt even worse when her students brought her Christmas presents, wrapped in beautiful ribbons and bright paper, except for Teddy's. His present was clumsily wrapped in the heavy, brown paper he got from a grocery bag. Mrs. Thompson took pains to open it in the middle of the other presents. Some of the children started to laugh when she found a rhinestone bracelet with some of the stones missing, and a bottle that was one quarter full of perfume. But she stifled the children's laughter when she exclaimed how pretty the bracelet was, putting it on, and dabbing some of the perfume on her wrist. Teddy Stoddard stayed after school that day just long enough to say, "Mrs. Thompson, today you smelled just like my Mom used to." After the children left she cried for at least an hour.

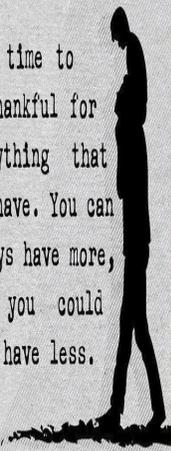
On that very day, she quit teaching reading, and writing, and arithmetic. Instead, she began to teach children. Mrs. Thompson paid particular attention to Teddy. As she worked with him, his mind seemed to come alive. The more she encouraged him, the faster he responded. By the end of the year, Teddy had become one of the smartest children in the class and one of "teacher's pets."

A year later, she found a note under her door, from Teddy, telling her she was still the best teacher he ever had in his whole life. Six years went by before she got another note from Teddy. He then wrote he had finished high school, third in his class, and she

was still the best teacher he ever had in his whole life. Four years after that, she got another letter, saying while things had been tough at times, he'd stayed in school, had stuck with it, and would soon graduate from college with the highest of honors. He assured Mrs. Thompson she was still the best and favorite teacher he ever had in his whole life. Then four more years passed and yet another letter came. This time he explained that after he got his bachelor's degree, he decided to go a little further. The letter explained she was still his best and favorite teacher. But now his name was a little longer-the letter was signed, Theodore F. Stoddard, M.D.

The story doesn't end there. You see, there was yet another letter that spring. Teddy said he'd met this girl and was going to be married. He explained that his father had died a couple of years ago and he was wondering if Mrs. Thompson might agree to sit in the place at the wedding usually reserved for the mother of the groom. Of course, Mrs. Thompson did. She wore that bracelet, the one with several rhinestones missing. And she made sure she was wearing the perfume that Teddy remembered his mother wearing on their last Christmas together. They hugged each other, and Dr. Stoddard whispered in Mrs. Thompson's ear, "Thank you Mrs. Thompson for believing in me. Thank you so much for making me feel important and showing me I could make a difference." Mrs. Thompson, with tears in her eyes, whispered back. She said, "Teddy, you have it all wrong. You were the one who taught me that I could make a difference. I didn't know how to teach.

Take time to be thankful for everything that you have. You can always have more, but you could also have less.



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Early Dismissal Policies

We have had a number of families pick up their students early, prior to 3:15 dismissal time. Students being signed out early are missing valuable instructional time. We expect our families to make every attempt in arranging all appointments for their children after school hours. If this is not possible, a parent or guardian must report to Pepin Academies-Pasco main office to properly sign their child out of school. A note or phone

call **MUST** be turned in to the administration office on the day of the early release request. Please do not call ahead and expect your child to be waiting for you in the office unless in the case of an extreme emergency. This disrupts the educational momentum in the classroom. To provide all students with the educational experiences they deserve with minimal disruptions, we respectfully ask that parents and guardians avoid early

dismissals. **It is our policy that no child will be signed out after 2:45pm unless in the case of an emergency. At this point, they must wait for general dismissal.** Please be aware that students being signed out early will be marked as either absent or “early dismissal” for the classes they are missing and it would be reflected on their progress report.

THERE IS
always, always,
 ALWAYS
 something
to be thankful for

Upcoming Early Release Days

November 20th (the Friday before the Thanksgiving Holiday) and December 18th (the Friday before the Winter Holiday) will be Early Release days at Pepin Academies-Pasco. Students will be released at 11:45am. PCPT, Kids Door to Door, and Boys and Girls Club have been notified but please

make sure you clarify with them specifically regarding your child’s participation. Aftercare will be offered on both days for \$20 as it will be from 12:00pm to 5:30pm. Please let us know if you are interested in having your child attend aftercare on either Friday, November 20th and/or

December 18th. We will need a definitive number for attendance to make sure we have the appropriate number of staff on hand to support the students.

Observers on Campus

Pepin Academies-Pasco welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with parents and qualified private providers in order to meet the needs of its students. In order to facilitate the many requests made for school observations in a timely manner, please follow the procedure outlined below:

Before scheduling any observation, the school must have a current “Authorization of Exchange of Confidential Information” on file for any

provider who wishes to observe or consult. In addition, all observers are required to sign the “Classroom Observation Confidentiality Acknowledgement Form.”

Requests for observations must be made at least one week in advance of preferred visits by submitting a Classroom Observation Request Form to the Principal. (Available in main office.)

Each Classroom Observation Request will be considered on an individual basis based on its purpose, duration, and frequency. Every effort will be made to accommodate the request; however, our first priority is maintaining the learning environment for our students. To minimize classroom disruptions, the duration of observations may be limited based on purpose as well as staff availability. Observations will be scheduled based on classroom schedule, school personnel schedule, and the requests of the parent or private provider.

Up-to-date Information

It is so important to make sure we have the most up-to-date contact information for your child. Recently, we had a child who was not picked up from aftercare. In trying to reach parents, all phone numbers we had as well as all numbers listed in Esembler, were no longer working numbers. The number the child knew as his phone number was not a working number. He was unable to tell us his address. The child was

extremely anxious and worried about being “forgotten.” Luckily, in rifling through his teacher’s desk, we were able to find some working contact numbers and ultimately got the student picked up. (There had been a miscommunication about who was to pick up the student.) When you have a change of number, change of address, change of emergency contact or pick-up, PLEASE send that information into the school. Ad-

ditionally, it is **EXTREMELY** important that your child knows their address and phone number. Practice it with them frequently and if you change it, make sure you teach them the new one.



Trunk or Treat-BIG SUCCESS!

Our first ever Trunk or Treat event proved to be a HUGE success for all involved. It was well-attended by students, staff, and community. Many of our teachers created their own game/food booths and earned over \$600 for use in their classrooms. We had many participants in the Trunk Decorating

Contest. Winners of the Best Trunk Decorations were the Northey family (Josiah in Mrs. Legault’s Class) who created an AWESOME Pirate Trunk. (Check out the pictures on the Pepin FIRST page of FACE-BOOK.) They took home the “Golden Pumpkin” and Trunk Roadside Kit. The Trunk or

Treat event was followed by our High School Dance which was very well attended. The students (and teachers) had a wonderful time, dancing the night away. Both activities were so successful, we plan on them becoming an annual event!

Pepin Academies Fundraising Store

Want some cool Pepin attire to wear for the cooler weather? Check out the Pepin Academies Fund Raising Store (<http://pepinacademies.com/pepin-store/>) This site features many approved (for Friday) T-Shirts as well as Jackets and Hoodies that are suitable for any day. (Pepin hoodies purchased

through this site can be worn by any students at any grade level.) In addition, there are caps, sunglasses, tote bags, etc. all with the cool “Winged” logo. For every item sold, Pepin Academies-Pasco receives a portion of each sale. The items are of excellent quality and will last for years to come! There

are informational flyers in the main office or you can go the website listed in this article.



PEPIN CALENDAR



Download from
www.oregonstate.edu



November 20-	Early Release Day-Dismissal 11:45
	Progress Reports
November 23-27	Thanksgiving Break
December 8-	Pepin Academies-Pasco School Board Meeting 6:00pm (on campus)
December 21-31-	Winter Break
January 1-4, 2016-	Winter Break
January 5-	First Day Back for Students
January 12-	Pepin Academies-Pasco School Board Meeting 6:00pm (on campus)
January 14-	End of the Semester
January 15-	Teacher Planning Day-NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
January 18-	Martin Luther King Holiday-NO SCHOOL
January 25-	Report Card Pick Up Night 3:30-6:00pm

Pepin FIRST News

Our first Report Card Pick Up Night Spaghetti dinner was a great success! We completely sold out of food by 5:30pm. And if you didn't get an opportunity to taste it, you were missing out! We earned enough to be half way to purchasing our own Falcon Mascot Costume! Be sure to participate in our next one which will be January 25th.

Here are some upcoming activities/initiatives that Pepin FIRST has going on.

- * Pepin FIRST is collecting coats to add to our uniform closet. (Yes, it will eventually get cold enough for a coat.) If you have clean, gently worn coats you would like to donate, there will be can in the

main office to deposit them in.

- * Pepin FIRST is looking into partnering with neighboring restaurants to have Pepin Academies-Pasco Spirit Nights. More details to follow.
- * Canned Food Drive-Bring your canned food and non-perishable items to help families in need during the holiday season.
- * Pepin FIRST is actively planning our BIG Spring Fishing Tournament-Catchin' For Pepin on April 2nd and 3rd, 2016. This tournament is will be held at Catches Waterfront Grill and Rum River Bar and Grill. We are looking for sponsors, prizes pack-

ages, donations, etc. to help make this tournament the best ever.

