Important Dates:

- **3/2** Read Across America Day
- **3/7-11** Spring Break!
- **3/7-11** Procrastination Week
  - We were going to do something special, but...
- **3/14** Pi Day – MATH!
- **3/17** St. Patrick’s Day – Wear something green
- **3/20** Spring Equinox – First Day of Spring
- **3/24** Chocolate Raisins Day
  - Mrs. Blenis favorite!
- **3/27** Easter Sunday
- **3/28** Something on a Stick Day

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Attention Students:

The next FTCE Dates are:

- April 16 – Reg. By 2/25
  - Late Reg. By 3/17
- July 23 – Reg. By 6/3
  - Late Reg. By 6/23

All students should consider taking the FTCE General Knowledge Exam as soon as possible. **Passing scores are required before taking the Junior Sequence of Education Courses (EDS 3033, 4051 & 3095)**

Seniors must have their passing scores for the Professional Education and Subject Area Exams filed before graduation.

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**Drawing the Line**

*By: Heather Novak*

As a future educator, I always find myself observing students, teachers, and the world around me as I look for ways to be the educator I want to be. I find myself critiquing teaching techniques that work, those that seem like a good idea, those that don’t, and the student responses to them. One thing is abundantly clear though; there is a fine line between students and teachers. There are immense consequences when we don’t draw that line. We often read of a new scandal in the news regarding teachers who cross that line. Besides losing personal and professional respect, there is a high risk of losing a career. So it is important that while we are still students, we take a look at ourselves and recognize what we need to do to develop that level of professionalism.

Some of us will be especially vulnerable when entering the classroom simply because of our age. Let’s face it, being just four or five years older than your students makes this an even more difficult challenge. There isn’t much of an emotional distance between most beginning teachers and their students. And it doesn’t help to see in the media how today’s celebrities are dating people so much younger than they are. We owe it to ourselves to remain behind that line – morally and ethically - for our own self respect.

There are of course several things we can do to maintain a friendly but professional distance. For one, we can control the way we dress. There is an infinite number of ways to establish a good wardrobe without losing your identity or looking like a power-hungry executive. The low-riding pants will need to go, as well as having undergarments that peek out. I find it disturbing as a student to see someone’s thong peeking out of pajama bottoms. It demonstrates a lack of modesty and even low self respect, character traits we do not want to cultivate as future teachers!

We can also control our actions. Limit the amount of touching, hugging, and emotional displays while increasing communication skills – especially listening. It is important to note we can empathize without crossing the professional boundary line. We want to be available to our students when they need an adult to talk to, so developing a relationship with them is important. We can become approachable by sponsoring after school activities that endorse education or community programs and by coaching sport teams. These are great ways to build up your community and show support to your students.

Wardrobes and personal habits take a while to change so starting now while you still have time is important! Examine your teachers. Do their clothes and actions define them professionally? Does their dress and their actions set them apart as a teacher? Would it work for you? Taking the time to establish ourselves now will allow us to emerge with confidence into the classroom.
Help the fight against cancer, join the Science and Math Education Relay for life team.

A sign-up list has been put up in the computer lab for all those interested in joining our team or e-mail Jayné Park at jayneipark@yahoo.com to become a part of this life saving event. The Relay will be held on April 1-2, 2005 in the Clemente Center.

What’s hot and What’s not in 2005 Work-Wear
(Sources: National Retail Federation, Organization by Design, Inc.)

For men
IN Lightweight, single-breasted suits
IN Pleated dress slacks and no-iron pants
IN Ties with pastel colors and simple patterns
IN Fitted, button-down shirts in solid colors
IN Wing-tip shoes
IN Cuff links
OUT Denim and regular khaki pants
OUT Sandals and thick-soled hiking shoes
OUT Open-neck or no-collar shirts
OUT Patterned shirts

For women
IN Tweed accents, form suits to jackets to bags and shoes
IN Embellished twin sweater sets
IN Patterned tights for textured legs
IN Ballet flats and boots of all types
IN Pink and chocolate-brown combinations
IN Vintage pins
OUT Bare legs
OUT Chunky shoes
OUT Loose-fitting blouses
OUT Cropped pants
OUT Midriff-baring shirts and pants
OUT Anything with fringe

License Plate Contest
2 B 4 MATH GR8
Have you seen a license plate that demonstrates a love of math or science? Submit a photo to Mrs. Blenis by March 14 to enter. Cash Prizes!!!!

What is this?
Accomplished Practice
#3 – Continuous Improvement:
The preprofessional teacher realizes that she/he is in the initial stages of a lifelong learning process and that self-reflection is one of the key components of that process. While her/his concentration is, of necessity, inward and personal, the role of colleagues and school-based improvement activities increases as time passes. The teacher’s continued professional improvement is characterized by self-reflection, working with immediate colleagues and teammates, and meeting the goals of a personal professional development plan.

The News Stand:
What’s In This Month

- Edutopia
  No Teacher Left Behind
- The Science Teacher
  Drawing Students Out
- Science Scope
  Science & Science Fiction
- Educational Leadership
  Educating Language Learners
- Presentations
  Cracking the Dress Code
- Mathematics Teaching in the MS
  Geometric Probability & the Areas