



SCIENCE LESSON ON “HIBERNATE OR MIGRATE”

We teach a lesson on how animals hibernate or migrate. This lesson can be use in grades 2 – 3. The students pick an animal that hibernates or migrates. They research how this animal responds to the seasons. The students can do the research at home. I usually tell them the date I want their information to be in.

Once the information is in the students create on of the following:

- Create a poster depicting an animal and its adaptations in the changing seasons. An example would be how a wolf sheds some if it fur when the weather becomes warmer. You should have a picture of the animal on the poster along with some descriptions of how the animal changes with the seasons.
- Write a two paragraph essay about an animal that hibernates or migrates. Research on the internet the changes this animal makes with the seasons. Example questions to research: Why does it hibernate? Why does it migrate? Does this animal have blubber to keep it warm in the winter? You may also include a picture of this animal on your essay.
- Compare and contrast an animal's adaptations with at least two different seasons. Use a Venn diagram to show your research. For example: How does a wolf look in the summer versus the winter? Give at least 3 comparisons and 3 ways they are different.

Nancy Walker
Grade 3
St. Matthews

SECOND ANNUAL MEO TRI-STATE IDOL

The second annual MEO Tri-State IDOL has already been scheduled and planning is well underway for next year; so please put April 20, 2012 on your calendars. Once again, IDOL will be held at the Clarion Inn on Hwy. 41 and Lynch Rd. We are pleased to announce German American as our 2012 IDOL Corporate Sponsor.

Project Outreach Schools will once again be asked to donate an item valued at \$50.00 or more.

Some schools or Deaneries may be interested in combining their funds to purchase a large item. If you know of anyone who would be interested in auditioning, please visit the MEO website at www.meoforkids.com.

IDOL First Round Auditions

Thursday, January 26, 2012
Mater Dei Auditorium 5 p.m.

Monday, January 30, 2012
Memorial Auditorium 6:30 p.m.

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Project Outreach Contacts

Project Coordinators

Erin Griffith
Corpus Christi
egriffith@evdio.org

Katrina Martin
Sts. Peter and Paul
kmartin@evdio.org

Gina Tucker
Memorial High School
ginatucker@reitzmemorial.org

Social Media Coordinator

Bart Burke
Sts. Peter and Paul
bburke@evdio.org

Director

Beverly Williamson
bwilliamson@evdio.org
812-402-6700

www.meoforkids.com

UPCOMING DATES

NEW HIRE TRAINING

Thursday, Jan. 19, 2012
@ Memorial H.S. - 3:30-6:30

K-12 FOLDABLE WORKSHOP

Presented by Kim Elpers
Thursday, Jan. 26, 2012
@ Sts. Peter & Paul – 3:30-5:00

TEACHER LEADER MEETING

Thursday, Feb. 16, 2012
@ Corpus Christi – 3:30-5:00

RICK WORMELI

Monday, March 2, 2011
@ Clarion Inn

ALL PROJECT SCHOOLS SHARE MEETING

Thursday, Mar. 15, 2012
@ Catholic Center – 3:30-5:00

TEACHER LEADER MEETING

Thursday, April 19, 2012
@ Memorial HS – 3:30-5:00

ST. PETER AND PAUL TEACHER WINS NATIONAL AWARD

A Haubstadt teacher is getting national recognition for her outstanding service to Saints Peter and Paul Catholic School. Kim Elpers was named one of the National Catholic School Teachers of the Year. Elpers had no idea what she was walking into when she came through the door. She thought she was spending the day grant writing, but when she went to the gym for a prayer service, it became clear the plans were changing. "I was really overwhelmed and just didn't know what was going on and just shocked", says Elpers.



The school gathered to give Elpers the news that she is one of 12 teachers nationwide to receive the National Catholic School Education Association's distinguished teacher award. "I am so honored. I can't even imagine that I was nominated, let alone that I would win." Elpers was the chosen recipient for the Great Lakes Region, and is the first teacher ever from the Evansville Diocese to receive the award.

Principal, Kalyn Herrmann says she's not surprised that Elpers was the chosen one. "She's just constantly thinking on what can I do to make our kids successful and she'll do anything she possibly can to make that happen", says Herrmann. Elpers says she takes a more hands-on approach to teaching, and that's what so many say makes her a favorite.

"I thank them so much. What a wonderful honor and I'm, so glad I'm where I am", Elpers Said. Elpers will head to Boston in April for a celebration honoring all 12 Teacher of the Year recipients.

NEW SENSORY LAB AT HOLY SPIRIT SCHOOL

During the school year of 2008, dreams of having a motor and sensory integration lab began to form amongst teachers, parents and students at Holy Spirit School. In May 2011, these dreams became a reality. Construction came to a halt and a ribbon cutting ceremony took place. This reality became possible because of a generous grant from the Welborn Baptist Foundation. The grant allowed for an expansion of the special education classrooms, and the addition of a motor/sensory lab. Special Education teachers, Jamie Broeker and Brandi Coomes received three days of training by Minds-in-Motion founder, Candace Meyer in order to implement the lab. Today over 50% of Holy Spirit students utilize the Minds in Motion portion of the lab. In addition, the children with special needs are provided additional therapy to aid sensory integration. Research has shown that Minds in Motion benefits those students who already perform well, as well as students faced with the challenges of learning, attention, or processing difficulties; therefore, the ultimate goal is to steadily increase the percentage of students utilizing the Minds in Motion portion of the lab.

What is Minds in Motion and why do we do it?

Latest brain research is proving that because most mental processes involve both sides of the brain, integration problems between the two hemispheres can result in inefficiencies in brain processes. Some children with reading problems, central auditory processing disorders, language delays, and other learning problems may be suffering from a lack of integration between the two sides of their brain. Research also proves that poor integration and inefficient coordination between the numerous brain systems involved in the learning process can be dealt with through sensory integration and motor development exercises. Many scientists are now using balance as the central component to address sensory integration disorders and brain processing inefficiencies that cause learning problems.

The Minds in Motion program systematically progresses from easy to challenging to be effective for students of varying abilities. The progression of skill levels goes from easy to challenging throughout the weeks, maintaining the of intermediate students while still being very do-able for primary students. Each skill builds upon the previous one to speed along sensory integration and motor development to the fullest.

The Minds in Motion Maze directly addresses physiological discrepancies through integrating movements that focus on balance. The 15 maze activities have been designed to develop and challenge a student's balance and learning capabilities. The Minds in Motion Maze boasts a wide range of simple methods to: alleviate clumsiness and disorganization, improve vision skills for reading, improve handwriting skills, increase tracking of digits in math, combat double vision, empower students to walk, stand, and sit in a controlled manner, increasing focusing ability of students, clearer speech abilities, improve eye-hand coordination, and more efficient auditory processing.

Since initiating the Minds in Motion portion of the lab, Holy Spirit teachers have noticed a remarkable difference in their students. Kindergarten teacher, Patti Sights states, "The students that complete the Minds in Motion Maze are able to sit still and focus longer than students who have not had the opportunity to go through the maze. Minds in Motion is the Wheaties for the brain."



If you would like to view the motor/sensory integration lab at Holy Spirit School, please contact Jamie Broeker or Brandi Coomes at 477-9082. To obtain more information about Minds-in-Motion, Inc. developed by Candace Meyer, visit www.mimlearnina.com

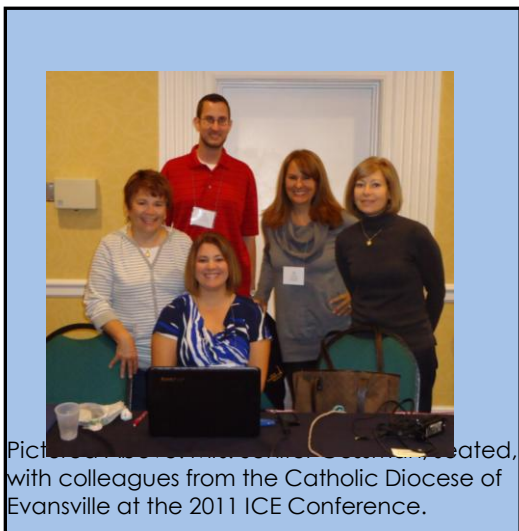
D.I. TECH PROJECT AT 2011 ICE CONFERENCE

Mrs. Jennifer Gossman, who serves as the Technology Coordinator / Teacher at Holy Redeemer School, was a presenter at this year's ICE Technology Conference. She presented: Introduction of Photo Story 3, a free program offered by Microsoft.

Photo Story 3 allows individuals to take images, add narration and/or sound and create a short digital story. Students can utilize the program to create unique book reports or even teach a short lesson over something they just learned.

Educators can use Photo Story 3 to introduce a new lesson. Digital stories are a way to capture the viewer's attention and engage them in your subject material.

For more information visit <https://sites.google.com/site/photostory3foriceindiana2011/>



Picture created with colleagues from the Catholic Diocese of Evansville at the 2011 ICE Conference.

SPOTLIGHT ON WEBSITE

I have just started looking at this but a lot of teachers are talking about using to allow students to work at their own level and pace. You might want to check it out and best of all, it is FREE!

<http://www.sascurriculumpathways.com/portal/>

Kelsey Hillenbrand
Math & Social Studies
Christ the King School

CONFERENCE OF INTEREST

Step-by-Step Model Drawing: Singapore's Best Problem-Solving Math Strategies
with Ricky Mikelman for grades 1-6
At Holiday-INN in Evansville, IN
Wednesday, March 21, 2011 – 7:30-3:30 P.M.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

*FROM THE PROJECT OUTREACH COORDINATORS
AND ALL OF YOUR FRIENDS AT MEO*

If you have any information about what is happening in your school or pictures of some of the work your students have done, please send to the Project Coordinators so that we can include it in the newsletter. It is always educational to see what other teachers are doing!