

TAKING HOME THE BEACON



Volume 3 Issue 2 Winter 2019

COACHES CORNER

BY MONA YACQUB

Greetings,

We are excited to meet with you again via the TLC newsletter to share our new Big Four strategies, teacher spotlight, BBS learning activities and more interesting news in order to keep you updated with what is happening in the BBS community.

The learning journey never ends. A group of BBS teachers experienced an amazing learning opportunity in January by joining NESAWinter Conference that took place in India this year. The new learning aligns with the school focus and the teachers' professional goals.

Teacher Skills Forum 2019 which will be happening in March in Jordan has gained regional and international recognition for its unique approach in that it primarily focuses on Teachers and classroom needs to enhance and improve the quality of teaching. TSF is an annual regional event organized by the Queen Rania Teacher Academy in partnership with the International Baccalaureate (IB) to provide teachers from the Arab world with modern and creative strategies and innovative teaching techniques. It is a platform for teachers to explore, learn, and share experiences with some of the world's most renowned educators and scholars. A group of our teachers will take the opportunity to examine all of that by joining the forum.

New learning opportunities are coming soon! Truly, the learning journey never ends!

Mona Yacqub

THE BIG FOUR: SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY BUILDING

BY TAHANI HASHEM

Content/Instruction

Strategy: Task Cards

Strategy Descriptor:

Task cards allow teachers to give their students a range of content. First, make or identify tasks and questions that you'd typically find on worksheets or in textbooks. Second, print and laminate cards that each contain a single task or question. Finally, set up stations around your classroom and pair students together to rotate through them. You can individualize instruction by monitoring the pairs, addressing knowledge gaps when needed. Answering task cards can also be a small-group activity, adding variety to classes that normally focus on solo or large-group learning.

THE BIG FOUR: SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY BUILDING

BY TAHANI HASHEM

Assessment

Strategy: “I have... who has...?” formative assessment activity.

Strategy Descriptor:

This is an easy-to-play game that is a great way to practice essential language/Math concepts with the whole class. As students match up the answers on their cards with questions on other students’ cards, they get valuable practice with Math skills/vocabulary and listening skills.

- First, choose a list of words/numbers. Then begin filling in the blanks on the “I Have Who Has” [template](#) with these words. The last card you fill out must have the first word used for the ‘Who has ___?’
- Hand out a card to each student. Some students may need to have 2 depending upon how many in a set. It is important to use all the cards in a set.
- Choose a student to go first, and have her/him read her card aloud.
- The student who has the card with the word then reads that answer aloud: “I have ___”. This student will then read the question at the bottom of their card – ‘Who has ___?’ Then the student with the card that answers the question responds. Every card in the set is connected to a card before it and a card after it. To keep the game moving at a quick pace, all students need to pay attention to every question that’s asked?
- Play continues in this fashion until all of the cards have been played. The game will end with the same student who started play.

THE BIG FOUR: SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY BUILDING

BY TAHANI HASHEM

Community Building

Strategy: [Bucket fillers](#)

Strategy Descriptor:

What does it mean to fill buckets?

Bucket filling simply means that students do their best each day to show kindness and respect to the people around them. Bucket filling can be small acts of kindness like greeting someone in the hallway, or something bigger like sending a grandparent a special card. There are many ways to fill buckets, big and small, and students should always work each day to fill as many buckets as they can!

Why fill buckets?

1. Bucket filling makes the people around us feel happy.
2. When we fill others' buckets with kindness, we fill our own at the same time!
3. If you live the life of a bucket filler others will want to be your friend.
4. Showing others you are a bucket filler will inspire them to want to be a bucket filler too!

THE BIG FOUR: SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY BUILDING

BY TAHANI HASHEM

Community Building

Strategy: [Bucket fillers](#)

Ways to Fill A Bucket:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Shake someone's hand and introduce yourself● SMILE!● Make a card for someone● Invite someone to play who looks left out or lonely● Be a good listener● Follow your teacher's directions (and your parents too!)● Use your manners when speaking to others● Share● Cheer a friend up● Use words of encouragement● Make good choices | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Give someone a compliment● Take turns● Do your chores without having to be asked● Volunteer in your community● Help a friend who has been injured● Stick up for a classmate who is being bullied● Help take care of younger brothers or sisters● Take care of your pets (they have buckets too!!)● Spend time with people that you love● Invite a friend over to play● Do your best work in school● Follow rules |
|--|---|

TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY

BY EVGENII PERMIKOV

Video tutorials for www.storybird.com, www.padlet.com

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT:

BY AARON SHELBY

My name is Sura and I teach KG2 English. I am from the UK and have been teaching in Kuwait for nine years. This is my eighth year at Al Bayan. I moved to Kuwait in 2006 when I got married and I have four wonderful children. I studied Accounting at The American University of Kuwait and went on to complete my master's degree in Educational Leadership at The College of New Jersey. I taught Nursery for the five years at BBS and transferred to KG2 in 2016. I definitely have a soft spot for preschool and could not imagine working in other departments. Some of my hobbies include travelling, exercising, and shopping.

This year my team and I have been focusing on learning through play for our KG2 students. We have been planning creative invitations and provocations inspired by the Reggio Emilia approach. The intention is for students to guide and scaffold their own learning through different activities. Our goal as teachers is to ensure that we are still covering all the standards in our curriculum while meeting our students' different learning needs.

I would like to share the GoNoodle website. This website consists of different characters and different exercises that students can follow to get energized. The chosen character grows with each completed 'brain break'. The benefits of GoNoodle are improved behavior and attention, higher academic performance, and stronger classroom cohesion.



CURRICULUM

BY CAROL ALAWADI

“Reconnecting With Wisdom from the Little Prince”

I came across an article by Starr Sackstein relating the lesson she found when she “reconnected with wisdom from the Little Prince.” In one paragraph she beautifully sums up the connection teachers can and do have with their students when they hear with their heart. Below are her words of wisdom from the opening Little Prince quotation.

“ ‘And now here is my secret, a very simple secret: It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye.’ So many wonderful things are right in front of us, but we fail to see them. Always caught up in the minutia of the day, we don't allow ourselves to feel the range of emotions that exist with every experience. As teachers, we need to see everything in our kids, especially what is invisible to the eye. When students know we see them completely, they trust us enough to take major risks with their learning. They trust us to help them grow. So we must remember to not only see with our eyes, but always with our whole being.”

See your students.... Really see them, and enjoy them with all your heart...

STUDENT LEARNING ACTIVITIES

BY MARY BETH AKERS



“Technology in the Makerspace”

– two third grade classrooms are enjoying doing research using the iPads in the Makerspace.

NESA UPDATES

BY LANA HALLAL

The BBS TEAM attending
the NESA WTI19 in
Chennai India



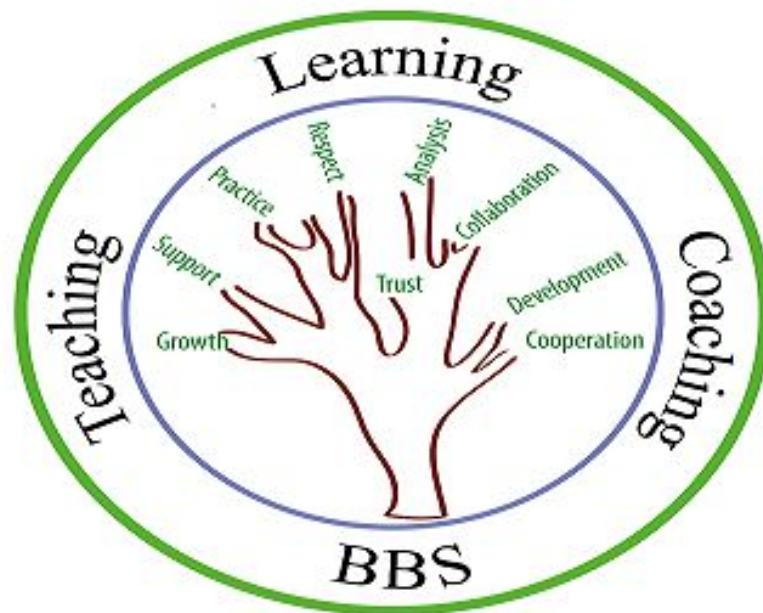
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