

# CHALK TALK

FOR TODAY'S CLASSROOM

$$Y + 2 \frac{1}{15} = ?$$

$$Y = 7$$

$$x + 21^3 =$$



CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION BULLETIN

April 2011

Volume 7, No. 7

## SPRING BLOSSOMS FORTH WITH EASTER JOY

### Very Early Spring

by Katherine Mansfield



The fields are snowbound no longer;  
There are little blue lakes and flags of tenderest green.  
The snow has been caught up into the sky--  
So many white clouds--and the blue of the sky is cold.  
Now the sun walks in the forest,  
He touches the bows and stems with his golden fingers;  
They shiver, and wake from slumber.  
Over the barren branches he shakes his yellow curls.  
Yet is the forest full of the sound of tears....  
A wind dances over the fields.  
Shrill and clear the sound of her waking laughter,  
Yet the little blue lakes tremble  
And the flags of tenderest green bend and quiver.



"This is the feast of victory of our God. Alleluia!"



Everything with which we struggle,  
and every hope and desire we have,  
come together in this day.  
The tomb is empty!

Sometimes Easter Sunday can be a busy day,  
with visiting, meals, and travel.

Our prayer when we wake,  
and our "calling to mind" throughout the day,  
can help us remember  
what we are grateful for today.

There is Light in the midst of every darkness.

New life, ever lasting life is ours.  
Our journey to the font of renewal  
has helped us remember  
we have been placed with Jesus.

And so, at the Easter liturgy,  
we renew our Baptismal promises  
and re-commit ourselves to following  
our Risen Lord."



(Source: <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Lent/6th-Easter-Week.html#sun>)

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# CELEBRATING EARTH DAY

APRIL 22, 2011

"Earth Day is a name used for two different observances, both held worldwide annually. While some people celebrate Earth Day around the time of the vernal equinox, others observe the occasion on April 22 each year. Earth Day aims to inspire awareness of and appreciation for earth's environment. It is currently observed in more than 140 countries around the world. People unite on Earth Day to appreciate and respect earth's environment.



The April 22 Earth Day is usually celebrated with outdoor performances, where individuals or groups perform acts of service to earth. Typical ways of observing Earth Day include planting trees, picking up roadside trash, conducting various programs for recycling and conservation, using recyclable containers for snacks and lunches. Some people are encouraged to sign petitions to governments, calling for stronger or immediate action to stop global warming and to reverse environmental destruction. Television stations frequently air programs dealing with environmental issues.

The April 22 Earth Day, founded by Senator Gaylord Nelson, was first organized in 1970 to promote ecology and respect for life on the planet as well as to encourage awareness of the growing problems of air, water and soil pollution.

Symbols used by people to describe Earth Day include: an image or drawing of planet earth; a tree, a flower or leaves depicting growth; or the recycling symbol. Colors used for Earth Day include natural colors such as green, brown or blue.

The 'Earth Flag', which was designed by John McConnell, has been described as a "flag for all people". It features a two-sided dye printed image of the Earth from space on a dark blue field, made from recyclable, weather-resistant polyester. Margaret Mead believed that a flag that showed the earth as seen from space was appropriate." (Source: <http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/world/earth-day>)



The following Internet sites offer ideas for the celebration of Earth Day on April 22nd.

- [www.earthday.gov](http://www.earthday.gov)
- <http://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2011>
- [http://www.chiff.com/home\\_life/holiday/earth-day.htm](http://www.chiff.com/home_life/holiday/earth-day.htm)
- <http://earthday2011.org/>
- <http://cleveland.about.com/b/2007/04/10/celebrate-earth-day-april-22.htm>
- <http://holidays.kaboose.com/earthday-activities.html>
- <http://holidays.kaboose.com/earth-day/>
- <http://www.dltk-kids.com/crafts/earth.html>
- [http://www.abcteach.com/directory/seasonalholidays/earth\\_day](http://www.abcteach.com/directory/seasonalholidays/earth_day)

## FEAST DAYS IN APRIL

Saturday, 2 <sup>nd</sup>	St. Francis of Paola	
Monday, 4 <sup>th</sup>	St. Isidore	
Tuesday, 5 <sup>th</sup>	St. Vincent Ferrer	
Thursday, 7 <sup>th</sup>	St. John Baptist de la Salle	
Monday, 11 <sup>th</sup>	St. Stanislaus	
Wednesday, 13 <sup>th</sup>	St. Martin I	
Sunday, 17 <sup>th</sup>	Palm Sunday	
Thursday, 21 <sup>st</sup>	Holy Thursday, St. Anselm	
Friday, 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Good Friday	
Saturday, 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil	
Sunday, 24 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Sunday	
Monday, 25 <sup>th</sup>	St. Mark	
Thursday, 28 <sup>th</sup>	St. Peter Chanel	<i>Alleluia, Alleluia!</i>
Friday, 29 <sup>th</sup>	St. Catherine of Siena	
Saturday, 30 <sup>th</sup>	St. Pius V	

## SHARING COFFEE (OR TEA)...

Are you part of a Professional Learning Community (PLC)? Do you meet with your colleagues on a regular basis to share some coffee and to provide support, share ideas, and discuss what is working – and not working – in your classrooms? Research shows that PLC's can help you be a better teacher while saving you precious planning time, thanks to the power of collaboration.



According to Caralee Adams (2009), "one of the most exciting things about a PLC is that you can share problems you are having in your classroom and find solutions without having to reinvent the wheel." As your PLC grows and develops, Adams goes on to say, "you and your team will review student assessment data together and tailor teaching methods in order to reach all students, which will allow you to pool your knowledge and collaborate on solutions." (Page 30)

What are the benefits of being part of a PLC? Adams identifies the following:

- "As a team begins to refine what it does, teamwork kicks in and you become specialists, essentially dividing the work of problem solving."
- "As problem solving dialogue increases between teams and curriculum becomes more closely linked, you may begin talking to teachers in different grades about expectations,

**"AND HE DEPARTED FROM OUR SIGHT THAT WE MIGHT RETURN TO OUR HEART, AND THERE FIND HIM. FOR HE DEPARTED, AND BEHOLD, HE IS HERE."**

-St. Augustine

## SPECIAL DAYS IN APRIL

Friday, 1 <sup>st</sup>	April Fools' Day
Saturday, 2 <sup>nd</sup>	International Children's Book Day
Sunday, 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Find-a-Rainbow Day
Wednesday, 6 <sup>th</sup>	North Pole discovered, 1898
Saturday, 9 <sup>th</sup>	1st Public Library Opened, 1833
Sunday, 10 <sup>th</sup>	Encourage a Young Writer Day
Wednesday, 13 <sup>th</sup>	Thomas Jefferson's Birthday, 1743
Friday, 15 <sup>th</sup>	Leonardo da Vinci's Birthday, 1452
Saturday, 16 <sup>th</sup>	Slavery Abolished, 1862
Monday, 18 <sup>th</sup>	Great San Francisco Earthquake, 1906
Thursday, 21 <sup>st</sup>	Kindergarten Day
Friday, 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Earth Day
Tuesday, 26 <sup>th</sup>	Hug a Friend Day
Thursday, 28 <sup>th</sup>	Poetry Reading Day
Saturday, 30 <sup>th</sup>	National Honesty Day



which can provide a more seamless transition for students.”

- “PLC’s set up new teachers for success by providing structure and community.” (Page 30-31)

Let’s share some coffee (or tea)! If you are not part of a PLC in your school why not get the ball rolling. Adams suggests that you take the following steps:

1. Choose one or more of colleagues who teach the same subject or grade level and who believe that teacher collaboration can benefit students.
2. Set a regular meeting time.
3. Discuss goals for your students.
4. Share methods, tools and resources and learn from one another.
5. Focus on results.
6. Develop creative strategies to help students who are not meeting the goals you’ve set.
7. Invite team members to bring a new problem to each meeting and collaborate on a solution.
8. Support one another in your commitment to helping students learn.



(Source: Adams, Caralee. 2009. “The Power of Collaboration.” Instructor. August 2009, pages 28-31.)

**HE IS RISEN, AS HE SAID.  
ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

APRIL 7, 2011

- Core VI: Life in Jesus Christ  
(For High School Theology Teachers)  
All Day, Holiday Inn, Crocker Road

APRIL 8, 2011

- Becoming a Great High School  
All Day, St. Michael’s Woodside

APRIL 13, 2011

- Social Studies Curriculum Implementation  
(For Teachers of Grades 5-8)  
4:00-6:30, St. Michael’s Woodside

APRIL 14, 2011

- Education Technology: Google Docs  
4:00-6:30, Our Lady of the Elms

APRIL 15, 2011

- Early Childhood Workshop  
All Day, Cleveland Museum of Art

## OPPORTUNITIES TO LOOK FORWARD TO...

MAY 9, 2011

- Social Studies Curriculum Implementation  
(For Teachers of Grades K-4)  
4:00-6:30, St. Barnabas

MAY 10, 2011

- Social Studies Curriculum Implementation  
(For Teachers of Grades K-4)  
4:00-6:30, St. Joseph, Avon Lake

May 11, 2011

- Social Studies Curriculum Implementation  
(For Teachers of Grades K-4)  
4:00-6:30, Ursuline Education Center



**Where to Register? Have Questions?**

**[www.ocs.org/ocs/register](http://www.ocs.org/ocs/register)**  
Ashley Rowland, Administrative Assistant  
arowland@dioceseofcleveland.org 216.696.6525 x1059

# Strategies of the Month

## 10 + 2 (TEN PLUS TWO)

This is a direct instruction strategy where the teacher presents lesson material for ten minutes. Students then reflect on what was taught and share for two minutes with their colleagues. The cycle is then repeated.

## ADMIT/EXIT SLIPS



Admit/Exit slips are a way for teachers to have students write and provide information about what they think about the class, or the topic under discussion, or a specific teaching strategy/material being used. An admit slip is to be done prior to the start of the class, admitting each student to class, or may be done in the first few minutes at the

beginning of class. In contrast, the exit slip is completed during the last few minutes of the class, enabling students to provide the teacher with feedback about their teaching, comprehension of materials, etc. Students are allowed to exit the classroom when they submit such an exit slip to the teacher. Admit/Exit slips may also be completed anonymously.

Admit/Exit slips are an effective way to informally assess student understanding of new or old concepts and determine where students need additional clarification or assistance. These slips are also useful to stimulate critical thinking and as a springboard to link new learning with existing knowledge. Usually the question(s) are designed to be answered during the first or last 5-10 minutes of class. A question may be assigned at the end of one class period and the response turned in as the admit slip for the next class meeting, especially if the question requires a longer response time.

Admit/Exit slips are a wonderful way to ease students into written communication in the subject area, especially for classes where students do not traditionally perceive writing as part of the curriculum, like mathematics.

Admit/Exit slip responses can be presented in a variety of formats depending on personal preferences and/or class needs. Teachers will need to determine the type of media they prefer the students to use for their responses. Admit/exit slip questions

are usually presented on the board or overhead projector for all students to see and record, but may be pre-printed on the response paper or card depending on resources.

## ALPHABET SUMMARY

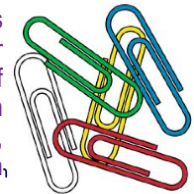
In this strategy, each student is assigned a different letter of the alphabet and asked to generate a word starting with that letter that is related to the topic being discussed. Students share their terms with the class. This strategy is especially effective as a "closure" activity for a lesson.



## DID YOU KNOW?

### PAPERCLIP INVENTED IN 1899

When Johann Vaaler patented his paper clip in 1901, there already were similar designs on the books. William Middlebrook of Waterbury, Connecticut patented his design in 1899. Cornelius Brosnan of Springfield, Massachusetts patented his Konaclip in 1900.



Well, it is thought to be Johann Vaaler. Drawings of his design date to early 1899, but since Norway had no patent law at the time he had to seek patent rights in Germany and the US in the following years.

Johann Vaaler was born on 15 March 1866 in Aurskog, Norway. Known as an innovator in his youth, he graduated in electronics, science and mathematics. He was employed by the owner of an invention office when he invented the paper clip in 1899.

Several designs followed the original. Only a few remain, such as the Ideal, Non-Skid, Owl and Gem. The first double-oval clip, the Gem, was launched in early-1900 by Gem Manufacturing Ltd of England. The paper clip remains as one of the most-used items of all time. (Source: [www.didyounow.org](http://www.didyounow.org))

*Need Assistance? Have Questions or Concerns?*

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