



FIRST MONDAY

Together We Are...Making a Difference for Children!

AN UPDATE FROM DR. DEBBIE HARRIS ROLLINS

Bertie County Schools

Windsor, North Carolina

October 2011

BERTIE

BY THE NUMBERS

30

Number of Mondays remaining in the 2011-12 school year

10-15%

Percentage of a child's weight that his/her backpack should not exceed

94%

Average percentage of students who attended BCS daily last year

53.2%

Percentage of students at/above grade level on 2010-2011 Reading EOG

76.5%

Percentage of students at/above grade level on 2010-2011 Math EOG

2 MILLION

Number of minutes a student spends in high school (4 years)

Time

Fall is typically the time when we set our clocks forward an hour in the name of Daylight Savings Time. You know the ditty – spring forward; fall back. This time of the year always makes me think of the story about the Louisiana woman who wrote the government one summer complaining about that new-fangled idea called Daylight Savings Time. She argued in her letter, "That extra hour of sunshine done burnt up all my tomaters plants!"

Well, I kind of doubt that that happened, but it is remarkable to think about time and the difference one hour can really make. Even if you don't raise tomaters! Time – it seems so elusive, so unpredictable, so "slippery," says Charles Swindoll. Waiting for something to happen that you enjoy, say Christmas, and time seems to crawl. Dreading an event or facing a deadline and time seems to fly. Time is a great healer but a terrible beautician. It is also relative – two weeks of vacation just don't seem equivalent to two weeks on a diet. And have you ever noticed that some "company" can stay longer in an hour than others can stay in a week?

My mother told me that when I reached a certain age time would literally seem to fly, and she was right. Already it is October. Already four Mondays are gone and only 30 remain. Still seem like a long school year to you? Well, it's not; it will be spring and time for EOG/EOC administration before you know it. Are you making the best use of your time? More importantly, are you making the best use of your students' time? Five minutes lost here, three minutes there, ten minutes somewhere else adds up. Make sure you are engaging your students in relevant learning experiences from bell to bell. Check out our reading and math scores from last year. How can YOU improve those?

You can teach and students can learn while they are unpacking books in the morning, transitioning to lunch and packing up to go home. Make your walls interactive so students are learning as they change classes, eat lunch and go to the restroom. Don't know how to create interactive bulletin boards? Check out:

- <http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3746785>
- <http://school.discoveryeducation.com/schrockguide/bulletin/>
- Interactive Bulletin Boards--Math: Build Math Concepts and Skills with Dozens of Easy-to-make Displays and Interactive Bulletin Boards for Language Arts by Novelli and Meagher

Tools, Tips, Resources & Opportunities

Elementary School Conference - The North Carolina Association of Elementary Educators' 8th Annual Elementary School Conference, "Leading the Way: Anchored in Excellence, Focused on Success," will be held Oct. 9-11 at the Raleigh Convention Center, Raleigh. Conference strands include Teacher as Leader, Supporting Diversity, Depth of Content Understanding, Teacher as Facilitator and Reflective Practice. information, including registration, is available online at www.ncelementary.org.

Annual State Math Conference Scheduled for Late October - The North Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics' 41st Annual State Math Conference, "Strengthen Your Core Understanding: Mathematical Practices and Mathematical Content," will be held Oct. 27-28 at the Koury Convention Center, Greensboro. A Leadership Seminar will be held on Oct. 26. With implementation of the Common Core State Standards and Essential Standards less than a year away, the program will include many information sessions on content and ideas for implementing the Standards for Mathematical Practice. Full details, including registration for the conference and leadership seminar, are available online at www.ncctm.org.

Top Clicks for New Teachers: <http://www.nea.org/tools/44711.htm>

October is a Great Time to Make Learning Fun...

- Computer Learning Month (THINK: use computers in a new way!)
- National Cookbook Month (THINK: creative writing!)
- Crime Prevention Month
- Ending Hunger Month
- Learning Disabilities Awareness Month
- National Clock Month (THINK: Math!)
- National Education Month
- National Youth Against Tobacco Month
- Family History Month (THINK: Research!)