

Educational Leadership



September 2008 . Volume 66 . Number 1

The Positive Classroom

8 Joy in School

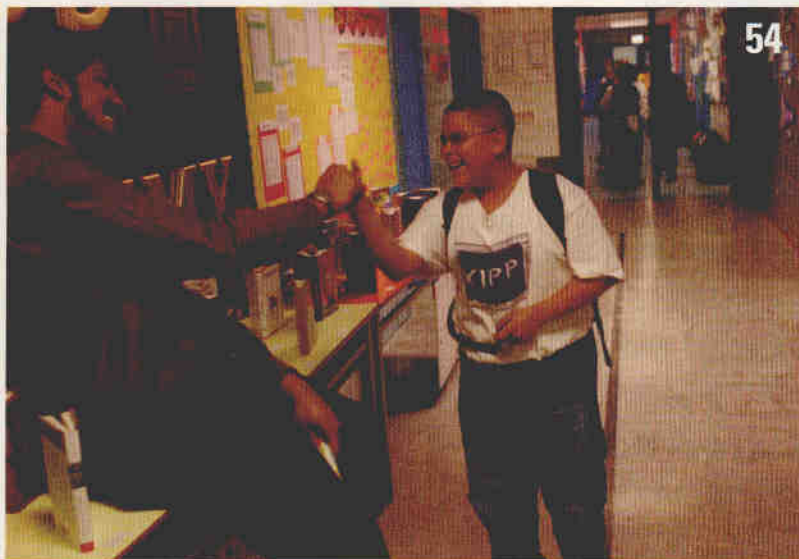
Steven Wolk

We cannot always banish boredom, but why not reach for joy?

16 Assuming the Best

Rick Smith and Mary Lambert

Effective classroom management begins with reading the underlying messages students send us.



22 Family Partnerships That Count

JoBeth Allen

How to shape family/school activities that further learning.

28 The Power of Our Words

Paula Denton

Teacher talk: It can both lift up, and tear down, students.

32 Waging Peace

Robert Blair

In war-torn Colombia, violence prevention begins with the 2nd graders.

38 Safety Without Suspensions

Russell Skiba and Jeffrey Sprague

A schoolwide system relies less on suspensions and expulsions and more on offering positive support for good behavior.

44 Civility Speaks Up

Stephen Wessler

Through focus groups and leadership training, students and teachers learn to interrupt the language of hate.

49 Learning in an Inclusive Community

Mara Sapon-Shevin

Building a classroom community means acknowledging and appreciating differences.

54 The Teacher as Warm Demander

Elizabeth Bondy and Dorene D. Ross

Kids want their teachers to respect them—and push them to do their best.

59 Welcoming All Languages

Linda Christensen

Approaching students' home languages with respect is one of best ways teachers can connect with students.



49

63 Cultures in Harmony

Elise Trumbull and Carrie Rothstein-Fisch

When cultures meet, we must learn to listen for the nuances.

67 Reaching the Fragile Student

Sue Zapf

Educators find a way to make school more inviting to students who have not found it so in the past.

Special Topics

72 The Principal's Priority 1

Jean Johnson

How do most principals think they should spend their time?

77 Why Phonics Teaching Must Change

Jeannine Herron

Of course, we must teach decoding, but we must teach it meaningfully.



Cover illustration by Tracy Walker

Departments

Perspectives

7 Ode to Positive Teachers

Marge Scherer

Listen online at www.ascd.org/el

All About Assessment

82 A Misunderstood Grail

W. James Popham

The Principal Connection

84 What New (Young) Principals Need to Know

Joanne Rooney

The Learning Leader

86 The Extracurricular Advantage

Douglas B. Reeves

88 Index to Advertisers

Special Report

89 School Climate: Urban Parents' Views

Deborah Perkins-Gough

Looking Back, Looking Forward

92 A Focus on Assessment

Judy Seltz

95 ASCD Community in Action

96 EL Online

Check out exclusive online content and read samples from the ASCD blog, Inservice.



Journal of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development

Journal Staff

Margaret M. Scherer
Editor in Chief

Deborah Perkins-Gough
Senior Editor

Amy M. Azzam
Senior Associate Editor

Naomi Thiers
Associate Editor

Teresa K. Preston
Associate Editor

Lucy Robertson
Assistant Editor

Judi Connelly
Senior Graphic Designer

Katy Wogec
Rights and Permissions Manager

Brittany A. Bowen
Advertising Manager



Gene R. Carter
Executive Director

Michelle Terry
Deputy Executive Director for Program Development

Nancy Modrak
Publisher

Gary Bloom
Art Director

Ronald S. Brandt
Executive Editor Emeritus

Educational Leadership (ISSN 0013-1784) is a benefit of membership in the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. Annual membership dues are: \$49, Basic; \$89, Select; \$219, Premium; and \$985, Institutional, of which \$39 per member covers a year's subscription to *Educational Leadership*. *Educational Leadership* is published monthly September through May except bimonthly December/January. Periodical postage paid at Alexandria, Virginia, and at additional mailing offices. Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to: 1415 Janette Ave., Windsor, ON N8X 1Z1. Postmaster: Send address changes to Membership Department, *Educational Leadership*, 1703 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria VA 22311-1714.

Educational Leadership is intended primarily for leaders in elementary, middle, and secondary education but is also for anyone interested in curriculum, instruction, supervision, and leadership in schools. ASCD publications present a variety of viewpoints. The views expressed or implied in this publication are not necessarily official positions of the Association. ASCD editorial office and advertising: 703-578-9600; e-mail: edleadership@ascd.org. Copyright © 2008 by the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. All rights reserved. (USPS 168-760). September 2008. Stock No. 109020.