



January 2010 NIE Newsletter

Start the year off right with NIE programs and resources

Happy New Year! And here's hoping that 2010 will bring lots of good news for our nation, industry and families.

Congratulations to Sarah Payne's 4th Grade class at the Elk Elementary Center for winning our Holiday Ornament Contest. Her class proved that working with newspapers can be fun and creative. Their ornament creation "Spirit of the Christmas Star" was very artistic. I was very impressed with all the entries. As our generation is starting to go "green", learning how to recycle is very important.

January Newspaper Activities

1. Get Organized! Around the beginning of each year, there are often articles about organizing your life. Alert students to be on the lookout for those stories. They can use the tips to make their room more tidy and their days more productive. At the end of the month, have them report to the class on the specific things that they have done and the progress they made.
2. Your students probably know that no two snowflakes are alike. There are a few reasons for this, including air currents, how much moisture is in the air, wind speed, how long it takes for the flake to fall, dust in the air, combining with other flakes, etc. Have students use the weather map to find places in the U.S. where it is snowing or has snowed recently. Challenge them to find five facts about the wintry weather. They should write questions based on what they found. For example, where is the coldest place in the country? What city should expect to see snow soon?
3. Thomas Paine's pamphlet, *Common Sense* was published on Jan. 10, 1776. Have students collect articles that show ordinary and famous people using "common sense" and present to the class via a visual

display. You can also ask them to react to this statement: There is nothing common about common sense.

Top 10 reasons for using NIE!

- 10. NIE helps develop the habit of daily newspaper reading among students. The paper is often the only text a majority of students will continue to read throughout their lives.
- 9. Newspapers in the classroom help make teaching more creative and challenging.
- 8. Newspapers contain something for every student: real math problems, science as it happens, editorials on current topics, local news, entertainment highlights, classified ads and more.
- 7. Newspapers enhance classroom projects and promote cooperative team efforts.
- 6. Newspapers can be marked on, cut, pasted, and colored – activities important to young children who learn by seeing and doing. Newspapers provide children with a new textbook every day.
- 5. Newspapers have transfer effects – students learn from newspapers at school and convey their knowledge at home.
- 4. Newspapers contribute to independent reading, improved vocabulary, enhanced comprehension, critical thinking and improved reading and writing skills.
- 3. Newspapers are "living" textbooks, reporting history as it happens, while creating interest in current events.
- 2. Newspapers bridge the gap between the classroom and the "real" world.
- 1. Newspapers are motivational, lots of fun, and increase local and international awareness

Our goal for the Newspapers in Education (NIE) program is to help educators utilize the newspaper in their classrooms. To receive papers for your classroom at little to no cost contact the NIE Coordinator, Nikea McBrayer call (304)348-7906 or email nikea.mcbrayer@cnpapers.com.