



Winnebagoland UniServ Update

September 2010

325 Trowbridge Drive, Fond du Lac WI 54937

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Look for us online!

www.weac.org/winnebagoland/



Welcome... and Welcome Back to the 2010-2011 School Year!

All of the staff at Winnebagoland UniServ (WU) hope teachers, support staff, and students will experience a smooth transition from summer vacation to the school year. We would like to "welcome" all new teachers and support staff as well as "welcome back" to all our previous members. In addition, we would like to take a moment to share a brief summary of who we are and what resources members can expect to find at the UniServ office.

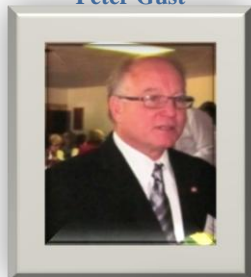
Winnebagoland UniServ is an affiliate of Wisconsin Education Association Council (WEAC) and the National Education Association (NEA). With the strong backing of WEAC/NEA resources, WU brings personal member-to-member representation to public school districts in Dodge, Fond du Lac and Winnebago Counties.

WU houses three UniServ Directors as well as two Staff Assistants. Dr. John Wedge begins his third school year as a UD at WU. Dr. Peter Gust is starting his second year with WU but has 10 years of experience as a UD with WEAC. Sherri Jones joined WU in May of 2010 please don't hesitate to stop in our office to meet her.

The WU Staff Assistants are Kris Rabideaux, Kathy Spannbauer. These ladies are the front line support at Winnebagoland and a call or visit will allow you to meet both of them.

We look forward to meeting you and as always, please do not hesitate to contact our office with any questions or concerns or just stop by to say "hi"

Peter Gust



John Wedge



Sherri Jones



Kristine Rabideaux



Kathy Spannbauer

Classroom tips from veteran educators

A little planning can help your school year be a successful one, not only for you but your students too. Here are some helpful tips from classroom veterans to guide you all year long:

- ✎ Make sure your parents are your allies. In the first week, send postcards to parents welcoming their children into your classroom. Follow up with regular communiqués. Breaking the ice is a good first step to success.
- ✎ Plan, plan, plan. You might want to create lesson plans for at least twice as much material as you can cover in a day. Detailed plans will provide a feeling of security.
- ✎ Create a paperwork system and complete paperwork from the school office as soon as you receive it. This will give you an excellent reputation with office personnel and prevent losing or misplacing forms.
- ✎ Establish a system for collecting books, sharpening pencils, leaving the room. Your students will appreciate the consistency in your classroom. Why not even include students in the development of rules and routines?
- ✎ Emphasize cooperative learning. When students work together in small groups, they discover each other's strengths and learn collective responsibility.
- ✎ Finally, be a model to your students. Students can spot hypocrisy very easily. So, if you've developed a set of standards for student, make sure you're holding up your own with consistency and fairness.

What you will find on www.weac.org

If you're wondering what it's like to be a new, or relatively new, teacher and want some tips for those first few years, the New Teachers section of OnWEAC is just for you. Materials specifically useful to new and not-so-new teachers include 10 approaches to better discipline, management tips for new teachers, helping teachers survive and thrive, and new teachers helping one another through the first year.

In addition, you'll find links to columns written exclusively for OnWEAC by new and relatively new teachers in Wisconsin. Check out their stories and all the valuable resources right at your fingertips!

Are you a cooperating teacher?

Help your practicum student or student teachers take their first step into his or her professional career...

Share with your future colleague the benefits of joining Student WEA for less than \$35* and encourage them to join!

** Personal Liability Insurance (\$1,000,000) while student teaching in your classroom
(the same that YOU have!)*

** Online Mini-Resume' Service for finding a job*

Rebate off of NEA dues as a first year teacher

** NEA Teacher Toolkit Access (Free!)*

** Access to Student WEA and WEAC Conferences, including WEAC Winter Academy*

** OnWEAC Savers Club Card for discounts nationwide*

** and membership to your State-wide Professional Association*

Online membership sign-up at www.weac.org/Student-WEA
Join online and get a free subscription to "Instructor" Magazine as a first time member

Coming soon to your home - it pays to be a member!

As a WEAC member, you receive exclusive discounts on a wide variety of products and services, including dining, lodging, golf, recreation, shopping, automotive, travel, health & beauty, cruise, condo, ski and much more! How? By registering in the OnWEAC Savers' Club with your Savers' Club card. You should be receiving your OnWEAC Savers' Club card soon, which is sent out via the U.S. Mail in August and September.

Don't lose this very important card; it is printed with your unique membership number! Not only does the card give you access to many great savings opportunities, but it also gives you access to WEAC sponsored events (including WEAC convention). Please visit www.weacm.org to check out national and local coupons/savings.



2010 WEAC Convention

Mark your calendars and plan to attend this year's WEAC Convention – October 28-29 in Madison. Keynote speaker is Susan Moore Johnson, Johnson, a professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and director of the Project on the Next Generation of Teachers, has been studying teachers' work for more than 30 years. Johnson has written four books about teachers and their work:

New Member Stipend

A stipend of \$50 is offered as a special incentive for WEAC members who are in their first three years in the profession and who are attending the WEAC Convention for the first time. Attendance forms will be available each day at the WEAC Membership Booth in the Exhibition Hall at the Alliant Energy Center. Members must attend both days to receive the stipend. Forms must be submitted to WEAC by mail by January 1, 2010. Stipends can only be earned once. Please do not submit forms this year if you received a stipend for a previous year of attendance at the WEAC Annual Convention.

Registration

Members attending this year's WEAC Convention are once again being asked to register. You can register now on the WEAC website. It will just take a few seconds. This registration process helps WEAC more accurately track attendance so that we can continue to refine our ongoing programming plans. You can also register on site. If you register on site, you will use your WEAC membership card or a picture ID.

PAC Dues Reimbursement

A PAC contribution of \$7 has been added to your WinnebagoLand UniServ dues for 2010-11.

Any member wishing a refund of the monies must request such in writing by October 31st. Fair share fee payers as non-members do not need to request a refund. An automatic refund will be issued to all fair share fee-payers as soon as that person's fair share status has been certified.

For a refund of your WU PAC contribution, write to:

**WinnebagoLand UniServ
325 Trowbridge Drive
Fond du Lac, WI 54937**

*NOTE: Telephone or electronic requests will not be honored, nor will multiple requests on the same letter or in the same envelope. Each request must be on a separate letter including your name, addresses and local association and mailed separately. All requests must be postmarked by October 31st. A request is valid only for the year of that request.

My Teacher Doesn't Like Me!

Understanding and Resolving Student-Teacher Conflicts

Search the depths of any teacher's heart, and you'll find a truth that most try hard to conceal: there are some students you just don't like.

Here's another secret: some teachers favor some students more than others. "In either situation, it's not the best for the kids or the adult that we work with," stated Joy Bryan, an educational psychologist. "This is a topic that nobody talks about," Bryan observed. "That's a problem, as these feelings don't go away just because they aren't acknowledged," she pointed out. What teachers think about students affects their interactions, so awareness is key.

Teachers must identify and understand why a particular student can push their buttons, so they can better control reactions that impeded student learning. "Look at things from different points of view," Bryan counseled.

Understanding is about self-reflection, said Bryan. When students get under their skin, teachers should always stop and ask themselves, "Why am I feeling this way?" They can then determine if one of three psychological states is influencing how they respond.

The psychoanalytic perspective – "comes straight from Freudian theory," explained Bryan. "How we react to another person's behavior is directly related to how we interacted with our caregivers, particularly our mothers and fathers." Bryan recalled a teacher who was harsh and demanding with her students. The teacher herself was the child of an angry alcoholic parent, and Bryan wondered if she could be assuming the role of that parent. Bryan also pointed out that just because a teacher's parent was not supportive doesn't mean their behaviors will always mirror the parent, but indeed may be very supportive and nurturing of their students.

Transference – often causes a teacher's strong reaction to a student. The teacher projects his own "personal drama" into an interaction, Bryan explained. A student, for example, "may remind you of somebody you didn't have a positive relationship with – an aunt, brother, or parent. You didn't find that person easy to get along with, so this student sitting in front of you isn't easy to get along with either." It's clearly unfair to the student; however, the teacher may not be aware of the transference.

The shadow – another psychological state that can color teacher's perceptions of students is a concept that comes from the work of psychologist Carl Jung. "Everyone carries a part of themselves that is unknown to them," Bryan explained. Sometimes a teacher's shadow qualities are revealed in how she feels about other people. "It doesn't have to be negative," Bryan noted. Perhaps you grew up in a family where it wasn't OK to be talented in the arts. You are, therefore, especially supportive when you have a student who is. This shadowing can cloud the student-teacher relationship. The teacher can unknowingly envy his/her students. This envy can spark resentment, which is damaging to kids.

How teachers respond to students' behavior is a function of who they are, Bryan said. "Awareness will help us not play out our personal dramas." Bryan asserted, and gives students a chance to learn "in the context of a healthy relationship."

Frameworks for Reflection

When you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change.

---Wayne W. Dyer

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