



Thursday Thoughts 3-21-2024:

Success to Significance:

Never underestimate the significance of laughter in our lives and in our spring renewal...

"Earth Laughs in Flowers!"



~Ralph Waldo Emerson

LINKS and INFORMATION:

- We are looking forward to the AP Physics class Cardboard Boat Races and all the fun and learning that happens with the awesome activity!
- From TechNotes:
 - Here are 4 good 2024 Solar Eclipse Activities: [1-2024 Solar Eclipse Breakout Room](#), [2-Write Solar Eclipse Myths](#), [3-It's All About the Sun](#), [4-Eclipse Stop Motion Animation](#).
 - Earth Day is April 22....Time to start planning with [Earth Day ideas to inspire young Eco-Heroes!](#)
- From DPI:
 - On April 8, excite children's sense of wonder about the world around them by viewing the solar eclipse! [Max view in Plymouth, WI is on Apr 8, 2024 at 2:08 pm](#) and at [0.889 Magnitude](#). The solar eclipse starts across the US on Monday, April 8, 2024 at 12:53 pm and ends at 3:21 pm with a duration of 2 hours and 28 minutes. Here are [stories from different cultures](#), connections can readily be made to literacy, mathematics, and social studies. [Read here about the Anishinaabe \(Ojibwe/Chippewa\) cultural understanding of solar eclipses, and how to connect that with your solar eclipse teaching.](#)
- From WATG: [How Parents can Support Their Gifted Child at Home](#).
- As we are nearing the end of Irish American's Month and Women's History Month! Celebrate all the amazing women in history and in your own life! You can also celebrate the spirit of "The Luck of the Irish" with 2 more chances to be "A Wee Bit Irish"...[Celebrate with Celtic Folk at one of their concerts at the Plymouth Arts Center](#) on March 23 (7:30pm), and March 24 (2:30pm). [Check out Celtic Folk!](#)
- From We Are Teachers:
 - To celebrate the arrival of astronomical spring: [47 Beautiful and Inspiring Spring Poems](#), [70 best Spring Quotes to Celebrate the Season!](#), [25 Cheerful Crafts to Welcome Spring](#).
 - [The Big List of Student Contests and Competitions....50+ contests for STEM, ELA and the arts, and more!](#)
- From Bright and Quirky:
 - [BRIGHT & QUIRKY PRESENTS: FRIENDSHIP WEEK](#)--March 25-29, 2024 ...a 5-day workshop for parents of kids ages 5-18, with social expert Caroline Maguire, Med.
- From TILT and HuffPost: [4 things you can do right now to help your stressed teenager](#).
- Registration for SOAR Camp 2024 is live! The registration window is open through the end of May, however the camps will likely fill much sooner than that. If we receive your registration after the sessions are full, your child will be added to the waiting list in the order in which their registration was received. Location: Upham Woods Camp-Outdoor Learning Center in Wisconsin Dells, WI. SOAR Camp is for gifted 3-8th graders that

includes bunking in cabins, water play, hiking, crafting, music making, night sky watching, mess hall dining, picnicking, opportunities to explore many new concepts, leadership, and team building skills, as well as self-advocacy and mindfulness. The camp registrations are based on your camper's current grade. The upper grade camp will be three nights for 6-8th graders from July 20-23rd, 2024. The lower age group will be a two-night camp for 3-5th grade from July 14-16th, 2024. Here is the link to the website: [SOAR Website](#)

If you need financial support, SOAR Camp has limited scholarships available and the scholarship application is on the website. In addition, the Wisconsin Association for Talented and Gifted has scholarship applications available now through April 15. The link for that is here: [WATG Scholarships](#)

- **Byrdseed Puzzlements for 3-21-2024**

- Raffaele Salvoldi [created the "Imaginary City"](#) out of [60,000 Kapla planks](#) using no glue and no blueprints. And then let people destroy it! Check out [some still photos](#) of his other creations.
- Ok, first *everyone* has to make a prediction: what sound does a baby sloth make? Only then can [you reveal the very cute truth!](#)
- A [delightful structure in a Japanese forest creates](#) the most relaxing sounds. [More info here.](#) *Thanks to Meagan for this fantastic Puzzlement!*
- Artist Jan Vormann uses [Lego bricks to patch up broken brickwork](#) all over the world. What a playful art project! There's [a map of examples around the world.](#)
- Alex Feliciano [created whimsical art on bananas](#) for his kids' lunches! (Don't worry, the markers were non-toxic!)

- **Applications are now open** for [Inland Seas Education Association](#)'s 2024 Great Lakes Watershed Field Course! 4-day free professional development experience for teachers from August 6-9, 2024 in Suttons Bay, MI. Interested educators can learn more and apply at [schoolship.org/glwfc](#). The deadline for applications is April 21, 2024.

- **From UW-Madison Badger Precollege:** Applications for Badger Precollege summer programs are officially open! Badger Precollege offers a suite of residential and commuter programs designed to inspire learners in grades 2-12. In addition to an engaging academic challenge, our summer programs invite students to develop their growth mindset, prepare for college success and meet new friends — all at the top-ranked UW–Madison.

Badger Precollege Senior, grades 9-12

Badger Precollege Junior, grades 2-8

- **From MITY:** MITY is currently accepting applications for current 1st - 11th grade students. [Minnesota Institute For Talented Youth](#) provides advanced students with the opportunity to pursue their passions in a stimulating and inclusive environment. Financial aid is available.
- **Beast Academy Playground...**K-12 Beast Academy Playground helps kids build numerical literacy and problem-solving confidence with **free** and fun tabletop-hands-on math activities. It has filters for ages 3 through 11+ and most all math concepts. (Click on the filter links to get all the free activities!)
- **This August, UW Oshkosh will once again be holding the Summer Oshkosh Mathematics Academy (SOMA),** a 4-day summer math camp for students entering grades 6-8. Dates: Monday August 12 through Thursday August 15, 2024 at the UWO Oshkosh campus from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm daily for students entering Grades 6-8. Registration Fee: \$360, \$240 or \$120. For more information about SOMA, including how to register, please visit <https://uwosh.edu/mathematics/outreach/soma/>
- **Fun Facts about the Spring Equinox:**
 - The fall and spring equinoxes are the only two days during the year when the sun rises exactly due east and sets exactly due west. As a way to hone your sense of direction, pick a landmark from a vantage point where you live and note where the sun rises and sets on the equinox—now you'll always know east and west.
 - For most of the year, the Earth's axis is tilted either toward or away from the sun. That means the sun's warmth and light fall unequally on the northern and southern halves of the planet. During the equinox, the Earth's axis and its orbit line up so that both hemispheres get an equal amount of sunlight.
 - Equinox means “equal night” in Latin.

Mindful Minute:

***“A joyful rebellion is you living differently
Not because you’re mad at how things are
But because you are swelling with joy
At the thought of how things could be!
~ Kid President***

To go along with our **Health and Wellness Spring Into Your Step Challenge**, here are some reasons from **Total Wellness** why **“Nature Walks Are Essential for Health.”**

[Meditation Video celebrating Women's History Month](#) YouTube Video

[Cultivate Compassion](#) Guided Meditation

Five **[Calming Mind-Body Exercises](#)** To Try With Your Students

ALWAYS...Be inclusive...ALWAYS...Be kind!

[Kindness Meditation](#)

[Mental Health and the Great Outdoors Activities](#) from Mental Health America-Lakeshore

[March Youth and Family Resources](#) (Thanks Matt Mueller, PJSB PATH Coordinator)

- **Get some air and exercise** in our parks, on our trails, or in some upcoming Walks/Runs/Races:
 - **[Enjoy our many State Parks, Forests, and Trails!](#)**
 - **[Enjoy our many National Parks, Forests, and Trails!](#)**
- **Mental Health America resource links:**
 - **[School Resources and Toolkit](#)**
 - **[Community Mental Health Resource Card](#)**
 - **[MHA Lakeshore Mindfulness Resources](#)**
 - **[Youth Mental Health Crisis Card](#)**
- **From ByrdseedTV:** **[Videos about anxiety, the brain, and calming down.](#)**

SLÁN AGUS BEANNACHT (Salutations and blessings in Gaelic) pronounced: slawn og-us bann-ockt

Share Positivity!

:-)

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Education is the key to unlocking a world of knowledge, possibilities, and opportunities.

Turn the key!

Just be sure to turn that key with kindness, love, and gratitude to all that you bestow! ~RS