

THE GLOBETROTTER TIMES

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From Ms. Palesty's Desk...

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a restful holiday and are ready for 2017! Our editors, Ms. Cybura and Ms. Konidas have many informative resources and opportunities ready to share with both teachers and parents this new year. I hope you all enjoy!

January is also recognized as Black History Month. It is important that we take the time this month to teach our students and reach out to their families and educate them on the many accomplishments made by African Americans from the past and present.

Special Events in January

- **January 3 and February 7- ENL Parent Meeting, at 2:30 pm in room 301**
- **January 16th - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (schools closed)**
- **January 7, 21, 28 - ENL Saturday Program**

BEST PRACTICE OF THE MONTH

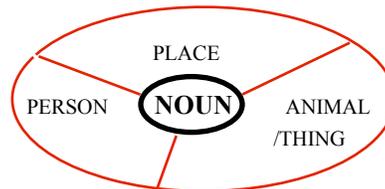
Using Thinking Maps to Teach Vocabulary and Promote Students Autonomy

Using Thinking Maps to teach vocabulary helps the students to develop a deeper *understanding of academic vocabulary* through the use of multiple strategies. Research says that the students need to be exposed to a word at least six times in context to learn the meaning. Thinking Maps help the students to create mental and visual patterns for thinking. Just giving the students ready-made graphic organizers is not enough to learn new vocabulary.

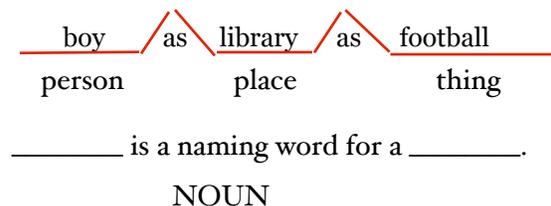
- Create a **tree map** to identify words that are critical to academic content for the unit you will be teaching.



- Use a **circle map** to brainstorm strategies to determine the meaning of a word.



- Use a **bridge map** to connect what students will learn with a related subject from their prior knowledge. Use words from their past experiences or learning that have a similar relationship to new vocabulary terms.



Websites of the Month

- * wordsift.com
- * www.vocabulary.co.il
- * www.spellingcity.com/vocabulary-study.html
- * <http://pbskids.org/games/>

Did you know.....?

CHINA

- 1. The Chinese New Year celebration lasts for 15 days.
- 2. In China, every year is represented by one of 12 animals.
- 3. In Ancient China, soldiers sometimes wore armor made from paper.
- 4. The Forbidden City, palace in Beijing China contains about 9,000 rooms.
- 5. Hong Kong has more skyscrapers than any other city in the world.
- 6. Half of all pigs on Earth live in China .

PARENT CORNER:

How Parents Can Support the Common Core Reading Standards



The Common Core State Standards are national standards that describe what K-12 students are expected to learn in math and in English language arts. Here are some basic ways parents can support their child's learning.

➤Key Ideas and Details

After reading a story, talk about important story elements such as beginning, middle and end. Encourage your child to retell or summarize the reading. After reading nonfiction, ask questions about the information.

➤Craft and Structure

During and after reading, talk about any new vocabulary and other ways the author used language or words to make the text interesting, informative, funny or sad.

➤Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

Encourage your child to describe how the illustrations within a book support the story, read different versions of the same fairy or folk tale. Talk about the similarities and differences between the two books.

➤Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

Parents can help promote their child's skills by helping them avoid frustration or anxiety about reading a harder book. Support your child by talking about some of the things that make a text complex, (vocabulary, implied information rather than clearly stated ...).