

Message from the Editors

Hi all. We hope you survived the flooding and are gearing up for a hot summer. We hope you have a few weeks of fun and relaxation. This issue is available in only a PDF version. In addition, we have changed our format to one column to enable ease of online reading.

There are five featured articles in this issue. The first three articles are on writing. This is an important issue as writing is being left out of a lot of curriculums because of time issues. The first article explores the idea that the size and shape of the pencil may impact penmanship. The researchers reveal findings that the pencil size put onto the school supply list should be different for preschool children. In addition, the literature review revealed that learning handwriting skills helps with reading development, brain development and student achievement. The second article explores how blogging was used to help second grade students learn how to give better feedback so that editing can be done well. In addition, the literature review explains how explicit teaching of giving good feedback is necessary for writing growth. Blogging looks like a promising tool to engage students in the writing process. The third and final article on writing examined how three elementary teachers handled writing instruction. The researchers used a qualitative approach to determine what guided these teachers' writing instruction. They found three themes or reasons that impact writing instruction.

The fourth article explores the history of high-stakes testing. If you have wondered where it all began, this is a great read. The final article is helping those who are becoming reading coaches for the first time. The articles give you some insights and tips to help one's transition from teacher to coach go more smoothly.

As always, we wish to thank everyone who made this issue possible. First, we wish to thank all those who took their time to write up and submit their research. Second, we wish to thank all the practicing teachers, graduate students and educational researchers who are on the editorial board. With your wisdom, insights and comments to guide the author's rewrites, they achieve high caliber articles that give the reader something to ponder. Third, we would like to welcome Chase Young to the position of webmaster. He helps getting the journal online.

If you know of a colleague doing wonderful work, offer to help write it up in order to share it with others. Or, go online and become a member of our editorial review team.

Please consider turning in a manuscript for our winter 2015 issue. That deadline has been extended to July 25, 2015. In addition, we hope you will consider applying for being new co-editors for 2015-2017.

Best wishes,
Susan Szabo, Debra Lee, Sheri Vasinda & Leslie Haas