



A Newsletter for Beginning Teachers in NC

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Reminder: As a BT in North Carolina, you should ...

- have a mentor.
- have a minimum of 3 formal observations.
- have a peer observation.
- have a PDP- updating it in the middle and at the end of the year.
- have opportunities to participate in professional development.
- have received a Plan of Study for required coursework, if you are a lateral entry teacher.
- have achieved a proficient rating on the first five standards on the evaluation instrument, if you are a 3rd year teacher and need to convert your license.

A Message from : Piedmont-Triad Region Teacher of the Year-JoAnna Massoth

As I write this note to you, it's right before the holiday season when we take time to show appreciation for the people in our lives who work to make our days easier, more fulfilled or just brighter. As teachers we feel the weight of the importance we have in the lives of our students. Throughout the year that weight grows heavier as we are asked to add yet another task to our already heavy load. Today's lingo includes mentions of work-life balance: however, during the first years of teaching that balance is precarious as work takes over everything. I still remember one of the first

books I read as a BT that compared the first years of teaching to high school and named the first year "Freshman" year. Just as we remember that going through school as students we had to give ourselves time to learn new subjects, we have to give ourselves time during the first years of teaching to find our own rhythm in the classroom and build up our knowledge. Teachers will tell you that when others offer to help you, take them up on the offer! The BT program at your school is there to support you through those intense first years. As I unpacked our tree decorations this year, I came

across an ornament that was given to me during my "Junior" year of teaching. At the time I was teaching First Grade in a Spanish Bilingual Program. I had 27 students and most had not attended kindergarten so this was their first school experience. I remember feeling exhausted all the time. One student, Mariano, gave me his GI Joe action figure as a present. I am as touched today as I was back then. It's easy to feel unappreciated as a teacher, but I hope that someone at your school or one of your students has made you feel appreciated, because you are! The students of NC need you!

JoAnna Massoth: Chatham County Schools-Virginia Cross Elementary School- Math Coach

New Year's Resolutions: Follow the Rs

You've made it! It's the **Rejuvenation** phase, the mid-way point in the year. Congratulations!



The new year often brings one or more resolutions, things we want to change or adopt. It's also the perfect time to reflect on the first half of the year and to look forward to the months ahead. How will you move into the new year with your students? Here are a few suggestions.

1. **Review** and **revise** your

classroom management plan. Is it effective? What might you do to improve your plan?

2. **Remember** to create lessons that are engaging for students as well as differentiated for their learning styles.

3. **Remind** students of the routines and procedures

and continuously model expectations for students.

4. **Reward** students for positive behaviors, for their work ethic and effort, and for participating in class.

5. **Reflect** on student data and use the results to impact instruction.

6. **Record** your experiences in a journal. **Read** it often.