



*Candor  
Newark  
Valley  
Tioga*

## *Tioga County Teacher Center*

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Web Site—<http://www.teachtioga.org>

Blog—<http://teachtioga.blogspot.com>

# Newsletter

Vol. 3, No. 2

**November 2008**

## **Stressed is Desserts Spelled Backwards**

Mark Twain once said, "I had a great many troubles in my life, most of which never really happened." Come see how humor and various relaxation techniques can help manage classroom stress. All school staff are invited. Dr. Tony Trunfio, a health professor from SUNY Cortland (and, yes, the same presenter who did the GOTCHA! Workshop last May at Tioga trails), will include such topics as Journal Writing, Art Therapy, Music Therapy, Meditation and MORE!

This workshop is co-sponsored by the Owego Apalachin Teacher Resource and Technology Center. Free refreshments will be provided!

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

4:30-6:00

Tioga Trails Café

## **Diane Arbes Joins Policy Board**

Diane Arbes, principal at Newark Valley High School, has joined the Tioga County Teacher Center Policy Board, filling the administration representative vacancy. Presently the board of education representative is still vacant.

## **All Day Workshop for Substitute Teachers**

Area school districts—and more importantly their students—need you! If you are a new substitute teacher or have ever thought of becoming one, this workshop is for you. Participants will explore many topics related to substitute teaching. The day will include:

- An overview of certification requirements
- Tips from the perspective of principal & superintendents
- Safety concerns / Right-to-Know Information
- Substitute teacher survival kit ideas
- Classroom management strategies
- Material making and networking opportunities

The workshop will be facilitated by Pat Rice and Bonnie Calzolaio, Teacher Center directors from Cortland County and Cincinnatus respectively. Morning refreshments, lunch and materials are included in the \$10 fee. E-mail [tiogactc@gmail.com](mailto:tiogactc@gmail.com) to sign up.

Monday, December 1, 2008

9:00am-2:00 pm

Tioga County Teacher Center  
Nichols Elementary School.

## **Visit Our Blog!**

If you want the most current information about upcoming opportunities and events, please visit our blog at <http://www.teachtioga.blogspot.com>.

## **Our Services**

Color Copies \$.15      Laminating \$.40 per linear foot  
Bookbinding \$.10 each      Posters \$.50 per linear foot  
Ellison Die Machine Cutouts Free      Color Transparencies \$.25

## **Director**

**George Lohmann**

## **True Colors™ Workshop Coming in January**

The outcomes for the two days include providing for participants the opportunity to learn about themselves and others, whether those others are colleagues or students, through the True Colors™ metaphor of understanding human characteristics. People are intrinsically different and they strive to achieve a sense of self worth from very different perspectives. Since entertainment is the most broadly appealing and universal context for communicating with each other, the engaging approach used in a True Colors™ session, the time spent will be both educational and enjoyable, dramatically increasing the event's success.

Each attendee will be able to add to his/her repertoire ideas that can be used to enhance human relationships and increase cognitive and affective success in school. Time will be spent learning why it is important to explore who we are as individuals and why we exhibit the behaviors that we do. Participants will experience a professional learning opportunity that gives them ideas that they will allow them to transfer their new learning immediately into practice. Instructors will be Kim and Carolyn Loucks of the Syracuse area. Dinner will be provided.

Monday, January 12, 2009  
& Thursday, January 15, 2009  
4:30-8:00

Tioga County Teacher Center  
Nichols Elementary School

## **Arts and Literacy Conference**

The Southern Tier Teacher Center Network (STTCN) is excited about its "Connecting Arts and Literacy Education" Conference to be held at the Regency Hotel in Binghamton on Monday, November 17, from 8:30 to 3:00. The keynote address, delivered by Marlene Roeder, will focus on VTS (Visual Thinking Strategies). Area museums, Arnot Art Museum and the Rockwell Museum of Western Art, for example, will also present workshops.

During this day long professional development conference, participants will be provided with effective teaching strategies, resources and tools in teaching the arts (visual, music, theatre) and/or literacy. Particular focus will be on integrating the arts and literacy into other curricula in our effort to ensure student success in the 21st century global workplace.

George Lohmann, Director of the Tioga County Teacher Center and Chairman of the Conference Planning Committee, will also be doing a workshop titled "The Art of Adage."

## **Angie Gemignani & Non-Violent Intervention**

I'm Angie Gemignani and I am the School Psychologist at Nathan T. Hall Elementary School in Newark Valley.

As a school psychologist, some of the most common concerns from teachers are "how do I handle a student who is acting out?," "what can I do to prevent students from having meltdowns?," "How can I spend more time teaching and less time disciplining?" I hear even more concerns/questions from special education aides. These adults are typically placed with the most difficult students yet are provided with the least amount of training. They are frequently in situations where they need to redirect a student, verbally intervene with a student and/or remove a student to calm him/her down, and they feel as if they do not have the toolbox of techniques needed for these situations.

After several years of hearing these concerns repeated, I decided that sharing my knowledge of crisis prevention and intervention with other adults in the building would be best accomplished in a group format. By training those on the forefront in preventative techniques to be used with individual students and/or with entire classrooms I hoped to 1.) increase the confidence of teachers and aides 2.) prevent many of the behavioral outbursts we were seeing in school and 3.) increase the amount of time spent on academics versus discipline

The Teachers Center has been more than wonderful in supporting my efforts to work with teachers and special education aides on crisis prevention/ intervention. For two years in a row the Teachers Center has co-sponsored a Study Group entitled Non-Violent Crisis Intervention. This Study Group has been led by Judy Cuning, special education teacher at Nathan T. Hall Elementary, and me. This Study Group, which has been financially supported by both Newark Valley and the Teachers Center, has involved a total of 15 teachers 12 special education aides. Teachers and aides have left this Study Group feeling prepared to manage classrooms, to recognize signs of and prevent student outbursts, to verbally intervene with students, and to physically intervene when necessary. I have had numerous requests to continue to run the Study Group so that more people can participate.

In addition to the Non Violent Crisis Intervention Study Group, the Teachers Center has also kindly sponsored my attendance at the New York State Association of School Psychologists Annual Conference this year in Rochester, NY. This is a three day conference in which I hope to learn up-to-date techniques in teaching students social skills, using the Response to Intervention Model, and working with students with a variety of mental health issues including pediatric bi-polar disorder and anxiety disorders.

*The Teacher Center would like to print additional first person accounts of professional development experiences gained through our services. Please contact the Director if you would like to contribute or if you know someone else who should.*

## **NYS Teacher Center Annual Meeting in Albany**

Tioga County Teacher Center Director George Lohmann attended the NYS Teacher Center Annual meeting with his fellow directors from the other 132 Teachers Centers at NYSUT Headquarters in Albany on Monday, October 27, 2008. There he met the new Teacher Center Program Director from State Ed, Pat McNeil, replacing Mike Moon, who has retired.

# Calendar of Events

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 <b>November</b>	4 <b>Election Day</b> <b>Remember to Vote</b>	5	6	7 STTCN Meeting Vestal	8
10	11 <b>Veterans' Day</b> <b>No School</b>	12	13 Thinkfinity Workshop, 4:00- 5:30, NVMS	14	15
17 <b>Arts &amp; Literacy</b> <b>Conference, 8:15-</b> <b>3:00, Binghamton</b> Inspiration Work- shop, 3:30-5:30, NVHS	18 Grant Writing Workshop, 4:00- 6:00, NVHS	19	20	21	22
24	25	26 <b>No School</b>	27 <b>Thanksgiving</b> <b>No School</b>	28 <b>No School</b>	29
<b>1 December</b> Substitute Teacher Workshop, 9:00- 2:00, Nichols ES <b>Policy Board Meet-</b> <b>ing, 4:00, Owego</b>	2	3 Dana Morse of TI meets w/ Math Teacher, 3:30, Nichols ES	4 Instructional Architech Work- shop, 4:00-6:00, NVMS	5	6
8 I-Search Work- shop, 4:30-5:30, Candor HS	9	10 "Stressed is Desserts Spelled Backwards," 4:30- 6:00, Tioga Trails	11	12 STTCN Meeting Roberson	13
15	16	17	18	19	20
22	23	24 <b>No School</b>	25 <b>Christmas</b> <b>No School</b>	26 <b>No School</b>	27
29 <b>No School</b>	30 <b>No School</b>	31 <b>No School</b>	1 <b>January</b> <b>New Year's Day</b> <b>No School</b>	2 <b>No School</b>	3
5 Policy Board Meeting, 4:00, Owego	6	7	8	9 STTCN Meeting Nichols ES	10
12 True Colors Workshop, 4:30- 8:00, Nichols ES	13	14	15 True Colors Workshop, 4:30- 8:00, Nichols ES	16	17

## TI Assist with Calculators

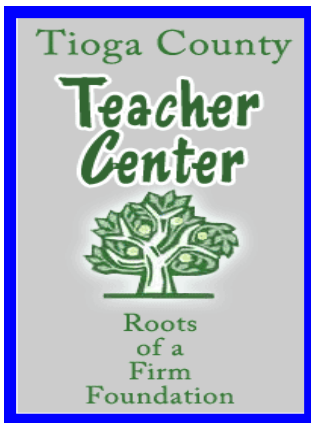
Dana Morse of Texas Instruments will meet with interested math teachers to discuss their needs regarding the various TI graphing calculators. Dana, up until recently, taught mathematics at Skaneateles. E-mail tiogactc@gmail.com if you are interested in attending.

Wednesday, December 3  
3:30

Tioga County Teacher Center  
Nichols Elementary School

## I-Search

At the NYS Teacher Center Summer Institute, a group of teachers from in and around the Ithaca area presented on the Seven Valleys Writing Program. Your Teacher Center director attended that session and was particularly impressed by the portion related to the "I-Search." This research strategy will get students excited about doing real research because it teaches them how to ask questions that lead to good research and personalizes the process so student are more engaged by what they are doing. The presenter, Eric Pritz, is coming to Candor High School to share this strategy on Monday, December 8, 2008, 4:30 to 5:30.



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# Workshops

## **Thinkfinity**

Find all sorts of teaching tools, interactive games, and lessons plans on the Internet that are aligned with the NYS learning standards.

Thursday, November 13  
4:00-5:30

Newark Valley Middle School, Computer Lab  
Mary Joggerst, Instructor

## **Inspiration: Designing Classroom Activities**

Inspiration provides teachers and students with an easy to use computer program that allows visual representations of ideas and concepts. Using a diagram or outline view, participants will be able to develop concept webs, flowcharts, graphic organizers and outlines. Special attention will be given to organizers, which are required on the New York State ELA assessment. Among the topics to be covered are brainstorming, planning, concept webbing, using the draw tools, managing documents, and exporting work to other programs. (grades 4-12)

Monday, November 17  
3:15-5:15

Newark Valley High School, room 216  
Joe Wasecka, Instructor

## **Grant Writing**

This workshop will introduce teachers to the beginning steps of putting together a grant application. Topics to be covered include: how to find grants, background preparation, what reviewers look for, developing the narrative, crafting the budget, and improving your odds of winning.

Tuesday, November 18  
4:00-6:00

Newark Valley High School, room 117  
Instructor Dale Ketchum of Roberson  
Museum and Science Center

## **Instructional Architect**

The INSTRUCTIONAL ARCHITECT allows you to find, use, and share learning resources from the [National Science Digital Library \(NSDL\)](#) and the Web in order to create engaging and interactive educational web pages. It's easy and free. Visit <http://ia.usu.edu>.

Thursday, December 4  
4:00-6:00

Newark Valley Middle School, Computer Lab  
Mary Joggerst, Instructor

## **I-Search**

This workshop begins with the theory of expressive versus transactional writing (creative vs. writing for evaluative) which leads into the practical application of the theory in matters of questioning and writing techniques involved in the I-Search process first created by Ken Macrorie. This research strategy personalizes the experience for students.

Monday, December 8  
4:30-5:30

Candor High School, room 209  
Instructor Eric Pritz of the Seven Valleys Writing Project

**\$5 fee will be collected when you sign up for the first Teacher Center workshop this school year. You will receive a free 512 MB Flash Drive (worth \$10) when you attend that first workshop. If you sign up but do not attend a workshop, another \$5 fee will be charged for your next workshop. If you cancel in enough time and that cancellation does not result in cancelling the workshop due to insufficient participation, you will not be required to pay the fee again.**

**Sign Up At**  
[tiogactc@gmail.com](mailto:tiogactc@gmail.com)

**Director**  
**George Lohmann**