

Journal April 25, 2011

### **Monday-**

Today felt a little hectic, because we were supposed to do ISTEP today and the school didn't receive the booklets in time. So we start ISTEP tomorrow instead and I have to plan accordingly. It is a good thing I have learned to be a flexible person when it comes to schedules. Also, with the weather we didn't get to go outside today and usually the class would be a madhouse; however, I think all the Easter candy has made them a little ill. I heard that several classes took a hit with the attendance; I only had one gone.

### **Tuesday-**

The students are trying to push me and I'm not going to let them. First of all they were incredibly loud and lost their last recess, which means they will have to sit in the classroom with their heads down and they are not allowed to talk or mess with anything. At this point I'm not sure they think I am serious but they will get a nice surprise. Also, I have had so much arguing both in and outside the classroom. I am not sure why they find the littlest things to bicker about but they manage just fine. In the hallway, on the way to the bus, evidently one of my boys fake punched a fourth grader waiting in the doorway of a classroom. Finally, I had a boy threaten another student by saying he was going to stab her with his Army knife. He was on the bus before I could speak with him, and since I didn't know what bus he rode it will have to wait until tomorrow morning. All of this happened after lunch. They didn't even have an R for recess before lunch. They are testing the waters and I hope they don't expect me to give up easily or at all.

### **Wednesday-**

They didn't realize that I took away their whole recess, and they took it as a surprise and couldn't remember what they did wrong. I told them to think about it while they did their time at recess. Also, when we talked to the boy who threatened the girl yesterday, he denied everything and said that he wasn't even talking to her. Then when we confirmed it with a witness, he changed his story so that she misunderstood what he said. We had hit a wall, so we came to the conclusion that he will be isolated from the rest of the class in the classroom. We also got him to apologize to the girl, and we are keeping a close eye on him. The campaign signs and cartoons that the students are making in social studies are turning out so well. Most of the groups put a lot of thought into their work and most are humorous. I can't wait to see the final product when they present them to the class.

### **Thursday-**

We finished ISTEP today, finally. I never realized that not only is it boring yet intense for the students, but it is for the teachers as well. We gave them "memory pills" before each

test which could be found in every store's candy section; M&Ms. I was surprised how many actually took it really seriously and truly wanted to do their best on the ISTEP. I made sure I had a little encouraging message to them about slaying the dragon of ISTEP each day and addressed it to my 'Little Warriors'.

I am so pleased to know that the students are using the mailbox I have placed in the classroom. I check it at the end of each day, and I have gotten several letters this week. Of course they were all positive things; some students made me little things or drew me a picture while others wrote out a letter to me telling me how I was doing. So far I have been the best teacher ever numerous times, which is a big self-esteem booster.

### **Friday-**

We had field trip this morning to Columbia City! We went to the government building, toured the courthouse, and learned about famous people from Whitley County in the museum. I liked that we were able to talk with one of the judges in the courtroom, which was really cool and educational. I was proud of the fact that the students asked so many good questions and they had so many! It worked out perfectly with my social studies unit also. The students got to go behind the scenes of a lot of local government jobs and find out what really goes on during a typical day. The students were well behaved, even though I could tell that at times they were bored. Overall, it was a very positive experience not only for the students but for myself.