



# IDEAS to go...

## **Custom Grade Reports**

Bimonthly progress reports are a good way to increase communications with parents. Some grading programs allow you to add comments, so that you can include special, custom messages. If your software program does not have this feature, try this: On a blank sheet of paper, type your own message about upcoming dates, projects, meetings, and assignments in an area that won't interfere with the grade printout. Make copies and load them in your printer so that your grade reports will print on the "customized" paper. Parents not only will receive their children's grades, but other important, useful information as well.

—Shared by William B. Brooks, Missouri educator

## **Technology Eases Communication**

Technology is such an asset in home-school communications. Plus, it's a great way to get students involved. Students can help create classroom newsletters by writing stories, taking pictures, designing the piece, and e-mailing the finished product. E-mail is another way to share classroom activities, field trips, homework assignments, and announcements about school events. Personalize the e-mails by attaching students' photos or scanned pictures of student-produced papers. Digital cameras and camcorders are useful in documenting classroom activities. Have students take turns as the class photographer. As work progresses, e-mail pictures to parents or send home tapes of CDs.

—Shared by Kaye Abight, Missouri educator

## **Don't Forget Rules and Expectations**

Before attempting a field trip, play, mural, or other special activity, go over all procedures and expectations. Never assume students know what you expect them to do. What is logical and reasonable to you may be to them an opportunity for amnesia or a rowdy social event! Additionally, do not expect that because they participated in the activity three months ago (or even two weeks) they will remember your rules. State expectations from the beginning and remind when necessary; the chance for a successful, happy experience for all will increase dramatically.

—Shared by Jan Richards, California educator

## **Communication**

Do you have tips for great communication in your classroom and with parents? E-mail them to [NewsEditor@kdp.org](mailto:NewsEditor@kdp.org) to share with your KDP colleagues.