



School Scuttle

Educational issues affecting military kids

Camp Lejeune - New River - Onslow - Jones - Carteret - Pender - Private - Home Schools

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2008-09

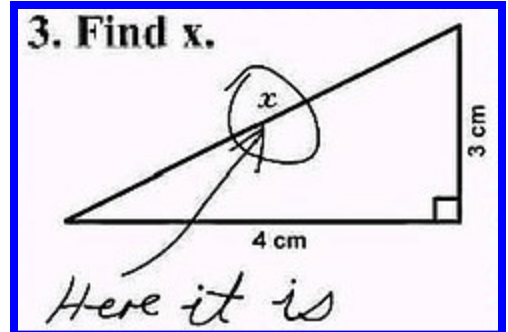
www.MCCSLejeune.com/schools

TESTING TO THE TEACH??

I know you have heard of "teaching to the test," but what about "testing to the teach?" Ok, that phrase wouldn't pass muster with your high school English teacher, but it is a nice image for an idea that more and more districts are using. "Teaching to the test" is the traditional complaint in which teachers spend the majority of their time getting kids to memorize key ideas or practice basic skills repeatedly to score well on a standardized test. This type of testing is known as a "summative" assessment. In other words, it "sums up" the learning. Summative assessments include things like end-of-course or state mandated tests. There is another type of testing, however, that affects how teachers teach.

Both Onslow County and Camp Lejeune Schools are doing more of something known as "formative" assessments. That means that you give the test in order to find out what the child needs to know rather than what the child already knows. Formative assessments are not high stakes and children do not need to be stressed out by them. They provide valuable information to teachers and help them plan more efficient lessons. These types of tests include pre-tests and practice tests and usually scored locally.

Summative testing to measure what a child has learned definitely still has a place in school; but with formative assessments, there is a better chance of children doing well at the end because they have been evaluated at the beginning. Next time your child has a test, just maybe it is your school testing to prepare for the teaching!



From the Bulletin Board...



FREE SPACE CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

Military children in **grades 6-9** may apply to attend Space Camp for free! This opportunity is made possible by Bernard Curtis Brown who was the son of a Navy Chief Petty Officer. Curtis was flying with his teacher to a school competition when his plane was hijacked and flown into the Pentagon on September 11, 2001. Each year, his family honors him with the Curtis Brown Space Camp Scholarship Program. Visit this link to get the application and essay guidelines. This competition requires students to have some **community service**, so get started now. The deadline is in March.

www.militarychild.org/Scholarship.asp



MOVING SOON?

A great place to get information about schools at your new duty station is www.SchoolQuest.org. A part of the Military Child Education Coalition's website, School Quest can help you find out about **testing requirements, school calendars, transition advice** and more. Marine Corps Families can also visit the school liaison website and check out the links to the other duty stations' school liaisons to ask specific questions. www.mccslejeune.com/schools

FOCUS PROJECT

Is your family struggling with coping during or after deployments? Maybe most of the family is fine but one or two are having a tough time. Maybe your child is acting out in school and you think it could be related to the wartime stress of deployments.

The help you need to build family resiliency is as close as a phone call. FOCUS PROJECT is a grant funded program which provides **family training tailored to the needs of the individuals**.

Parents and children meet separately and together for series of 8 sessions to develop their family story and learn to build on the families strengths and plan for ways to cope in weaker areas.

The requirements are that the family is active duty military, has at least one child between the ages of 3-18, and they have been through or are in at least one deployment. If you want help for your family that is completely confidential and not connected to command, contact Project Focus at 450-0178.



GRAPHS GOT YOU DOWN?

Check out this cool site from the National Center for Education Statistics Kids Zone. There are lots of cool tools! Try clicking "Graph" on the top navigation bar. This will allow your child to input data and change colors, graph type, font styles and more. They can then choose to print the graph or even download it to include in a homework assignment. It is much **easier than working in a spreadsheet** and a lot more fun. Try it!
<http://nces.ed.gov/nceskids/>



NEED PRESENT IDEAS?

Rather than shopping at your local mall or toy store, why not get your child something educational from a **school supply company**? There are several companies that sell science kits and toys, educational games, museum gift shop items, and more. Go to your favorite search engine and type in your child's favorite school subject followed by the key terms "Education and Catalog." For example: "Science education catalog" returns the following cool retailers: kidscosmos.org; fishersci.com, and sciencekit.com. Each site has thousands of unusual, educational and just plain cool gifts.

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