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Energizing Education
Manager

Kriss Giannetti

Energizing Education

Arnold Elementary School

Wow another great EE school year in the books! Thank you to all involved, you made the difference for so many students and families! For me this year's end of school year for Energizing Education comes with sadness and sense of loss. I, as many of you know accepted the position of Director of Communication for JPS full-time. With this opportunity comes the letting go of Energizing Education. I look forward to the challenges of my new position and know that United Way will continue the work of EE with fidelity and enthusiasm. I am not going far away so I will be around to help the transition as well as be a mentor next year for sure!

The last four and 1/2 years working with Energizing Education has by far been the most rewarding learning experience anyone could have ever asked for. I have learned that creating programs is easy. Implementing them is a whole different story. One size does not fit all especially in education. Strategies and goals are great, but understanding the people and environments that are both involved and effected is the key to a strong program. Most importantly, I learned what drives successful outcomes – RELATIONSHIPS, RELATIONSHIPS, RELATIONSHIPS!

As a donor and grant funded program EE has been fortunate to have so many supporters. I have always been in awe about how in Jackson those who can give, do. I am so thankful to all the companies and individuals who have donated and supported EE these last four years! Special thank you to Consumers Energy who not only gave us the initial start up grant but, has been a supporter ever since. We hope you are as proud as we are of the work we all were able to accomplish together.

I thank all of our mentors who gave their time, talent and sometimes (even though I said no, no, no!) treasures to our EE students. I know the relationships you made with our EE students will forever be part of the script of their life. For many you dramatically flipped their script to a new page and a promise for a brighter future.

To "my" Superintendents Scott Koziol, Geoff Bontrager, Jeff Beal, Ryle Kiser and former Superintendents Brad Hamilton and Dan Evans, thank you for taking the chance and believing in Energizing Education from the start. Your

unwavering commitment and support was the key to our collaborative success. I would be remiss not to add a special thank you to ISD Superintendent Kevin Oxley for your steadfast support and wisdom. Each of you has a passion and dedication for all students. I do know however, that underneath all those egos, dress shirts and ties you are just a bunch of softies!

Principals; Kelly McCloughan, Lorri McAlpine, Michelle Clark, Jeremy Patterson, Joe Zessin, Marti Kuhn, Jackie Brock, Julie Baker and Melissa Paschall I have one word, WOW. Each of you jumped all in not knowing exactly what you were getting but willing to try EE. Because of your strong leadership and direction we felt comfortable and welcomed at each of your buildings. You helped us make relationships with teachers and understand the nuances of your buildings so that we could be successful. Not a family night went by in your building without us seeing you there all in helping in every way possible, and I am sure loving the mess from chocolate night the most!

EE site coordinators Beth, Amy, Deanna, Robyn, Ann, Susan, Mary Ellen, Becky and Asa our Literacy Specialist you are all simply amazing at helping EE find its niche' at each site. Your job description called for you to be Mary Poppins... practically perfect in every way... and that you are! To be able to balance the personalities of students, mentors, administration, teachers, families and community members so tirelessly is a credit to the talented people you are. I will never be able to express my gratitude and awe for the workload you carried and the expertise you provided.

My coworkers at United Way; Ken, Bethany, Rita, Tom, Stephanie, Marc, Beth, Melissa, Alison, Heather, and Margaret thank you for your support and acceptance of EE. You were integral in helping EE stay "in business" and guiding us through as we grew. I will miss you and am proud to have worked with an amazingly dedicated and fun (and corny) group of people.

Finally to "my" girls, I know that I will never have a work world like EE again. You are three amazingly strong women with much strength and talent. Every step that Energizing Education took forward was possible because of your dedication and organization every day. Thank you for believing in EE like me. The one thing I know for sure is we all can rock orange shirts like no other!



NO JULY MENTOR TRAINING!

Are you interested in receiving more information about being a mentor this Fall? Contact our Recruitment Coordinator, Charlie at energizingeducation@uwjackson.org for more information!



Have a great summer!



3 Tips to Avoid the Summer

1. READ EVERY DAY!

Comics, magazines, books, newspapers, etc. Libraries also have summer reading programs. Be sure to check your closest branch for their summer schedule.

2. Visit a zoo, museum, or park with walking trails. Keep a journal full of exciting facts you learn.

3. Play games! Games involved counting, reading, memorization and more. You'll be exercising your brain and having fun at the same time.

Slide!



Literacy Tip of the Month

Fun on the Road.

Summer is busy and everyone is usually on the go. Bring books or magazines in the car. Don't have a book? Play road games as a family by identifying letters on license plates, reading city and state signs you pass, or reading billboards. It's great practice and a great way to get in a few minutes of reading.

Find out more!

<http://energizingeducationjackson.org>

or

Energizing Education on Facebook

For volunteer information:

Contact Charlie Miller
energizingeducation@uwjackson.org

To Donate:

Contact Kriss Giannetti at
kgiannetti@uwjackson.org



Summer Reading is in full swing during July at all of our 13 Jackson District Library Branches. Some programs include, Family Magic Shows with Jason Abbot, Bats of the world, "Fun with Sun" science program, and much more. Check with your local branch for days and times and don't forget to sign up for Summer Reading. You can earn cool prizes for reading and enter for a chance to win a \$50 Gift card. Check out www.myjdl.com or your local branch for more information.

