

## Save the Dates!

March 18 & 26,  
2014

The **Elementary Common Core Camp** will take place on March 18th and 26<sup>th</sup>; due to an overwhelming response, a second evening has been added. We invite students and parents to attend on either date to learn valuable NJASK testing strategies for both Math and Language Arts Literacy. The strategies will be presented to parents and students in grades 3-5. Some strategies include:

- Eliminate Unreasonable Answers
- Underline Important Information
- Substitute Answer Choices to Solve

**Hope to see you there!**



## Collaborative Comprehension Comprehension Spot Light

**College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Reading # 1: Read **closely** to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.**

In the text *Rigorous Reading 5 Access Points for Comprehending Complex Texts*, Nancy Frey and Douglas Fisher explain that accessing complex texts requires student-to-student interaction. They suggest that language frames can help facilitate these conversations. These are simply partially constructed statements or questions that aid students during these discussions and can simply be posted for reference. The following are a few examples of language frames a teacher (Karen Jessop) provided to aid with counter arguments.

- The reason I believe \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_.
- The facts that support my idea are \_\_\_\_\_.
- One difference between my idea and yours is \_\_\_\_\_.

[Self-Assessment](#)

[Sticky Note Thinking Bookmark](#)

## Working with Words

### Research-Based Writing Using Domain-Specific Words

**L.3.6** Acquire and use accurately grade appropriate conversational, general academic and domain-specific words and phrases.

Domain-specific words are vocabulary words used to demonstrate expertise in a topic. In the unit of study, Changing the World: Persuasive, Speeches, Petitions and Editorials, Lucy Calkins and Kelly Hohne suggest that the use of domain-specific words in research based opinion writing will help to persuade the reader. Using content vocabulary suggests that the writer is an expert and the words may help to persuade the reader more easily.

A personal domain-specific word wall may be used as a tool to assist students in writing like an expert! Access the link below for an example.

[Sample Personal Word Wall](#)



## Technology for Teachers

**OpenEd** is a K-12 educational resource catalog with numerous Common Core Videos, Games and Assessments. Registration is free and provides access to videos for whole group instruction. It also has games and assessments for small groups or centers. Register at the link below for many great resources.

[OpenEd Videos and Games](#)

**PARCC:** Access the link below to experience sample PARCC test questions using technology. Students will practice drop and drag, text highlighting, and more!

[PARCC Computer Sample Questions](#)

## The Writing Lab



### Research-Based Writing

**W.3.7** Conduct short research projects that build knowledge about a topic.

When choosing mini lessons for Writer's Workshop, teachers want to lift their students' writing with powerful, effective writing lessons. The book, *Craft Lessons: Teaching Informational Writing K-8*, by Ralph Fletcher and Joann Portalupi, is an excellent resource to assist with this goal.

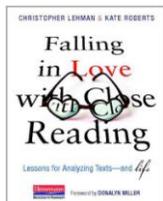
One such lesson for grades 3-4 explains that the secret to better nonfiction writing is to select fascinating facts. Ralph Fletcher and Joann Portalupi state: "Crafting nonfiction writing involves learning how to sift the good stuff from the mundane." They recommend teaching children to notice their own reactions when reading about their topic. Since our students may be new to this kind of research, they tend to copy it all down and get overwhelmed by the task. We need to teach them to be on the lookout for remarkable details. If they are amazed by a detail, chances are that their readers will be as well.

Ashe North includes some fascinating facts in *Salamanders and Alligators*, including:

During its whole life, an alligator can grow two to three thousand teeth!

A mother salamander might lay up to 400 eggs at a time!

## Teacher Resource Book Corner



Are you still questioning the proper way to teach students to read 'closely'? The book, *Falling in Love with Close Reading: Lessons for Analyzing Texts--and Life*, may hold the answers to your questions. This resource, written by Lehman and Roberts, offers a fresh approach that students can use independently with any text. It includes strategies for close reading, connections to common core, suggestions for differentiation and more! It might be a good addition to your collection of teacher resources.

[Link to Study Guide](#)