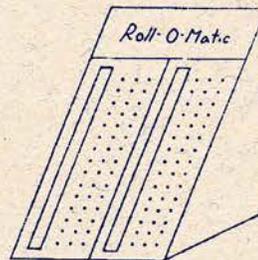
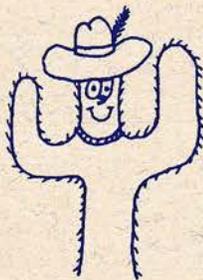
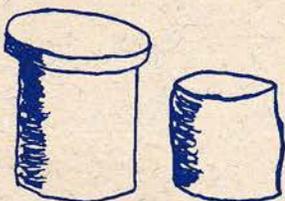


# SCHOOL OUR WAY

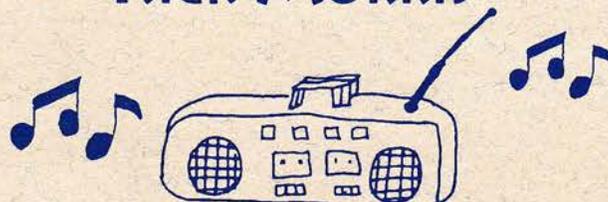
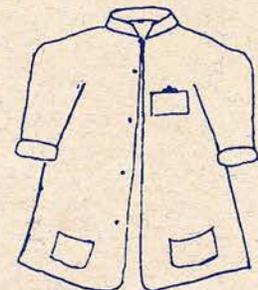
TWENTY TERRIFIC TECHNIQUES  
FOR A HAPPIER, MORE PRODUCTIVE CLASS



WRITTEN & ILLUSTRATED BY  
THE STUDENTS OF ROOM 12, CLASS OF '92



FOREWORD BY  
RICK MORRIS





THE ENTIRE CONTENTS  
OF THIS BOOK,  
SCHOOL OUR WAY,  
WAS PRINTED ON  
100% RECYCLED PAPER.

# 12

ROOM TWELVE PUBLISHING COMPANY

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BOOK WILL BE USED  
FOR ROOM TWELVE'S  
SIXTH GRADE ACTIVITIES.

# **SCHOOL OUR WAY**

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**TWENTY TERRIFIC TECHNIQUES  
FOR A HAPPIER, MORE PRODUCTIVE CLASS**

**WRITTEN & ILLUSTRATED BY  
THE STUDENTS OF ROOM 12, CLASS OF '92**

**FOREWORD BY  
RICK MORRIS**

**ROOM TWELVE PUBLISHING COMPANY  
SAN DIEGO**

*This book is dedicated to Mr. Morris for all of his support and encouragement.*

### **Acknowledgments**

We would like to thank...

Eric DuVall of P.O. Box Productions for the great printing job he did.

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Coupons: *Nicole Newby*

Clay: *Stephanie Haskell*

Golden Necklaces: *Valencia West*

Number Stickers: *Lisa Esparza & Mario Vazquez*

Home Education Bulletin: *Shawna Poole*

Starburst Math: *Woo Im*

Wall of Fame: *Danny Young*

Rainbow Handwriting Award: *Michelle Hagan*

E. T.: *Mike Quinn*

Seat Covers: *Gabe Legaspi*

Classroom Clean-Up: *Gabe Legaspi*

Minute of Silence: *Robyn Barbrick*

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*"None of us is as smart as all of us."*

—Anonymous

## FOREWORD

As a foreword, allow me to share with you a copy of the speech I presented on the first day of school to this most noteworthy group of sixth grade students...

*Welcome to sixth grade. You are the Class of 1992, and we are on a mission.*

*We're on a mission of discovery. We are going to discover not only what to learn but how to learn. This will be very important this year because learning is something you should be doing for the rest of your life. Unfortunately, that is not the case for most people. For them, the joy of learning is lost by the time they are out of high school. Fortunately, though, we're not most people; we're Room Twelve. And beginning today, July 29, 1991, we're going to start learning so that what we learn and how we learn it will establish a pattern that will last a lifetime. Day-by-day, the discoveries we'll make about learning will provide us with the confidence to face new tasks, the resources to solve them and the wisdom to store away the knowledge gained for whatever comes up next. I'm making a challenge right now to everyone in this classroom—and that includes me!—to enter into this mission, this pursuit of excellence in education.*

*We're on a mission of taking risks. I'm going to ask you to take some risks this year. A lot of risks. Risks can be a bit scary, I know, but without them, our accomplishments won't be as great nor our journey of discovery as grand. By risking a lot, we can gain even more. But don't worry; there will always be someone at your side to help you through everything you face. It might be me, it might be a classroom volunteer or it might be another student facing the same risk you are. We'll face every risk together knowing that each one we take will move us closer to our goals, our dreams, our desires. Remember, though, that in school, as in life, the journey to these dreams is just as important as the dreams themselves. It's more than just where we end up, it's how we got there. Not only will we savor the view from the heights we will have attained by June, but we will have treasured every step we took to reach those heights.*

*We're on a mission of feeling good about ourselves and what we are doing. I want us to have fun this year; fun in what we do and fun in how we do it. Enthusiastic students are students who are learning and growing. Learning requires enthusiasm. Excitement about what we're doing, though, is a present you have to give to yourself. So don't sit around waiting for something exciting to happen; make it happen. Bring to each learning activity your own spark, your own sense of adventure, your own special way of looking at things. If you're feeling good about what you're doing, so will other students; before you know it, we'll have a whole classroom full of students who are excited about who they are and what they are able to do. Our potential for growth is without limits. We can reach the stars this year. We can set records. We can do things that no other sixth graders have ever done before, and we can have fun doing it.*

*Yes, we are on a mission, and I'm glad we are on it together. Here's to a truly great year of learning, growing and being the best we can possibly be.*

Well, I think we made it. We did things no other sixth graders have done, and we had fun doing it. You can't ask for much more than that.

But enough of that. It's time for me to be quiet and turn things over to the students because everything after this page was done by them.

—Rick Morris  
Director of Education  
Room 12

## INTRODUCTION

Thank you for purchasing, *School Our Way*. In this book you will find twenty creative ideas. These ideas are helpful, educational and easy-to-use. They will help to make your classroom a happier, more productive one.

The methods contained in this book are ones we use regularly in our classroom. Some of these ideas make learning more enjoyable. Others are somewhat serious. However, all of these procedures help us in many ways. One way is that students become more responsible. Another way is that they make learning fun. (We think having fun in class encourages students to work harder.) Most importantly, these ideas will increase the interest and involvement of your students.

Our class has put a lot of hard work and time into this book so that we could share these ideas with you. We hope that you will find our ideas to be helpful and that you will use them in your classroom. (Since we like them, we are pretty confident that your students will, too.)

Once again, we'd like to express our gratitude for supporting our efforts.

Room 12, Class of '92

<i>Robyn Barbrick</i>	<i>Dylan Myking</i>
<i>Thomas Baumgardner</i>	<i>Sabrina Neuenswander</i>
<i>Patricia Broge</i>	<i>Nicole Newby</i>
<i>Crystal Caldwell</i>	<i>Van Nguyen</i>
<i>Jenni Clark</i>	<i>John Northcutt</i>
<i>Rachel Edwards</i>	<i>Melanie O'Dell</i>
<i>Sergio Enriquez</i>	<i>Richard Padilla</i>
<i>Lisa Esparza</i>	<i>Shawna Poole</i>
<i>Mike Fisher</i>	<i>Mike Quinn</i>
<i>Michelle Hagan</i>	<i>Cesar Quintero</i>
<i>Stephanie Haskell</i>	<i>Paul Ruiz</i>
<i>Carrie Hill</i>	<i>Jennifer Sanden</i>
<i>Teresa Hopkins</i>	<i>Mario Vazquez</i>
<i>Woo Im</i>	<i>Anna Welch</i>
<i>Gabe Legaspi</i>	<i>Valencia West</i>
<i>David Mendiola</i>	<i>Danny Young</i>

*Please note:* We refer to student numbers in some of the articles. These numbers were given to us at the beginning of the year. Student numbers help us to take care of assignments and activities efficiently. Student numbers are a great way to identify students.





## MUSIC



We have a stereo cassette player. We listen to it in the morning before school starts. The music calms us down. It's a very soothing way to begin our day.

We sometimes listen to music while we're doing our work. Music replaces student talking and even helps some kids to concentrate better.



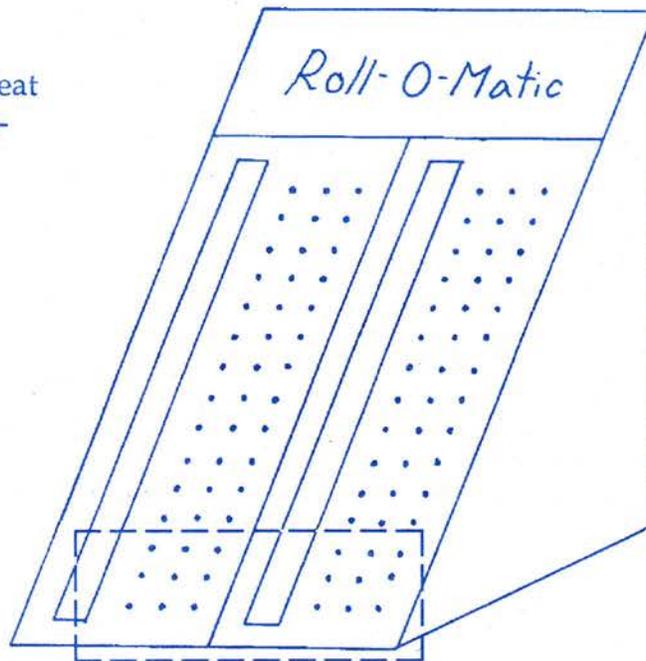
We never play the radio because we don't know what kind of music is going to come on. Also, it has too much talking and selling which interrupts our concentration.



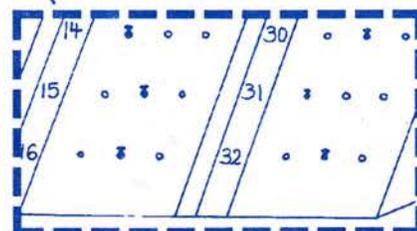
*Suggestion:* Select a student to be in charge of your cassette player.

## ROLL-O-MATIC

The Roll-O-Matic is a great way to help teachers take attendance. It is simply a piece of pegboard that holds golf tees. (See illustration.) Before the students come to school, the golf tees are in the first row. Then when a student comes to school he moves his golf tee one hole to the right. This lets the teacher know he is at school. (The students can identify their golf tees because there is a student number next to it.)

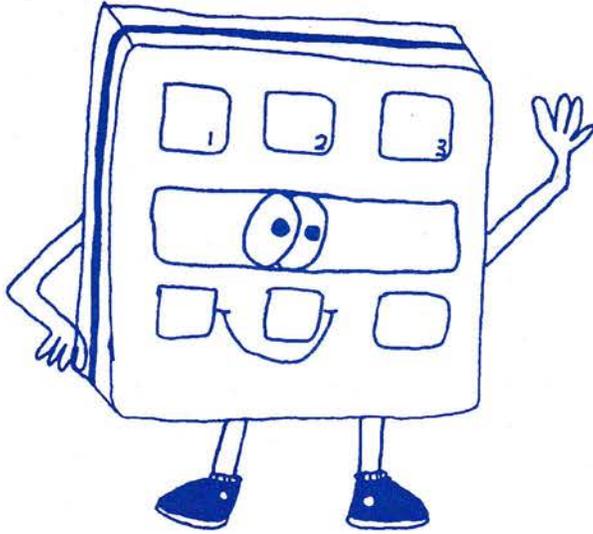


*This detail shows that students 15, 16, 30 and 32 are present.*



*Suggestion:* You might want to put a student in charge of the Roll-O-Matic. After the morning bell rings, this student will see who is at school and who is not. He can let the teacher know. After the absent students have been marked in the attendance folder, the golf tees can be moved back to the first row.

This activity will help your students learn responsibility.



## MAX

Max is the name we've given our Westbend® digital timer. We use Max to keep track of how long we have to work on something.

Mr. Morris sets Max for the proper amount of time he thinks we need to complete an assignment. While Max is counting down the minutes and seconds, we work quietly. When Max beeps, we put our pencils down and listen to what Mr. Morris has to say.

Using Max is very helpful because the students focus more on the assignment than the clock.

*Mr. Morris suggests you buy model number 40032. It sells for about \$20 at Cousin's Warehouse. They also sell a small one that clips to your belt or pocket. Very cool.*

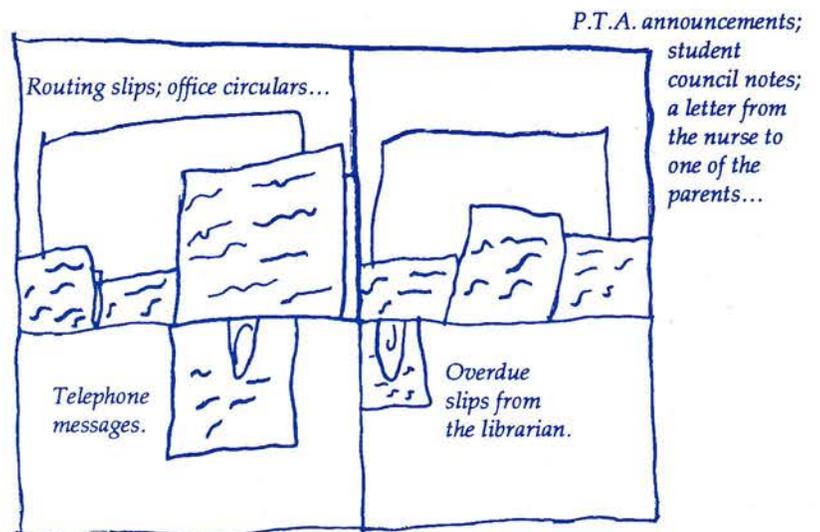
## TODAY FOLDER

A Today Folder is a folder that carries important papers and notes. Materials in this folder can be papers from the office and other information to be shared with the class.

Mr. Morris brings out the Today Folder when our class meeting starts. He then shares with us things that need to be taken care of. When the folder is empty, the meeting is over.

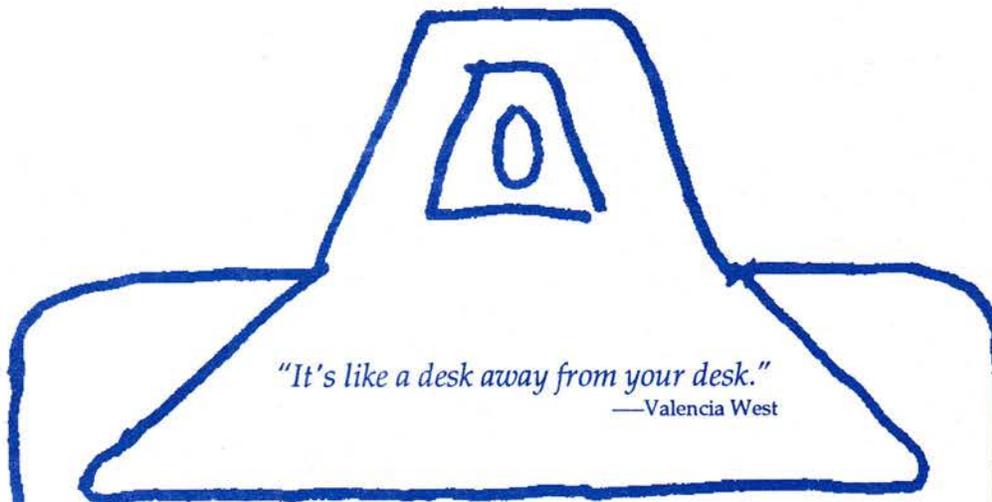
The Today Folder will certainly make a difference in holding papers. It will keep all of your papers in one place so they do not get misplaced.

The Today Folder is a one-of-a-kind folder because it looks unlike any other folder. You will be able to pick it out from your other folders. *Note:* The Today Folder is for teachers only.



*This side is for you.*

*This side holds information for your students.*



## CLIPBOARDS

Each student in our class has a legal-size clipboard on his or her desk. It's a handy tool we use for a variety of things. Here are some ways clipboards help us:

They can hold loose papers, tool kits and other items. The clipboards can hold papers that some kids might shove into their desks. They also help keep our desks organized. When you work outside it's nice to have something to write on that holds your paper steady. It's like a desk away from your desk. When we go home for the day our clipboards stay at school.

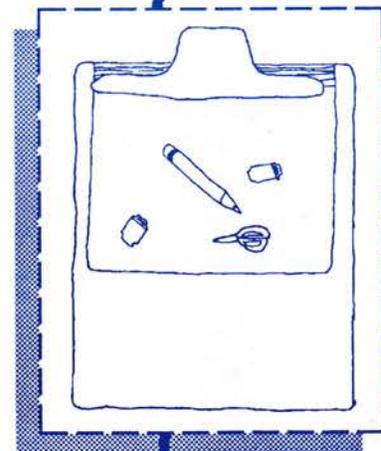
The way we tell our clipboards apart is that we put our student numbers on them. You can keep using them year after year.

## TOOL KITS

Tool kits are freezer-style ziplock bags. They are handy for holding erasers, clay, clay tools, and other miscellaneous objects used by students.

Every student should be issued a Tool Kit. When given to the student, he should write his name or number on the outside with permanent ink. Each kit will last about six months. *Warning:* Sharp objects such as pencils or scissors could cause holes.

As you can see, Tool Kits are inexpensive, easy-to-use and help to keep our desks organized. They make desk clean-up a breeze.



7

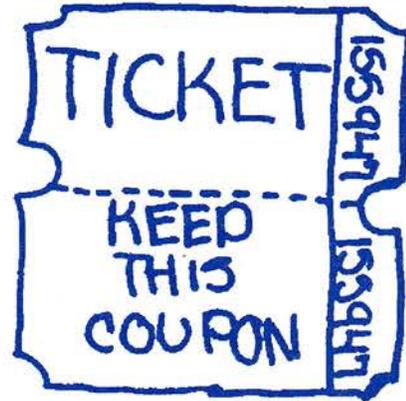
## COUPONS



Coupons are a special reward given out in our class. They are double-sided raffle tickets. They are given out for good behavior and achievement. When a student receives one, he drops the TICKET side in a candy jar and keeps the KEEP THIS COUPON side.

If Mr. Morris has time, he draws a coupon out of the candy jar and reads the number out to the class. The student who has the other side, stands up and repeats the number. Mr. Morris then posts the winning coupon on the Wall of Fame.

At the end of the week, the people who had their coupons drawn receive a prize. We give out soda but you can choose any kind of prize you want. We throw away all of the coupons on Friday.



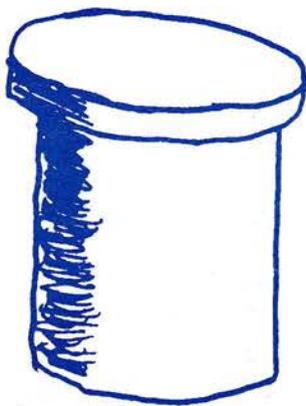
*Note:* Sometimes when you read a number to the class, no one answers. If that's the case, put it back and draw another one.

## CLAY

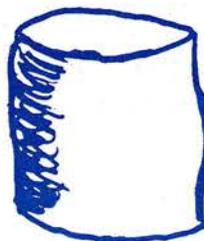
Everyday after lunch Mr. Morris reads to us. While he is reading we sculpt with modeling clay, the kind that doesn't get hard.

We keep our clay in 35 mm film canisters which we put in a ziplock bag, or Tool Kit. We also keep clay tools in these bags. The three main tools are a paper clip, a popsicle stick and a plastic picnic knife which has been shaped on a rough part of the sidewalk.

When he has finished reading we walk around the room to see what other students have created. The purpose of this activity is to see how creative you can be as you listen to the story.



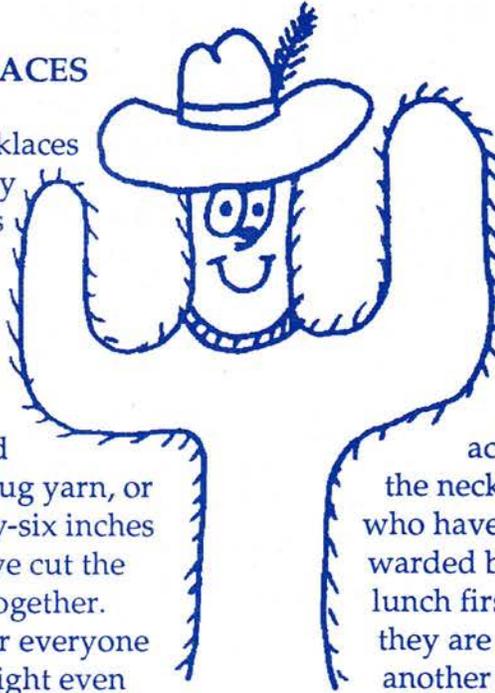
*We reshape our clay before putting it away. A cylinder will fit neatly into the container.*



## GOLDEN NECKLACES

Golden Necklaces are a quick and easy way to see who has turned in a special assignment.

Here is what you need to make a Golden Necklace. You need a piece of colored rug yarn, or roving, about thirty-six inches long. After you have cut the yarn, tie the ends together. Make a necklace for everyone in the class. You might even



want to make some extras for new students or in case some get lost.

Mr. Morris gives students these necklaces in exchange for an assignment or special activity. It is worn around the neck or wrist. The students who have a necklace can be rewarded by being sent to recess or lunch first. At the end of the day they are collected, ready for another day.

*Benefits:* When a student sees his friend wearing a necklace it will motivate him to finish his assignment. It also makes it easier for the teacher to keep track of how hard the students are working. All he has to do is look around the room and see who's finished.

*Caution:* Don't use this idea frequently. If you do, the power for motivating your students might wear out.

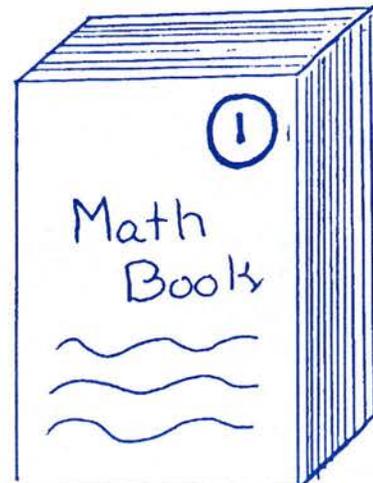
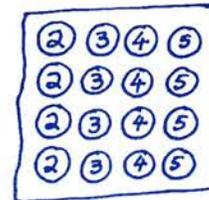
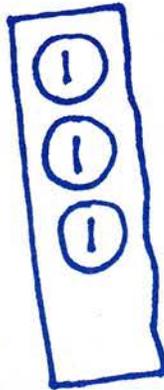
## NUMBER STICKERS

Here's a great way for students to keep track of their books. It's called Number Stickers.

You need self-adhesive circular stickers that are three-fourths of an inch in diameter and a permanent ink marker. Here's how you use them:

- ① Write one student's number on four or five stickers.
- ② Cut out his set of numbered stickers and give it to the student.
- ③ Repeat this procedure until every student has been given a set.

Have students apply them to the front cover of their books. The reason we do this is so that if a book is misplaced one of the other students can return it.



## HOME EDUCATION BULLETIN

Do you have a problem with students not remembering their homework assignments? If so, we have a solution for you. Our solution is the Home Education Bulletin. It's a sheet of paper which lists our assignments for the week.

Bulletins are handed out on Monday. Students then write the homework assignments in the correct spaces. (See example.) At the end of the day, they take them home and post them somewhere. This will help them remember what to do at home each night.

*Extra:* Your bulletins can also be used for classroom announcements and student awards.

<i>Student of the Week</i> <b>Michelle</b> <b>Hagan</b>	<b>Room Twelve's</b> <b>Home Education Bulletin</b> <small>Volume 8, Number 6</small>	<i>Student of the Week</i> <b>Seth</b> <b>McNerney</b>
<small>September 9 - 13, 1991</small>		

### Sequoia Students Raise \$500.00 for P.T.A. Membership Drive

BY RICK MORRIS  
*Staff Writer*

SAN DIEGO—Some sixth grade students at Sequoia Elementary School really showed their stuff last week. During the school's annual P.T.A. membership drive, these students collected five hundred dollars in membership fees.

It all started three weeks ago when this hard working class set themselves a goal. Their goal: raise \$500.00 and win the contest. With that goal in mind, they got to work. They contacted family members and friends. They got in touch with local businesses. They brought in three dollars here and ten dollars there. They even brought in their own

membership dues. That's right. These dedicated sixth graders brought in their own money and paid for their own memberships!

On the last day of the drive they had raised \$494.00 and were just \$6.00 short of their goal. That's when Seth McNerney pulled out two checks for individual memberships: one for him and one for his grandmother. Each check was for \$3.00. The class had met its goal!

"I think this goal-setting idea is terrific!" said Peggy Ray, this year's P.T.A. president. "It really helped to get the class motivated. I can't wait to see what they do next."

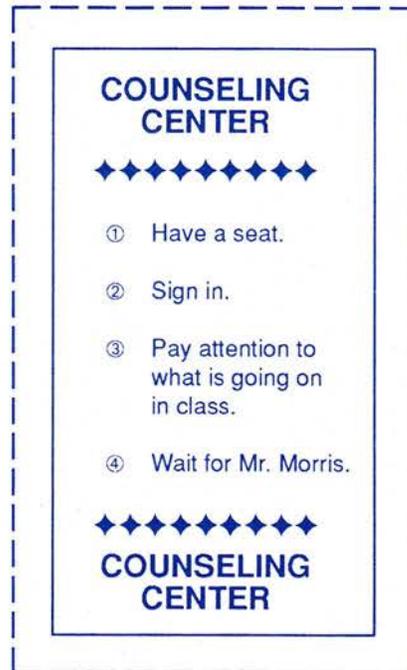
The winners will enjoy a pizza party on Wednesday, September 11: the first-place prize for winning the membership contest. I think they all realize, though, that the real reward came from meeting a tough goal they had set for themselves.

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"><b>MONDAY NIGHT</b></div> <input type="checkbox"/> Notes on back.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete practice Math Test</li> <li>2. Have someone correct it</li> <li>3. Put score on your test</li> <li>4. Rework any mistakes</li> </ol>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"><b>TUESDAY NIGHT</b></div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notes on back.	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">Watch TV Channel A&amp;E</p>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"><b>WEDNESDAY NIGHT</b></div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notes on back.	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">Book Report Final</p>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"><b>THURSDAY NIGHT</b></div> <input type="checkbox"/> Notes on back.	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">Practice Spelling Test</p>

## COUNSELING CENTER

A counseling center is a great way to show your students it's time to behave. To set up your center, place a table in the back of your room. Set a sign on the table telling the student what to do when he is sent to the counseling center.

Our sign looks like this:



Our logbook looks like this:

Sequoia Elementary School  
Room Twelve  
Sixth Grade  
Mr. Morris

### COUNSELING CENTER LOG SHEET

Name <i>Mike Quinn</i>	Number <i>28</i>	Date <i>10-13-91</i>
Name	Number	Date
Name	Number	Date
Name	Number	Date

A counseling center gives the teacher time to talk with a student privately about his problem. It also allows the student to calm down and rejoin the class. A visit to the counseling center is more appropriate than a visit to the principal or being sent outside the room.

*Bonus:* The logbook will keep track of how often your students are being sent to the counseling center.

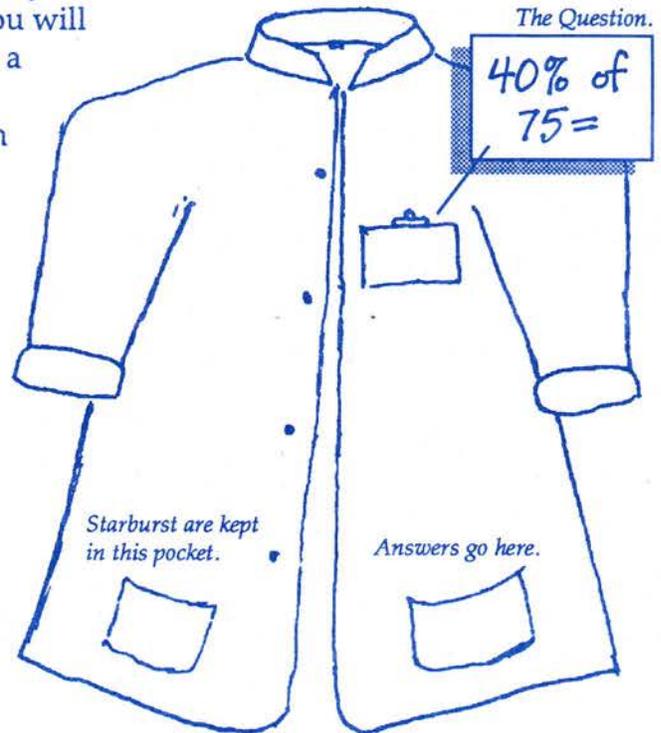
## STARBURST® MATH

Starburst Math is a simple way to get your students involved in math. For this idea you will need a white lab coat, Starburst candy and a plastic name tag holder.

Begin by writing a math problem on a small piece of paper. Place this paper in the plastic name tag holder and pin it to the left side of your lab coat. Then open a pack of Starburst and empty the candy into the lab coat's right side pocket. Now wear the lab coat.

When the students see the math problem in the name tag holder, they will try to solve it. Then they will place their answers in the lab coat's left pocket. Every now and then, pull answers out and check them. If an answer is correct, offer student a Starburst. (We just give away one for each answer, but you get your choice of flavors.) If the student wasn't correct, give it back and ask him to try again.

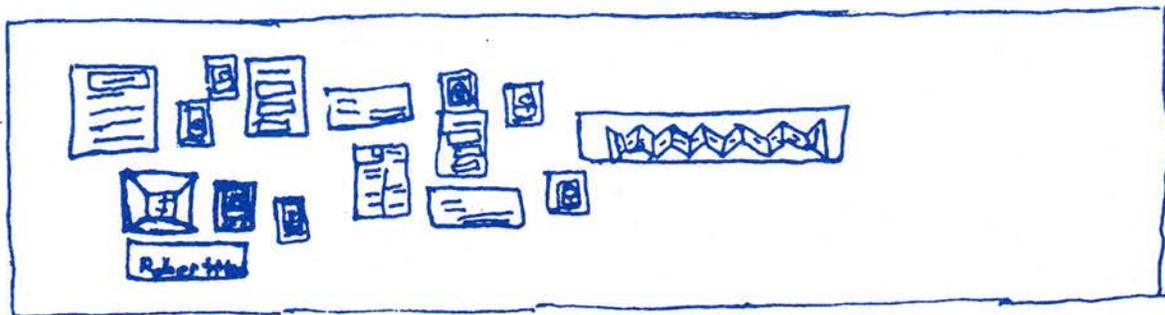
Once your students receive a reward for answering math questions, they will try hard to receive another one.



## ★ ★ ★ ★ WALL OF FAME ★ ★ ★ ★

The Wall of Fame is a small but important part of our classroom. It is a bulletin board which displays the great things we've done throughout the year. Some of the things we display are:

- photographs of class activities
- assignments that have been well done
- student awards
- field trip memories
- special, exciting moments

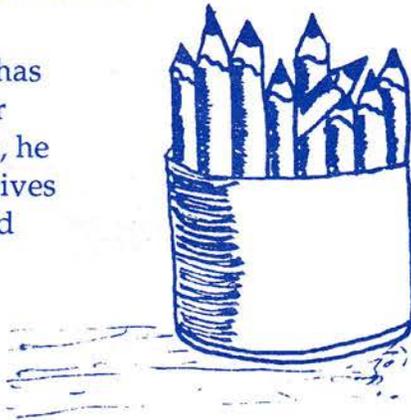




## RAINBOW HANDWRITING AWARD

Here's a great award for all those neat handwriters. We call it the Rainbow Handwriting Award. It's a terrific way to encourage your students to work harder on their handwriting. Here's how it works:

After Mr. Morris has collected and graded our handwriting assignment, he passes it back. He then gives out a container of colored pens or pencils to the student he thinks used magnificent handwriting. Once the lucky student has been given the award, he gets to use



the colored pens or pencils until another student is chosen to receive the award the next day.

*Suggestion:* If you have decided to use pens, keep the tips down so that they won't dry out so quickly.

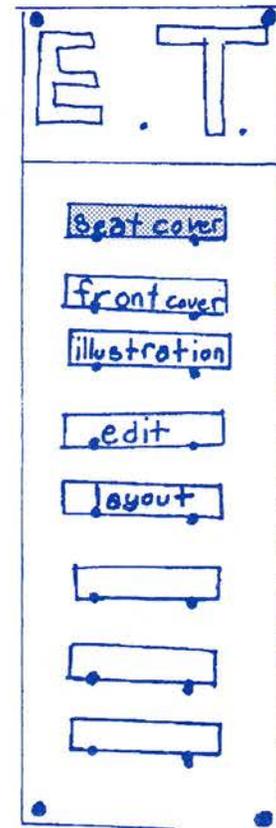
## E. T.

E. T. stands for Extra Time or Educational Time. E. T. is an excellent way to keep your students productive when done with regular assignments.

We made a pocket chart with E. T. written across the top. Mr. Morris uses green or yellow strips of paper to list our activities.

Some of our activities consist of assignments that haven't been completed during class time. Others might be extra credit projects or classroom tasks. If the E. T. assignment is written on green construction paper, it means that you have to do that specific activity by the end of the day. Yellow means that the activity is optional. You have to finish all of the greens before you start the yellows.

It is a good idea to change the activities every day or two to keep your students excited about using the E. T. chart.



## STUDENT BULLETIN

The Student Bulletin is a piece of paper which describes a certain class rule. At the bottom of the sheet are spaces for the students to write their initials. (See example.)

After Mr. Morris reads the rule or reminder from the bulletin, he passes it around for the students to initial. He then adds the bulletin to the others in our Student Bulletin binder.

The benefit for the students is that the bulletins let them know about important information. This increases their responsibility. The benefit for the teacher is that he won't have to keep repeating procedures to his students.

**ROOM 12**  
CLASS OF 1992

### Student Bulletin #1

It will be the responsibility of each student to take care of all books given out during the school year. Any book which is not returned must be replaced.

Example:            Reading book    \$12.00  
                          Math book        \$13.75  
                          Novels            \$3-\$7

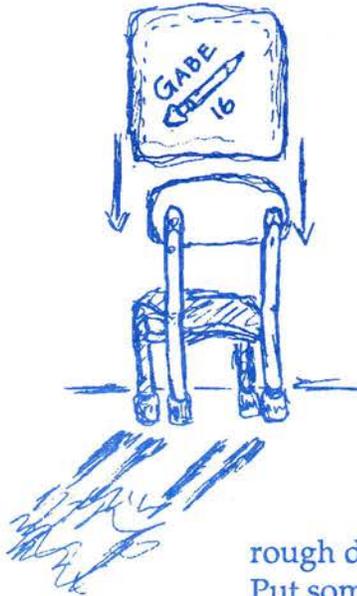
1 R.B.	10 M.F.	19 J.M.	28 M.J.
2 L.B.	11 M.H.	20 J.N.	29 P.R.
3 P.B.	12 S.H.	21 M.	30 J.
4 C.C.	13	22 U.N.	31 M.V.
5 J.H.	14 C.R.	23 J.M.	32 A.W.
6 J.C.	15 W.L.	24 M.O.	33 V.W.
7 L.E.	16 H.L.	25 R.P.	34 D.Y.
8 R.E.	17	26 S.D.	35
9 S.F.	18 D.M.	27 C.Q.	36

*Student Bulletins are kept in a three-ring binder for student/teacher reference. For parent communication, have students make copies of appropriate bulletins to take home for reading and signing.*

## SEAT COVERS

Our class just finished making stitchery seat covers. Making a seat cover was fun. Seat covers make your chair a lot more comfortable, too. Here's how you make a seat cover.

The first thing you need to do is make a sampler. A sampler is a practice seat cover. To make your sampler you are going to need a small piece of burlap, some yarn, a stitchery needle and a pair of scissors. Then you need to learn how to thread your needle. You also need to know how to tie a knot in the end of your yarn. Your teacher or mom can show you how to do that. Then you can learn how to do the running stitch and make a french knot. Using the running stitch, make a border all the way around your piece of burlap. Then make a running stitch circle inside the border. Now put ten french knots inside the circle. Next you need to stitch your name or your initials. That's step one of making a seat cover.



Step two of making your seat cover is the rough draft. The rough draft is a plan of what you will put on your actual seat cover. For this part you will need crayons and some drawing paper. After you've collected your materials, think about what kind of design you want on your seat cover and draw it on your paper. There are lots of interesting things that you could draw. Make sure you really put some time into what you want your design to look like. Your rough draft should include a border, your name/initials and the main design.

Now that you're done with the rough draft art, you can start the seat cover itself. You will need a new piece of burlap, more yarn, your stitchery needle and scissors. Unlike the sampler, you will need a much bigger piece of burlap. The burlap needs to be four to six inches bigger than the back of your chair. (See illustration.) It is extremely important that one of the edges of your burlap is selvage. (The selvage is the edge of the burlap that does not unravel.) Now, lay your burlap on the floor. Place the back of your chair on top of the burlap. Make sure the selvage is lined up with the back of the seat. With a piece of chalk, trace the back of your chair on the burlap. Now you're ready to start stitching your seat cover.

First, you make the border. The border will be the frame for the design. Your chalk line will be your guide. Using the running stitch, make a line one inch inside the chalk mark. After that, stitch your name or initials. Then you can start stitching your design. (Refer to your rough draft art you sketched in part two.) Put some time and hard work into it and it will really stand out.

You are finally at the last step of making a seat cover. All you need is your finished stitchery and a towel the same size. Lay the towel down, and put the stitchery face down on it. Make sure you have the towel selvage lined up with the selvage on your stitchery. Have someone with a sewing machine sew it where the chalk line was. Next, trim the edges with your pair of scissors. Turn it inside out, and slip it over your chair. You now have a beautiful seat cover.

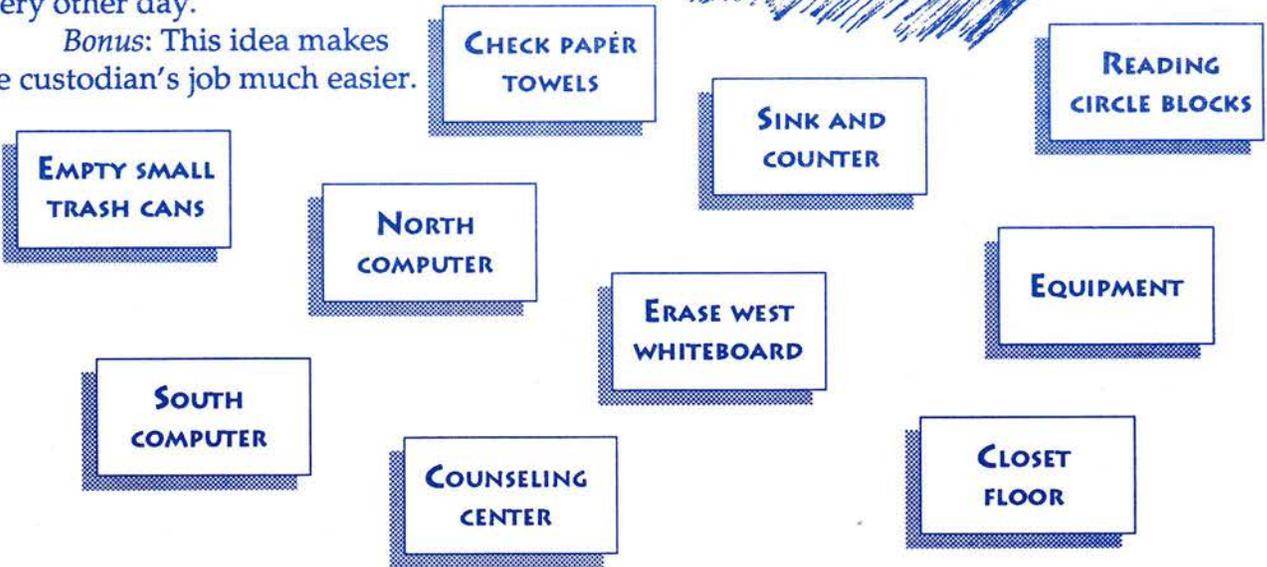
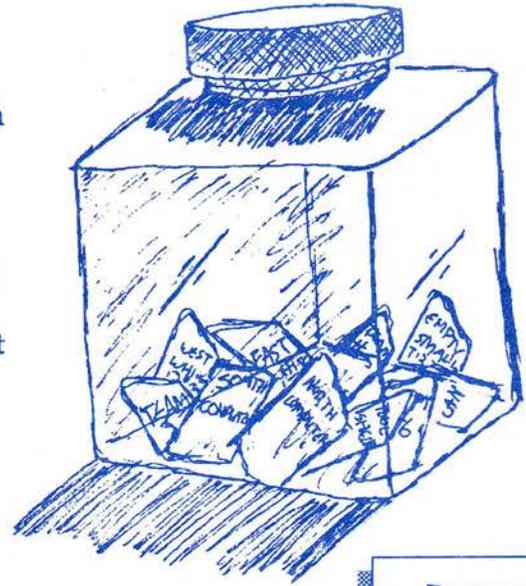
## CLASSROOM CLEAN-UP

Classroom clean-up is a job done by the students. It helps us clean our classroom in only three minutes.

Mr. Morris randomly assigns chores to each student by issuing a piece of paper with a task on it. Since we have thirty-two students, there are thirty-two different tasks. (See examples.)

After receiving their job cards, the students should have at least three minutes to complete their assignment. It is each student's job to see that the task is done quickly, quietly and properly. After the jobs have been completed, the paper cards are put back into a container to be reused. Task cards should be changed for the students every other day.

*Bonus:* This idea makes the custodian's job much easier.



## MINUTE OF SILENCE



The Minute of Silence is a great way to end the day. It is sixty seconds of no talking or moving around.

We have a Minute of Silence each day for a couple of reasons. It calms down the students so that they don't leave school hyperactive. It also gives us a chance to think about the day we just spent together.

When all the students are seated, set your watch, timer, or classroom clock for sixty seconds. If the class starts to talk, set your watch back to sixty seconds. When the sixty seconds are over we depart from the classroom.

*Suggestion:* If you have a rowdy crowd, it is best to start with thirty seconds and work your way up to sixty.

NOTES:

*"Imagination is more important than information."*  
—Albert Einstein

