

The Educator's Room

A Weekly Round-up of Events, Articles and Resources for educators in K-12 Education
Week of January 12, 2020

In This Issue:

1. [Letter to Polk Teachers: Firing Possible if They Go to Tallahassee Rally](#)
2. [Hard-Charging Education Reformer John White Steps Down as Louisiana Schools Chief](#)
3. [AZ Teacher Shortage Still Isn't Getting Much Better, Despite Our Efforts](#)
4. [WV Is Pushing to Condense the Teaching of High Schools History to One Course](#)
5. [The Top 10 Insights from the "Science of a Meaningful Life in 2019"](#)
6. [Safeguarding the Mental Health of Teachers](#)
7. [Losing your most powerful tool in the classroom- your voice.](#)
8. [Teacher Self-Care Calendar 2020 \(Printed Calendar\)](#)
9. [Restorative Practices, Exhausting Teachers](#)
10. ["Why Didn't Anyone Help Me?" The Truth Behind Abused Teachers Who Took Matters Into Their Own Hands](#)
11. [Italy Becomes First Country to Make Climate Change Education Mandatory](#)
12. [Why Teachers Are Walking Out](#)
13. [Let's Pay Idaho Lawmakers Like First Year Teachers](#)
14. [Does School Spending Matter? The New Literature on an Old Question](#)
15. [The Science of Teaching Reading](#)

Quote of the Week

"We know, if we have a gender lens, that girls are more likely to have to engage in caretaking activities," she says. "They're the ones who often have to pick up the slack when mothers are unable to, either because of work or other circumstances. The girls are the ones who prepare the siblings for school, make sure they get to the bus on time, pick them up from school. That might make it difficult for them to get to school on time, contributing to their truancy and ultimately leading to them dropping out."

from "Teaching at the Intersections"

by *Monika K. Bell*

Teaching Tolerance Magazine Issue 53, Summer 2016

Education News Articles:

1. [Letter to Polk Teachers: Firing Possible if They Go to Tallahassee Rally](#) (*Published January 11, 2020*)

2. [Hard-Charging Education Reformer John White Steps Down as Louisiana Schools Chief](#) (Published January 8, 2020)
3. [AZ Teacher Shortage Still Isn't Getting Much Better, Despite Our Efforts](#) (Published January 10, 2020)
4. [WV Is Pushing to Condense the Teaching of High Schools History to One Course](#) (Published January 11, 2020)

Teacher Self-Care Articles

1. [The Top 10 Insights from the “Science of a Meaningful Life in 2019](#)

What is the path to a happier life and a more compassionate society? We tend to prefer strategies that seem straightforward: To be healthier, we eat healthier; to fight apathy, we urge others to join us in getting involved.

But sometimes the way to individual and community well-being isn't so direct. This year's insights suggest just how circuitous it can be, illuminating how keys to well-being like gratitude, awe, and forgiveness can have surprising benefits—in seemingly unrelated areas of life—that we might not have expected. Change one thing in your life, and inevitably something else will shift...

2. [Safeguarding the Mental Health of Teachers](#)

Teachers tell their students that [mindset](#) matters. Yet teachers do not always allow themselves space to receive those same messages of reflection and self-care.

Henry Seton, a longtime high school teacher and department head, learned that firsthand. In a courageous and insightful [essay in *Educational Leadership*](#), Seton explored the hurdles that teachers face — especially those who work in schools in high-poverty settings — in safeguarding their mental health. He also revealed the challenges he'd faced in his own life.

3. [Losing your most powerful tool in the classroom- your voice.](#)

As an educator, you never know what your day is going to look like as you try to balance the different learning styles and needs that your students bring to the classroom. We far too often are tasked to consider – in addition to these diverse learning needs – that many students have experienced trauma and/or stress, which they innately bring with them to school. As such, we sometimes find ourselves in a position where we're unable to discuss these experiences due to their sensitive nature, which can lead us as educators to self-internalize these traumas and negative emotions that our students are experiencing.

4. [Teacher Self-Care Calendar 2020](#)

LARGE, DESIGNER DESK PAD calendar perfect for desktop decor and monthly planning around teacher self-care.

STUNNING, STATEMENT PIECE, with 12 vibrant colors, a different one for each month.

PRETTY & PRACTICAL DESK CALENDAR - great for monthly planning, office or countertop decor & tracking self-care.



Teaching Articles

1. [Restorative Practices, Exhausting Teachers](#)

Restorative Practices (RP) is the new darling of education circles. As its goal, RP seeks to interrupt and halt the school to prison pipeline while helping students overcome and cope with trauma. To do this, RP relies on developing relationships with students which enables them to reflect on and repair the harm they have caused. RP's goals and methods are praiseworthy. Unfortunately, in our current education system, this is a doomed practice. To read more, click [here](#).

2. ["Why Didn't Anyone Help Me?" The Truth Behind Abused Teachers Who Took Matters Into Their Own Hands](#)

When the articles pop up on my timeline, I'm quick to click the link to each and every article that looks or sounds like this:

"Teacher assaults student"

“Educator and student fights”

“Teacher fired after brawl with student”

What I find to be interesting is that many, if not all of the teachers involved in the fight with their students, have reported incidents within their classrooms multiple times.

But where are those articles? Where are the news reports of teachers who are verbally and physically abused by students in their classrooms? Where is the documentation within the school district stating the number of times that teachers are abused by students repeatedly, only to have the student show up later that week in their class? To read more, click [here](#).

3. [Italy Becomes First Country to Make Climate Change Education Mandatory](#)

Italy is stepping up to the plate when it comes to climate change by ensuring that their youth is educated on the topic. When the 2020 school year starts, Italy will be the first country in the world to include mandatory teaching hours about matters linked to climate issues. According to Lorenzo Fioramonti, Minister of Education, there will be 33 hours a year built into the curriculum regarding this urgent topic. To read more, click [here](#).

4. [Why Teachers Are Walking Out](#)

For the last ten years, I’ve been a covert operative in Women’s World, a.k.a. Public School. I am not a typical elementary teacher. I am male. And I am often confounded at what I have seen my coworkers silently acquiesce to, happily playing along, fueled only by the sense of the purpose they work from. I am not surprised that teachers in many states have had walkouts. I am surprised that they waited so long to start. To read more, click [here](#).

5. [Let’s Pay Idaho Lawmakers Like First Year Teachers](#)

Idaho lawmakers have a pretty good gig going for them in terms of their compensation for a part-time gig. In fact, the current payout for the 2020 year is \$18,415, plus health insurance and PERSI (Idaho’s pension system).

Last year, lawmakers were at their posts inside the State Capitol Building for just 74 days. That equates to \$248.85 per day. Not bad huh? And last year went longer than most.

But that’s just the base pay. See, lawmakers also receive generous stipends each day during the session. The payouts range depending on how far the elected official’s district is from Boise, but they are reimbursed for housing, mileage, and food. To read more, click [here](#).

Research

[Does School Spending Matter? The New Literature on an Old Question](#)

Abstract

Social scientists have long sought to examine the causal impact of school spending on child outcomes. For a long time, the literature on this topic was largely descriptive so that it had been difficult to draw strong causal claims. However, there have been several recent studies in this space that employ larger data-sets and use quasi-experimental methods that allow for much more credible causal claims. Focusing on studies of students in the United States, this paper briefly discusses the older literature and highlights some of its limitations. It then describes a recent quasi-experimental literature on the impact of school spending on child outcomes, highlights some key papers, and presents a summary of the recent findings. Policy implications and areas for future research are discussed.

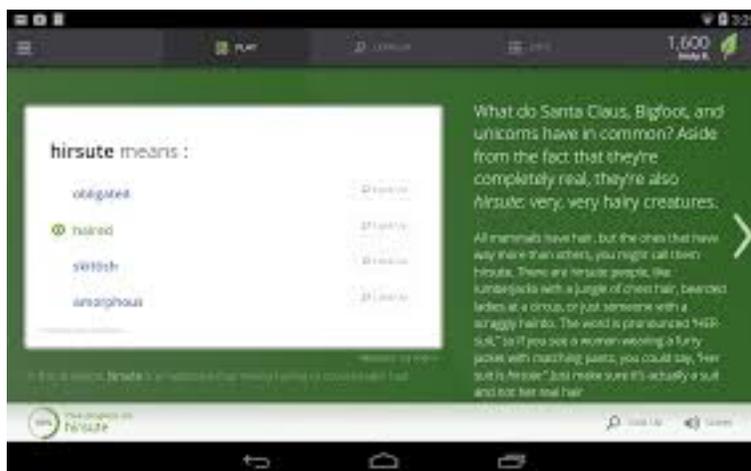
[The Science of Teaching Reading](#)

There's an old bumper sticker that says, "If you can read this, thank a teacher." But for too many students--actually, too many Americans young and old--their teacher is a big reason why they struggle with reading. But it's not the teacher's fault--in too many cases the teacher was never shown how to teach reading properly. To read more, click [here](#).

Resources

1. **Vocabulary.com (FREE)**

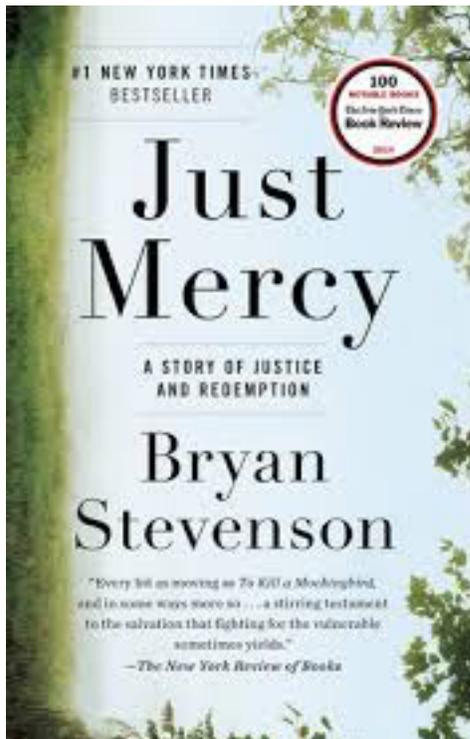
Vocabulary.com has its roots in the [Visual Thesaurus](#), the interactive thesaurus and dictionary developed by the team at [Thinkmap](#), a software company known for using visualization to facilitate communication, learning, and discovery. As the Visual Thesaurus evolved, we recognized the need for an instructional technology that would empower learners to unpack the complexity and nuances of the English language in a way that was systematic, engaging and adaptive. Our multidisciplinary team of educators, lexicographers, data scientists, and developers, united by a love of words and a good challenge, designed and built Vocabulary.com. To sign up, click [here](#).



Book of the Week

[Just Mercy](#) by Bryan Stevenson

Synopsis: Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man who was sentenced to die for a notorious murder he insisted he didn't commit. The case drew Bryan into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination, and legal brinkmanship—and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever.



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please e-mail info@theeducatorsroom.com*

About The Educator's Room Newsletter

Mission and focus:

This weekly newsletter was created to keep teachers, principals, superintendents and other leaders informed about teaching and learning.

[The Educator's Room](#) mission is one that is simple, yet straightforward for so many teachers: To empower teachers to be the **experts in education**. Through articles, events, and social media we will advocate for honest dialogue with teachers about how to improve public education. This mission is especially important when reporting on education in our community; therefore, we commit our readers to **integrity, accuracy, and independence** in education reporting. As a way to reinforce these principals we vow to be transparent in our sources for revenue to include (but not limited to): contributions from readers; paid sponsorships through our website and email newsletter, major donations from foundations, our jobs board and our paid webinars. This belief of being diversified on how we monetize solidifies our independence and allows us to report new ethically.

Before highlighting any article, we take into carefully consideration the publication, date of publishing and intent of the writing. We value articles written by fellow educators, practitioners, or researchers. If you are interested in having your writing featured, please send an email to info@theeducatorsroom.com.

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