Digestible #30

Silly Fun

It's Friday. At least, that's what the calendar tells us; sometimes it's hard to know in the "new normal," right? Friday is supposed to be the day for fun, so today, we are sharing **two tips for ways you can connect with your fellow faculty and staff, families and students for a little fun.** We're taking a hiatus next week from these "digestibles." We'll be back again May 11th with fresh ideas and inspiration.

Alecia at AIMS

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Flat Stanley.... Teacher

Elementary educators are well-versed in the world of Flat Stanley -- the paper cartoon character. "Students mail their Stanley to someone, such as a friend or relative in another country, or a student at another school participating in the program. The person receiving the Flat Stanley is asked to take a picture with the cut-out doll in various locations and to send a letter back, either via email or regular mail, to the student recounting Flat Stanley's adventures along with the accompanying photo." (Wikipedia) So what's the new idea? **Teachers at East Elementary in North Carolina** sent "flat" versions of themselves to their students, and the students are the ones that host the teacher, this time. Consider sending your own flat teacher to your students via snail mail. Make it a writing assignment for a week or two and ask them to either mail these back or to send back phone images and photos of text entries! Maybe even use **Flipgrid** or **Seesaw** to send responses so
everyone can see if you want to make it a digital project.

Room for Fun

"Today was March 60th!" one of our webinar attendees typed today into the chat. He was right, for some it feels as if time is standing still. So what can we do? It's time to start thinking about fun. Some are offering informal lunches for faculty, including intentionally silly activities like the bingo board to the left. A favorite? "You started talking when your mic was off." Yes, check! Levity is important for bonding! Some are offering lunch bunches for small groups of kids to just share a meal, and some are offering lunch dates with individual students AND parents. Those smaller meetings offer a way to truly understand how your students are feeling and including the families is critical for making sure #indyschool parents are connected and on-board for the long haul. Here are more virtual team building activities you can do to crank down the "zoombie" factor.

As we close out April and National Poetry Month, our final entry will be from a teacher, Jessica Salfia, who took the FIRST LINES of emails sent to her during Coronavirus stay-at-home orders and compiled them into a poem. The results are remarkable.
The First Lines of Emails I’ve Received While Quarantining

In these uncertain times
as we navigate the new normal,
Are you willing to share your ideas and solutions?
As you know, many people are struggling.

I know you are up against it:
the digital landscape.
We share your concerns.
As you know, many people are struggling.

We hope this note finds you and your family safe.
We’ve never seen anything like this before.
Here are 25 Distance Learning Tips!
As you know, many people are struggling.

Feeling Fiesta today? Happy Taco Tuesday!
Calories don’t count during a pandemic.
Grocers report flour shortages as more people are baking than ever!
As you know, many people are struggling.

Count your blessings. Share your blessings.
Get Free Curb-side pick up or ship to your house!
Chicken! Lemon! Artichokes!
As you know, many people are struggling.

How are you inspiring greatness today?
We have a cure for your cabin fever.
Pandemic dial-in town hall TONIGHT!
As you know, many people are struggling.

Mother’s Day looks a little different this year.
You’re invited to shop all jeans for 50% off!
Yes, buy 1, get 1 free!
As you know, many people are struggling.

Call us to discuss a loan extension without penalty.
ACT NOW: tell Congress Charters should Not Line their Pockets During the COVID crisis.
Now shipping facemasks as recommended by the CDC.
As you know, many people are struggling.

This is not normal.