

September Brainwork

"Good teaching is one-fourth preparation and three-fourths theater." Gail Godwin, American Writer

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
September 2 nd is "Numismatists' Day". Who would be celebrating today? (Numismatists are coin collectors)	September is "Honey Month". Make a list of things you hope to "stick to" this school year.	What did you worry about on the first day of school? What do you think your teacher worried about? How about your principal?	For some children, a new school year means a new pair of shoes. In rank order, list 5 of the criteria you use for buying new shoes. Then list 5 of the criteria your mom or dad uses.	Complete a PMI (plus, minus, interesting) chart for the first week of the new school year.
September 10 is "Swap Ideas Day". What is an idea you have to swap? With whom would you most like to swap ideas?	This summer: I read... I discovered... I learned... I met...	Select any 2 items in your classroom that are different from each other. Combine them to make something new and useful. Explain what it is and how it works.	Which letter is the best swimmer in a bowl of alphabet soup? Which letter has the most fun? Which letter does not like being in a bowl of soup?	How is a school year like: A sponge? A pizza? A zipper? Make your own analogy: "A school year is like a _____ because _____."
Learn a new word: The students were surprised by the <i>euphonious</i> tone of their new teacher's voice on the first day of school.	There is a song called "Time in a Bottle". What if we were able to "save" special times in bottles and experience them over again?	September 19 is "International Day of Peace". What would you do to persuade people around the world to honor this day?	Research challenge: Was it possible for George Washington to play a piano in the White House? (No, he died in 1799; the White House was finished in 1807.)	Which question word is smartest - "who", "what", "when", "where" or "why"? Defend your choice.
Sept. 22, 1903 - Italo Marchionna filed a patent for an ice cream cone. With 4 flavors of ice cream and 3 toppings, how many combinations can you make? Draw a picture.	Autumn Brainstorming Give yourself 5 minutes to list: Things that fall Things that change color New uses for old leaves	Students in some schools don't have a long summer vacation. They have several shorter vacations throughout the year. What are the pluses & minuses of this "modified calendar"?	Sept. 26, 1985 - Shamu became the first orca to be born in captivity who survived. Do you think whales and other sea creatures should be trained to do tricks for humans?	September 27 is Ancestor Appreciation Day. Why do you think it is important to acknowledge and appreciate our ancestors?
The answer is "by the end of September". What are the questions? Think of at least three unusual questions.	The last week of September is "National Imperfection Week". When is something more valuable when it has imperfections than when it is perfect?	Learn a new word: During the first few days of school, John entertained his classmates with lively descriptions of his summer <i>peregrinations</i> .	Which day of the week thinks that it is the most interesting? Why does it think that? Which thinks that it is the least interesting? Why?	Complete a PMI (plus, minus, interesting) chart for the first month of the 2007-2008 school year.

