

# Red River United

Caddo Federation  
of Teachers &  
Support Personnel



Bossier Federation  
of Teachers &  
School Employees

## Two Great School Districts! One Super Organization!

Newsletter Volume 3: Issue 4, January 2013



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RRU President

### *Dealing with Incidences of School Violence\**

When one thinks of school violence, often the first thing to come to mind is school shootings. Although events such as Newtown, Conn. are rare, some students face violence in school every day—ranging from bullying to rape to suicide and murder. Violence must never be tolerated.

Having effective prevention and response plans can be crucial in dealing with multiple forms of school violence. However, before being able to identify early warning signs, the school first must build the foundation and capacity to identify these signs. Schools need to create a caring school community where they have encouraging step-by-step reporting procedures, programs to continually train educators about warning signs, and policies that foster a partnership between the student's family and the school.

After creating a strong school foundation, what is most important in preventing and dealing with school violence is noticing student behavior problems, and recognizing those either at risk for committing violence or those who already are victims. *Safeguarding our Children: An Action Guide*, created by the U.S. departments of Justice and Education, is a guide for schools to understand the steps in using early intervention through five basic principles, including:

- Do no harm to the student;
- Understand violence and aggression within a context;
- Avoid stereotypes;
- View warning signs with a developmental context;
- Understand that children typically exhibit multiple warning signs.

Preventing violence in schools will improve a school's learning environment and create a safer community.

#### Resources

The departments of Education and Justice as well as the American Institutes for Research created a report called *Safeguarding Our Children: An Action Guide* to educate schools on how to prevent violence and deal with it when it occurs.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is also a good resource to find data and statistics on school violence, prevention tools and additional resources.

The National Parent Teacher Association (PTA) provides resources for encouraging conversations about the prevention of bullying in school communities.

The Center for Effective Collaboration and Practice provides many resources related to school violence prevention and intervention.

\*REPRINT

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Questions, comments, concerns, and/or ideas? Email us at [redriverunited\[@\]redriverunited.org](mailto:redriverunited[@]redriverunited.org). Still not a member? [Join now!](#)

## *Simple Things You Can Do To Protect Yourself and Your Job*



- Make sure to read your district's computer usage policy.
- You may be allowed to use a district computer for personal use, but be careful!
- Emails may be subject to an Open Records request, even if they are not school-related.
- Never loan your district computer to anyone.
- Change your password frequently.
- Do not give your password to anyone.
- Always log off your computer when not in active use.
- Remember that even if you delete something, it may still be on the computer.
- If it has one, read your district's social media policy. Read it again.
- Make sure to check your privacy settings on all of your personal social media pages. Your default privacy settings should be set to "Friends."
- Don't friend students or their parents unless you have a page specifically for them. EVER.
- Ask your friends not to "tag" you in photos.
- Google yourself. If it's out there, a student will find it.
- Don't post photos of students online.
- Do not post any comment online that might make it possible to identify a student.
- Do not post comments about a student's health, whether positive or negative.
- Do not gripe online about students, parents, colleagues, supervisors or the district.

NOTE: social media can be dangerous, never "friend" students, parents, colleagues, or supervisors on your private page. This tends to blur the boundaries of professional versus private communications.

Previous articles:

[CFT/SP October 2010 Newsletter - User Beware! Social Networking Can Be Dangerous!](#)

[CFT/SP November 2010 Newsletter - Don't Let a Bad Day End Up on YouTube.](#)

### *Teacher Tip*

*Teacher Tip: Wallwisher.com is "perhaps the easiest site for children to use. Pose questions, get their answers, and give them feedback — all on the same page." Click here to see an example: <http://wallwisher.com/wall/1rbmyjr47x>.*

*Submit a Teacher Tip by filling out this [form](#). You can also contact the Red River United office at 318-424-4579 or email [redriverunited@redriverunited.org](mailto:redriverunited@redriverunited.org). If we use your Teacher Tip online, we will pay you \$25.*



### **Rate of Louisiana teachers retiring spikes**

<http://theadvocate.com/news/4902526-123/rate-of-teachers-retiringspikes>

Editorial: Changes to teacher evaluation system welcome news

<http://www.americanpress.com/AP-Editorial-1-15-13>

### **Walter Tutka, New Jersey Teacher, Fired After Giving Student Bible, Sharing Verse**

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/01/15/walter-tutka-new-jersey-t\\_n\\_2481643.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/01/15/walter-tutka-new-jersey-t_n_2481643.html)

South Carolina's *Union Daily Times* - **Anthony urges teachers to rally together and vote**

[http://www.uniondailytimes.com/view/full\\_story/21416794/article-Anthony-urges-teachers-to-rally-together-and-vote](http://www.uniondailytimes.com/view/full_story/21416794/article-Anthony-urges-teachers-to-rally-together-and-vote)

### **Study: We've figured out what makes a good teacher**

<http://www.foothillsmediagroup.com/articles/2013/01/15/litchfield/news/doc50f5895b8505a254093063.txt>

### **Obama's education secretary staying**

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2013/01/14/obama-education-secretary-staying/>

### **Obama signs Bachmann-backed bill to boost education for foster kids**

<http://www.startribune.com/blogs/186979121.html>

Practical Money Skills:

**Teach Your 9–12 Graders Personal Finance** Using our New Curriculum

Our dynamic new high school curriculum is available for you to utilize in your classroom.

[View the curriculum](#)

[Download the iBook for iPad](#)

### **Practical Money Matters Articles**

<http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/personalfinance/experts/practicalmoneymatters/columns/articles.php>

### **My View: Above all, teachers are in it for the kids**

[http://schoolsoftthought.blogs.cnn.com/2012/12/17/my-view-above-all-teachers-are-in-it-for-the-kids/?hpt=hp\\_t2](http://schoolsoftthought.blogs.cnn.com/2012/12/17/my-view-above-all-teachers-are-in-it-for-the-kids/?hpt=hp_t2)

### **Are Your Teachers Empowered? Here are five great schools where they are.**

<http://www.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3757692>

### **26 Amazing Facts About Finland's Unorthodox Education System**

<http://www.businessinsider.com/finland-education-school-2011-12?op=1#ixzz2EIafFNHh>

**Longer school day? How five states are trying to change education.** Five states are participating in a pilot project designed to recast and improve education in low-income communities by leveraging a longer school day or year in innovative ways.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Education/2012/1203/Longer-school-day-How-five-states-are-trying-to-change-education>

### **Nominate an Innovative Educator**

Each month, Visa honors an educator who is innovative in helping students lay the foundation for future financial success. If you or a teacher you know is using Practical Money Skills' curriculum or otherwise enriching students with lessons in financial literacy, tell us about it. [Nominate an Innovative Educator](#)

## Red River United After Hours/New Teacher Academy



**After Hours:** Every Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday  
By Appointment  
4 p.m.—5 p.m. or 5 p.m.—6 p.m.  
One-to-One, Personalized Instruction

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### New Teacher Academy

**OPEN TO ALL TEACHERS, NEW AND VETERAN**

**New Teacher Academy:** *Second Saturdays of the Month, Group Seminar*

**Professional Development for ALL TEACHERS**

Foundations of Effective Teaching \* Strategies for Teacher Success

As a participant you will learn:

Classroom management

Establishing the learning environment

Managing student behavior

Interactive instructional strategies

Maximizing time on task

Strategies for students with severe behavior problems

Improve the academic performance of all students

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**aft** **DISASTER RELIEF**  
**SUPERSTORM SANDY**  
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### *Peace First seeks nominations*

The AFT is partnering with Peace First to launch the Peace First Prize, a national campaign to identify and celebrate young peacemakers. Peace First is looking for five young people who are making a difference in their communities—by launching initiatives to stop bullying, reclaim green spaces, end gang violence or similar projects. Each will receive \$50,000 and a two-year fellowship to further their peace-making work. To nominate students (ages 8 to 22) or to have them apply, go to [www.peacefirst.org/prize](http://www.peacefirst.org/prize).



**GET MORE FROM  
MEMBERSHIP**

## CUT YOUR LOSSES

**NOW IS YOUR TIME TO START FRESH**

### + Credit and Budget Counseling

Certified credit counselors are available  
24 hours a day.



+ for more information about this and other savings:  
**[aft.org/members](http://aft.org/members)**

**AFT +** is your advocate. For information on all **AFT +** programs, call 800-238-1133, ext. 8643, or e-mail [aftplus@aft.org](mailto:aftplus@aft.org). The AFT has an expense reimbursement and/or endorsement arrangement for marketing this program. For more information, please contact AFT Financial Services at 800-238-1133, ext. 4493; send an e-mail to [disclosureinfo@aft.org](mailto:disclosureinfo@aft.org); or visit [www.aft.org/benefits/disclosure](http://www.aft.org/benefits/disclosure).

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