

Jelly Bean Tabloid Day- by Barbie Shukster

- ✓ I always ran the typical tabloid day. Timed stations in a rotational system, kids in teams and stations run by teachers or parent volunteers. I found that the adults got very tired and cranky by the end of the day. Some of the teachers said they just dreaded tabloid day, because they were just too tired and sore by day's end.
- ✓ A parent-volunteer, Dolores Pelland of Machray School, who happened to be a part-time phys.ed. teacher, told me about her tabloid day. She got the idea from yet another phys.ed. teacher. The tabloid day had no teams, no timed rotation, just kids on their own, some with partners, having fun, going where ever, at whatever speed they choose.
- ✓ ***I was blown away. I loved it immediately.***
- ✓ Every year that I have done this, it has had slight changes. I started having our grade 6 leadership students run the stations. The teachers just had to supervise and the students were more into having fun with the kids.
- ✓ Now, I have evolved into organized chaos with our student leadership working in pairs with our high school leadership team. (Phys.ed teacher, Brad Purpur from Daniel MacIntyre). The high school leaders now supervise my leaders. The teachers just have to be on "walk about duty" and make sure trouble spots are taken care of.

How did I get it going, design it, and figure it out. I just thought about the concepts and worked around what I had. You can do it too.

- ✓ Map of available space. Include in your map: the gym, the outdoor layout of playgrounds, climbers, basketball nets, baseball diamond, hardtop areas, front of the school, tennis courts, etc.
- ✓ Outdoor map and an indoor map in case of rain.
- ✓ When I was at a smaller school (150 students) I always used an indoor plan in case of rain, however, when I went to a larger school (500 students), I used an alternate day plan for our special day.
- ✓ Each station should have 3 levels of difficulty. Students in grade 1 should be challenged as well as grade 5 students being challenged. One jellybean should be earned/station. It doesn't matter how many times they go to that station or what level they earn, they still only earn one bean. The most beans a child can earn at the end of the day is 35. Not all of the children do.
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- ✓ Decide if you want to have an all day event or only half the day. When I came to O.V.Jewitt School the staff was used to a half- day event.
- ✓ I wanted a full day so I tried to include our Terry Fox Walk to break up the day a bit.

- ✓ Go into your equipment room and see what is available to create stations. Some of your specialty items could be a station in them selves. Eg. Box hockey game or Frisbee toss stand.
- ✓ Each student is given a baggie and a score card (see example in hand out).
- ✓ Students decide if they want to travel alone or if they want a buddy. I encourage students to start out with a friend or two and then if they want to separate they may.
- ✓ After a student has been to a station, the leader marks the score card with their initials and the level earned. Eg. B.W. level 3. That child is now eligible to go to the jelly bean bank to collect a bean. Some children go immediately, while some children wait and go when they have earned a few or have completed their scorecard.
- ✓ When the students' show me their score cards, I ask if they earned any level 3's. I encourage students who finish early or rush through it to go back and try to get more level 3's. If they get all level 3's, I then have a sheet of stickers available for them to choose one from.
- ✓ Budget: I ask our parent council for \$200.00 for this day. I have learned to ask for money when it benefits all the students in the school. It is really hard for the parents to say no.
- ✓ The office also contributes money to pay for cookies and juice to give the volunteers for helping out.
- ✓ Be creative with your equipment, bring some from home, borrow some from nearby schools. Try and change some of the stations from year to year.
- ✓ You can do this day without leaders, but your teachers will have to take a more active roll.
- ✓ We begin at 9:00 a.m. with our leaders setting up stations. By 9:10 we are ready to go. We have fun all morning, not breaking for recess and stop at 11:50.a.m. We have a regular lunch and begin again at 1:00. We stop at 1:50 p.m. Students then can go for their last jellybean pick up at the bank....at 2:00 students go out for a regular recess break and then at 2:15 return to their class room teachers to begin the Terry Fox Walk. Each grade level signs up for a near by park walk and play time....returning by 3:30 in time for home dismissal. While teachers are walking with their students I am free to tidy up the gym with the leaders who do not go with classrooms on the walk.
- ✓ Students are encouraged to bring in a loonie to donate to the Cancer Society. Many bring in more.

Little extras:

- ✓ Parents do face painting with a retired teacher supervising them.
- ✓ Equipment is given out the day before the tabloid day.

- ✓ Student leaders in our school do an assignment during language arts class. This sheet is included with your handout. The leaders are asked questions like: Where is their station? What equipment is needed? Who is your supervising teacher? What stations are you allowed to switch with and what time do you need to stay at your original station??? The leaders report to me 2-3 at a time to pick up their equipment.
- ✓ Set up the climber the day before with the mats so you don't have to do it the morning. One less thing to do.
- ✓ Make a "to do" list. Check things off as you go. Add changes you want to make for the next year.
- ✓ Morning of: Put up wooden stakes around school numbered 1-35. I keep these from year to year. Laminate the numbers.
- ✓ Morning meet with parents and high school volunteers.
- ✓ Allergies: Keep a list of students with allergies to peanuts etc. at the bank. I have made one teacher in charge of the bank. I call her the "manager" and the other people are the "tellers". They really get into this and make a sign and wear special shirts and hats and pretend they are a bank. One year we even had a hold up with a masked bandit.....We do get a bit carried away, but all in the name of fun. Skittles are given to the children who have allergies and they are only allowed to get beans from the manager. Provide rubber gloves.
- ✓ Remember you are the organizer. You must delegate responsibility to others. Eg. The bank. The more organized you are the smoother it will run. You should just cruise on the day of the tabloid.
- ✓ Ask the principal or vice principal to take turns in "walk about". They should be involved and see how well the day is organized and run. They will never see the kids so happy as they will on this day. Students in my school start asking the first day back in September, When is tabloid day??? We even had a student transfer schools and ask their new phys.ed. teacher when jellybean day was? The teacher had to call me and ask about this special event....
- ✓ First Aid should be at the bank.

Fabulous day, try it, you won't be sorry.

Good luck,

Barbie Shukster

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