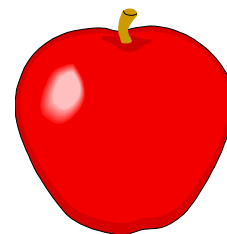


CHALKDUST

www.northcentraloea.org



What's Inside

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www.northcentraloea.org

President's Column:

Being Thankful

- Brad Strong

As I sit on the eve of my 41st Birthday, I am reminded of just how good a life I have had to this point. I am certain that God has looked down on me and decided to bless my life. From my loving family, to where I live, to having a great job, to wonderful friends, to being a respected teacher and community member; my life is good.

Over 100 years ago Robert Lewis Stevenson devised these rules to live happier:

- 1) **Make up your mind to be happy**
- 2) **Make the best of your circumstances**
- 3) **Don't take yourself too seriously**
- 4) **Don't let criticism worry you**
- 5) **Don't let others set your standards**
- 6) **Do things you enjoy – without going in debt**
- 7) **Don't borrow imaginary trouble**
- 8) **Since hate poisons the soul, don't hold grudges**
- 9) **Avoid people who make you unhappy**
- 10) **Have many interests**
- 11) **Don't brood over mistakes**
- 12) **Don't be the one who never gets over things**
- 13) **Stay busy at something**
- 14) **Don't live in the past**

I have tried to live my life by these rules, sometimes I do better than others, but I always find myself referring back to them and reevaluating the decisions I make in my everyday life.

Here are some real life applications of Stevenson's rules to live happier in my life:

On a recent snow day from school, I found myself sitting at The Ohio State University Mansfield Campus with my 18 year daughter (who made the dean's list last quarter). She had asked me to drive her out to the college because of

the poor road conditions. Now on the surface that sounds great, but let's investigate a little further. She has informed her mother and me that she wants to take a road trip this summer to North Carolina with her girlfriends. So, right now Meg and I have an 18 year old that will do anything we ask, for a price. So guess whose car we used to drive out to the campus? You guessed right, my car, using my gas, my insurance, my new tires, my oil change, etc. I drove, I bought the coffee, I bought lunch, and I got to spend some time with my oldest daughter. **Life lesson: be thankful for getting to use your gas and pay for lunch, additional money will be earned, but time with your children can never be bought! Make the best of your circumstances and make up your mind to be happy.**

The February 2010 snow storm round two reminded me that I live in Mansfield, Ohio. Now Mansfield is not a glamorous city, it doesn't have all the lights of a big city, it doesn't even have enough money to properly plow the streets or pick up the leaves before it snows, but it is my city. It is where I have chosen to live, work, and raise a family. It has its problems like every

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NCOEA 2009-2010 Calendar

April 8	*NCOEA Executive Com.
April 20	NC Emerging Leaders Mansfield Sr. H.S., 4:45pm, Tentative
April 26	NCOEA Spring RA, Mansfield Sr. H.S., 5:00 pm
May 3-7	Teacher Appreciation Week
May 7-8	OEA Spring RA, Veterans Memorial, Columbus, 9:00am
May 13	*NCOEA Executive Com.
June 5	NEA Delegate Briefing Crowne Plaza North, Col.
June 18-19	NCOEA Retreat, Mohican
July 1-6	NEA Representative Assembly, New Orleans
August 11	Treasurers' Workshop, Mansfield Sr. H.S., 9:00 am
September 2	*NCOEA Executive Com.
October 7	*NCOEA Executive Com.
November 4	*NCOEA Executive Com.
November 13	NCOEA Fall RA, Mansfield Sr. H.S., 8:00 am
January 6, 2011	*NCOEA Executive Com.
February 3	*NCOEA Executive Com.
March 3	*NCOEA Executive Com.
April 7	*NCOEA Executive Com.
April 26	NCOEA Spring RA, Mansfield Sr. H.S., 5:00 pm
May 12	*NCOEA Executive Com.
June 17-18	NCOEA Retreat, Mohican

*All NCOEA Executive Committee Meetings begin at 6:00 pm, at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, at Route 42 North and Route 30 East in Mansfield. All NCOEA members are welcome to attend. Pizza, salad and snacks are served at 5:15pm.



Brad Strong, NCOEA President