

## Talk about selflessness

*By Iantha Ussin*

Talk about selflessness. Talk about commitment. Talk about devotion. This teacher defines devotion. At school early every morning to make sure everything is in place for the day to go smoothly, and staying late to...

- Grade the papers to
- Gather the data to
- Restructure groups for tomorrow to make sure those who didn't quite get it are grouped with someone or someone's who did
- Tweak the lesson that was written in the lesson plan over the weekend ( a weekend that you did nothing but plan for the week) because what you thought would happen in class that day didn't quite go the way you saw it in your head
- Make phone calls to the parents of those 2 behavior problems that just won't quit
- And answer that one parent's e-mail...AGAIN...to say the same thing...  
there is no extra credit that your child can do to bring his grade up.

And Christmas Break was supposed to be the break to really relax, but this teacher couldn't help but FINALLY look at that list of websites that was given at the last professional learning session...the websites that are supposed to make life in the classroom a little bit easier. This teacher concludes that they will definitely be helpful, so hours upon hours are spent making each website fit in some way with those key standards and lo and behold, the lesson planning begins...on Christmas Break! The break whizzes by and more than half of it was spent on finding new ways to incorporate that technology into the classroom and engage students in a new way. And that family that was in the plans for a quick visit...well, Spring Break is coming. The visit is postponed until then.

Oooo...this would be a good reward for the students who win the pre-test challenge. It's perfect for our race car, learning zone theme...But the race car suckers are \$2 a piece...times groups of 6...times 4 classes... That's \$48!! But they're so perfect! Man, I can see them really working hard to win them and when I put them on the race car display and play that Nascar music that I have to download from iTunes. MAN! I think I can put this \$48 on my credit card because I need the cash to buy that colored paper I need for the activity we're doing next week.

And the basketball teams are playing Tuesday AND Thursday this week since they made it to the playoffs. This teacher can't miss that. Not since basketball is the only way Ryan, on the boys' team, and Kendra, on the girls' team will respect what's being taught and who's teaching it. They made it pretty clear that basketball comes first, and if they get teacher support, they'll not only ball on the court, but ball in the classroom too. This teacher skips dinner to be there—BOTH days.

Talk about devotion. Talk about DE-VO-TION!

And who knew this teacher was skipping a planning period two days a week to counsel a student who's having some difficulties at home, and REFUSES to talk to anyone else? Who knew that? Who knew this teacher was doing all of that? Who knew this teacher was so devoted to the call? There are always eyes that are watching, and today, somebody sees. Somebody sees that teacher. And if you'll look under your seat for the red apple, you'll know just who you are!