



South Georgia
History Project

The Wiregrass Telegraph

Treeless
Edition

Promoting Educational Excellence in U. S. History!

Learning Focused Schools

This is first in a series of newsletters to keep you up with what's going on in our school systems and state and what I see and hear while I'm out in your schools. I've spent the last two days in the same Learning Focused School classes that I'm sure you've already sat through. I've seen lots of frustrations voiced by teachers – those frustrations run the gamut from doubts about whether this program will join the long list of programs we've already endured, more new jargon to learn and more demands on your already severely constrained time resources. It helps when teachers can get together and voice those frustrations because teaching tends to be a very lonely profession. When the classroom door closes, the teacher is isolated and generally has little idea of what's happening in the classrooms around her. After a while most teachers seem to think that isolation is how it's supposed to be.

But having mentioned the negative aspects of this new program, most teachers are recognizing the beneficial aspects of LFS. I've heard general agreement that organizational skills and methods have been helped and that LFS has resulted in increased awareness of the things that good teachers have always done. After all, that's the bottom line here – best practices – those classroom techniques and skills that successful teachers have been doing for a long time. So if you're feeling

overwhelmed by the requirements that seem to be multiplying like anxieties in an IRS audit, take heart – others are feeling the same things and dealing with them like one deals with the task of eating an elephant. You eat that elephant one bite at a time.

What's With The Name?

Just what is wiregrass and why do we see that name all over south Georgia? We'll have a brief history/ecology lesson next week that may spark interest in a lesson for your students.

Now Available

I've just put the finishing touches on a Powerpoint presentation of 60 slides that show the history of the Vietnam War in pictures. During my history teaching days, I found this to be a very successful way to give students a feel and taste for what it was like. The last few slides are taken from my personal photo album (I was skinny then!) but those pictures in particular seem to help students. The presentation comes on a CD which also has the Vietnam clip from *Forrest Gump* that I've always thought is very realistic. You can order the disk with or without me. I'll come present it if you want me to.

Help Me Out Here!!

What do you have to say? How's it going in your school so far this year? Send me your articles and I'll publish them. Share with our support group!!