

# SUBSTITUTE NEWSLETTER #2 – 2016/2017



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**Emmett Independent School District:  
Emmett Ensures Educational Excellence**

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## It's a Great Time to be a Substitute Teacher

It's hard to believe it's **March**, sometimes called the "**brain drain**" month. It's been a bit strange these past two months and it's starting to **feel like spring**. We're all getting restless! The kids (and adults) are starting to drift into thoughts of springtime activities. **YOU are needed more than ever!** Our



teachers are tired and many are needing a little time off! If you want to work a bunch, this is a ***great time to be a substitute teacher!*** There will be plenty of opportunity to work. So, ***PLEASE help us out*** by filling as many openings as you can. We greatly appreciate you and what you do for us. **Thank You**, in advance!

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## Stephen Covey and the Seven Habits



Have you ever read **The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People**? I found it to be one of the most powerful and empowering books I've ever read. It helped me in both my personal and professional lives. If you have read it, read it again. If you haven't, pick up a copy. Here are the seven habits in a nutshell.

**Habit 1: Be Proactive** – Your decisions are the primary determining factor for effectiveness. Take responsibility for your choices and the consequences that follow.

**Habit 2: Begin with the End in Mind**–Start by determining where you want to be. Make long-term goals, for both your personal and professional lives.

**Habit 3: Put First Things First** – Prioritize, plan and execute your week's tasks based on importance rather than urgency.

**Habit 4: Think Win-Win** - Genuinely strive for mutually beneficial solutions or agreements. A "win" for all is ultimately a better long-term resolution.

**Habit 5: Seek First to Understand, then to be Understood** – This creates an atmosphere of caring, and positive problem solving.

**Habit 6: Synergize** – Combine the strengths of people through positive teamwork (collaboration), so as to achieve goals no one person could have done alone.

**Habit 7: Sharpen the Saw** – Balance and renew your resources, energy and health.

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## The Emmett Instructional Model

When we prepare lessons for our students, we need to be aware of what they already do and do not know. As we prepare to teach, we need to **build on previous learning and experiences**. To do this, we often need to "**scaffold**" information, that is, provide support during the learning process. Scaffolding gives students a context, a foundation from which to understand the new information that will be introduced. How do you do this? You might need to **pre-teach vocabulary**, provide **visual aids** such as graphic organizers and/or have **students share their experiences** and knowledge about the subject.



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Component	Definition	Elements
Building Background	An engaging connection between prior knowledge and new, scaffolded information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Determining and teaching academic vocabulary</li> <li>- Concepts linked to student's background or experiences</li> <li>- Links between past academic learning and new academic learning</li> </ul>
Comprehensible Input	An engaging, clear and focused lesson using a variety of methods and strategies to develop student understanding of the lesson objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clear explanation of academic tasks</li> <li>- Appropriate speech</li> <li>- Using a variety of instructional strategies</li> </ul>

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Fred Jones notes, **“Every student has a PH.D. in teacher management.** They had their degree in parent management before they came to kindergarten.” So, what can you do as they attempt to use this “knowledge” on you?

1. **Stay calm.** Getting upset can be seen as a sign of weakness.
2. **Turn toward the behavior.** Point your toes in the direction of the student.
3. **Notice the subtle behaviors.**
4. **Watch your body language.** Students notice the little things, like the clenching of your fists.
5. **Demonstrate calmness.** It's hard to argue with someone who is simply looking at you!

*"For teaching to be enjoyable, you must be able to simply relax and teach. Classroom management must be built from the ground up so that most problems do not occur." Dr. Fred Jones*

***The Patriot Center is in desperate need of subs. If you are interested in being on their substitute list please contact Heather Vaughn. She can direct you to the proper person in order to get some additional training.***

***Thank you! Jay Hummel – Asst. Superintendent***



**SPRING IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!**