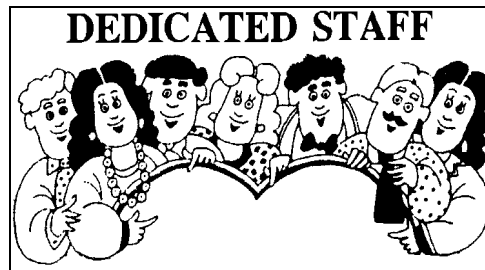


11 WAYS TO SUPPORT TEACHERS

Based on an article by Esther Stokwell in *Children's Ministry Magazine*, May/June, 199.,



1. A **Teachers' Support Box** outside the Sunday Church School Office can serve 2 purposes: [a] Teachers can anonymously drop a note any time to express their feelings and needs. [b] Parishioners can send thank you notes to teachers or concerns about their students..
2. Establish a **teachers' fund** for each teacher to buy extra supplies.
3. **Surprise the teachers** with a cup of drinking water, tea or coffee in each teacher's classroom.
4. What to **help the teachers "blow the whistles"** to get their students' attention? Give each teacher a whistle or other fun noisemaker.
5. Let's **give our teachers visibility** in the church and help parents recognize their child's teacher. Post their teachers' photos in front of their classrooms, outside the Church School Office, and on at the beginning of the Church School year, on a Bulletin Board that everyone passes by.
6. To keep the lines of communication open, give out and collect simple teacher reports each week. Follow up on any concerns noted.
7. Give each teacher a key to the Church School Office. Having a key can save teachers time if you're not available.
8. Open all the classrooms as early as you can so that teachers can go in to prepare their lessons or set up the rooms in a creative way.
9. Give teachers small gifts to give to their children.
10. Make sure that your Church School has a list of substitutes that teachers can call upon or be a substitute.
11. Enlist youth group members to clean the preschool and nursery classrooms with teachers.

Originally printed in the *Spring 1998 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWSLETTER* of the Greek Orthodox Diocese of Pittsburgh, Phyllis Meshel Onest, M.Div., Director of Religious Education.