

The RESET Report

Chief Executive Officer: Harold Sharlin
Executive Director: John Meagher

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Back to School!

RESET Volunteers Get Ready for the Classroom

By Sherri Kohr

Early in my teaching career, I was teaching a lesson on floating and sinking to a group of Kindergarten students. We filled tubs with water and tested various objects to see if they would sink or float. I ended the class by asking “Do you think these objects would float in any other liquids? Go home and be scientists!”

The next day, I got a call from a bemused parent, who asked: “Mrs. Kohr, what did you teach in science class yesterday?” I answered, “We tested objects to see if they would sink or float in water.” The parent replied, “Well, Jeffrey really got into it. I walked into the bathroom last night, and there was my son . . . he had proudly ‘peed’ in a bucket and was testing his toothbrush to see if it would float!”

Volunteers for RESET have a great opportunity to create the Jeffreys (and Janaes) of tomorrow—the students that get excited to test hypotheses, ask questions, and look closely at the world around them. As many of you have already discovered, these students often have a refreshingly honest and charming spin on what they’re learning.

As the start of the new school year fast approaches, I have gathered a few tips that I hope will help you and your students in the months ahead:

1. **Help students to know why lessons, activities or assignments matter.** Begin your sessions by sharing stories about your professional careers and how the activities you have planned are relevant to children’s experiences today.
2. **Notify RESET’s Roberta Goren as soon as possible** of your school, grade and teacher preferences, because an early planning meeting with your teacher



Classroom Skills Developer, Sherri Kohr

creates the best possible atmosphere for learning.

3. **Speak only when students are quiet and ready.** The temptation to talk is great; but if you WAIT, the children will do all the work for you. “Shhh guys, she is trying to tell us something.” “Come on, stop talking. I want to see what he brought.” Your patience will pay off!

4. **Always overplan** and then *s l o w* down.

5. **Have fun!** The best way to pass on your love for science is to have fun doing it! Your enthusiasm will be infectious and make a difference for those students who might find science a little “scary.”

I look forward to meeting this year’s new volunteers and reconnecting with RESET veterans and friends. I would be honored to join you during one of your classroom sessions. Please contact me at sherri.kohr@gmail.com if you are interested in setting up an observation.

Note: Professor Kohr is RESET’s Classroom Skills Developer. She is available to observe volunteers during their sessions and provide feedback.

As RESET Starts a New School Year . . .

Teachers often ask that RESET experiments conducted during the school day link to science standards, so please review relevant Science Standards at www.resetonline.org under Learning Resources.

If you choose to volunteer in an out-of-school-time program, there is less emphasis on standards.

Please Share Your Successes with Us!

If you have a testimonial, a great photo, or a funny/touching student story to share, please send to Lyndi, RESET’s Communications Manager, at:

lyndi@fluentwriters.com

Science Quiz Answer:

The Glymphatic System



**P.O. Box 9400
Washington, DC 20016-9400**

Our brain has the ability to rid itself of toxins through a special system. What is it called?

... See inside for the answer

We are very grateful to the following funders who have awarded RESET grants since March 2016.

Thank you for your generous support!

American Airlines 

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