

Table of contents

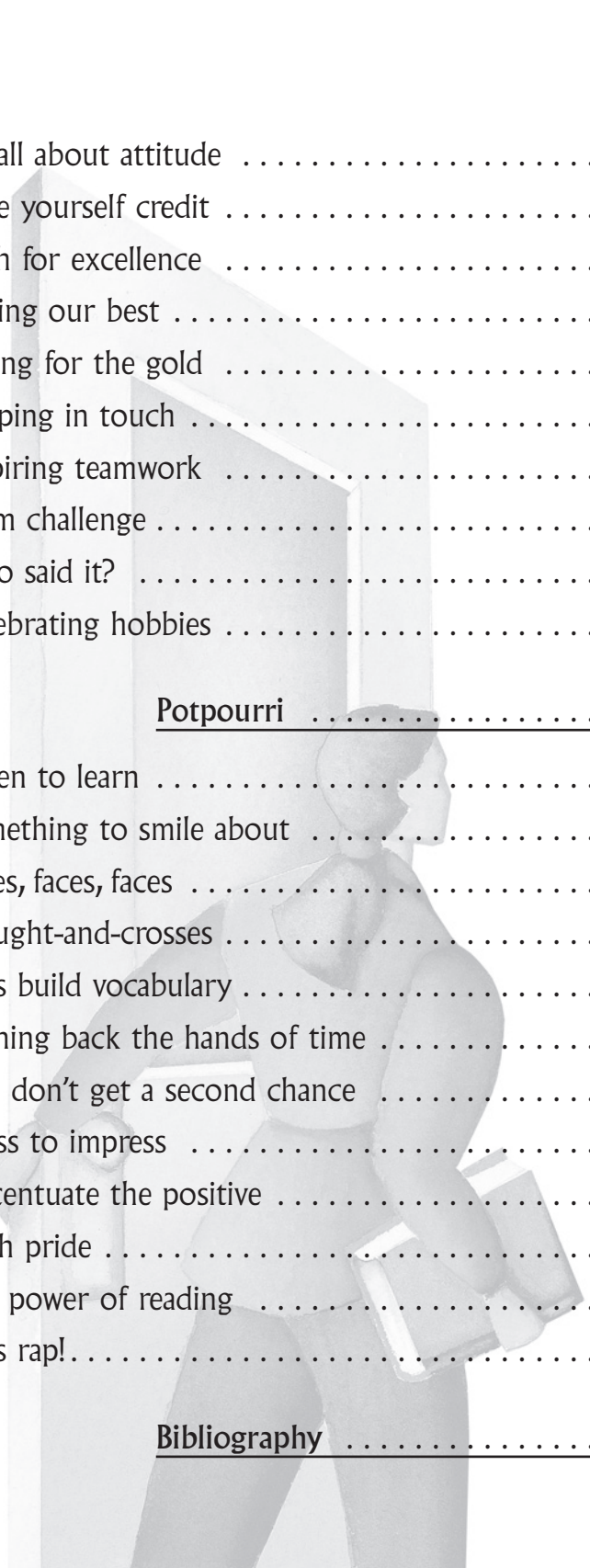
Introduction	7
<u>Ice breakers</u>	9
Get acquainted bingo	10
With pride and confidence	13
Guess who?	15
Group/Team résumés	17
<u>Students' perspectives</u>	19
Help wanted: Teacher	20
What teachers should expect from students	22
What students should expect from administrators	24
Video review	26
Teamwork: A deciding factor	28
Marks! Marks! Marks!	29
How do you like the subject?	31
<u>Believing and achieving</u>	33
Giving life purpose	34
Goals and strategies	38
Looking ahead	40
Dream power	42
Starting a career journey	43
Linking education to careers	45
Attitude is everything	46
Your attitude can make a difference	48
The attitude box	51

It's all about attitude	53
Give yourself credit	54
Push for excellence	56
Giving our best	58
Going for the gold	60
Keeping in touch	61
Inspiring teamwork	62
Team challenge	63
Who said it?	64
Celebrating hobbies	66

Potpourri 67

Listen to learn	68
Something to smile about	71
Faces, faces, faces	73
Nought-and-crosses	74
Let's build vocabulary	76
Turning back the hands of time	77
You don't get a second chance	80
Dress to impress	81
Accentuate the positive	82
With pride	84
The power of reading	86
Let's rap!	88

Bibliography 90



INTRODUCTION

- *'I enjoy your class!'*
- *'This class really makes me think!'*
- *'I look forward to this class as it is the highlight of my school day.'*
- *'Do you think I'll be able to have you as my teacher next year?'*
- *'My friends are interested in doing this subject!'*
- *'You are a great teacher!'*

These are all statements that, naturally, put a smile on a teacher's face and make teaching a satisfying career.

Getting to Know your Students: Great activities for home group teachers, goal setting and motivation contains ideas that motivate students and assist you, the teacher, to develop rapport and build an improved atmosphere within the class.

In the book, *In Search of Excellence*, author Thomas Peters speaks of 'staying close to the customer – learning their preferences and catering to them'. Just as this is advocated in the business world, so must it be in education. It is important to listen to our students.

Most educators would agree that it is becoming more and more challenging to maintain a high level of enthusiasm within the class setting. Gone are the days when a teacher uses only a textbook – today's students are asking for creativity and variety rather than strict concentration on content taught matter-of-factly and in the same manner on a day-to-day basis.

This book is a collection of enlivening activities covering a variety of content areas. However, many of the activities may be adapted to focus on a particular area. Several activities are planned to be specifically brief in order to be used as 'ice breakers' or to stimulate interest on days when participation or energy may be low.

The first section of the book presents high-interest activities to get the school year off to a great start. Getting acquainted, establishing pride in work satisfactorily completed and building group identity are included.

The second section is developed to help students look at and evaluate the teacher–student relationships and expectancies, to understand the role of school administrators, to consider the marking system from a personal standpoint and to review the overall impact of the course.

The third section provides activities to help students evaluate their own personal life goals, dreams and career ambitions, develop positive attitudes, inspire teamwork and build individual self confidence.

The fourth and final section entitled 'Potpourri' is made up of variety of activities to enliven even the dullest day, add interest to content-specific class sections and to motivate students to do their best to achieve not only personal success but be contributing members of the community.

'I like it when we do different things!'

'We don't only do work – we do fun things!'




You, too, will receive these or similar comments from your students with *Getting to Know your Students: Great activities for home group teachers, goalsetting and motivation.*



Get acquainted bingo

This is an excellent activity to start the year. Both teachers and students will benefit from this fun, high-energy activity.

Materials

-  one copy of the Get acquainted bingo sheet on page 11 for each student
-  class list from page 12 or a roll
-  prizes

Instructions

1. Students should approach others in the class to sign their name in one of the squares.
2. No-one's name should appear more than once.
3. The student possessing the sheet should not sign their name.
4. There should be nine names on the bingo sheet.
5. The teacher will call out names randomly from the class list or roll. If students have the name on their sheet, they can indicate with an 'X' to cover that particular block.
6. When a student's name is called, the box beside the student's name should be checked to ensure all student names are used. The game may require a second or even a third round of name-calling if student interest is sufficient.

(Note: the class list on page 12 may be reproduced for use in other ways, such as recording homework assignments, P.E. activities, excursion or class leadership assignments, parents–teacher conferences, disciplinary or achievement measures that are more unique to the individual classroom.)