

Well, here we are halfway through the year, and the winter doldrums may have set in. No matter how well you are doing with your staff morale-building, this may be a time of the year when things may slow down. So, no matter what holiday you celebrate, maybe it's time for some...

MERRY MOTIVATORS

HOW ABOUT A PARTY?

Since this month is full of holidays, why not have a staff holiday party? American businesses have been doing this for years. (Please don't get as wild as they do!) Plan something small during your class period, or do as one yearbook adviser and staff do and have a big bash away from school at the adviser's or editor's home.

MAYBE SOME SECRET PALS?

This staff begins the month of December by choosing secret pals; these are other members of the staff whose name they draw out of a hat. For the entire month of December, they leave notes of encouragement, small gifts of candy or other inexpensive trinkets and just generally do nice things for that person without him or her knowing who is doing it. Some staffs who have used this idea have liked it so well that they have carried it on throughout the year. At the big holiday party, each person presented his or her secret pal with a gag gift and told him or her who his or her secret pal was.

GREETING CARDS TOO?

Another fun idea for the holiday season is to send out your own greeting cards. Last year, I received a real nice photo Christmas card from one of my yearbook staffs who had taken their photo holding a sign wishing me Happy Holidays! Besides sending one to me, they also sent one to all the faculty and staff at their school, thanking them for being so tolerant of those interruptions and missed classes that yearbooks staffs sometimes need to exist. The yearbook staff also sent the cards to administrators (both at their school and at the district level) thanking them for their constant support. The school board was also on the yearbook staff's list. (Talk about building goodwill.) Lastly, the students sent cards to their parents thanking them for all they had put up with their son or daughter being gone, sometimes late into the evening.

YOU COULD EVEN DECORATE?

One of the best things you can do for the season is to decorate your staff room (if OK with your administration). You will be amazed how much decorations and a little tree, with holiday music playing on the stereo, can make your yearbook staff room the place to be in December. In addition think about decorating for other holidays and make your yearbook room the place to be all year long.



Christmas



Hanukkah



Kwanzaa



New Year!