



10

ways to have fun
with scholastic journalism

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FOOD



- × The quickest way to a students' heart is through their stomach!
- × Candy, bagels, cookies... it doesn't matter
- × Assign parents to bring dinners on deadline nights



2 STAFF T-SHIRTS

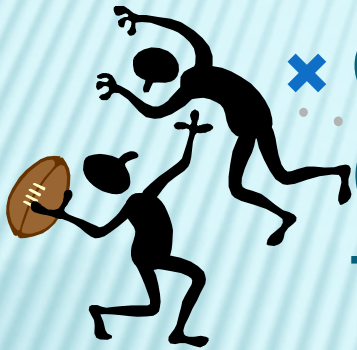
- × Let each staff design their own look
- × Talk to a local business about giving a break on cost in exchange for ads
- × Try to get everyone to have one
- × Pick a day (publication day, Friday, etc.) and encourage all to wear it
- × Show public that you take your publication seriously



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DEADLINE NIGHTS

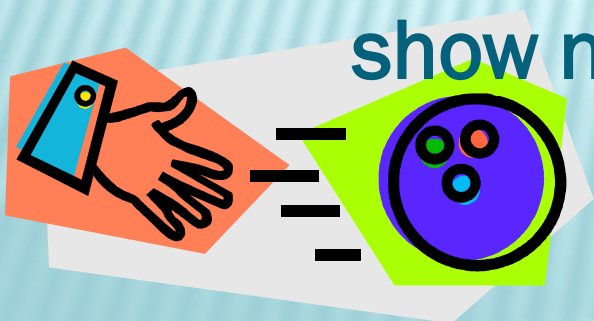
- × Have someone make a mix tape
- × Enjoy food brought in by parents
- × Come up with games for break times
(we play football or kick ball on the front lawn of our school)
- × Have Staff Assistants– every non-editor must come on a deadline night to assist (train future leaders)



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STAFF GATHERINGS

- × We have one before school, after school starts, at holidays and at end of the year
- × Make them outside of school
- × Try something fun like bowling, a movie, going to Chuck E. Cheese (the first time only a few will show– but when others talk about the fun, more show next time!)



5 HAVE CELEBRATIONS

- × Celebrate birthdays
(we do half birthdays
for summer ones)
- × Celebrate college
acceptances, sports wins, etc.
- × Celebrate awards big time!



6 ATTEND CONVENTIONS

- × JEA/NSPA in the fall
- × Columbia University and/or JEA/NSPA in the spring
- × State Conventions
- × Excellent for staff bonding, stories, to get new ideas, etc.



7 VISIT FEEDER SCHOOLS

- × Elementary and middle schools love to see the older kids
- × Have students create a lesson in journalism to go do an editing session with future journalism student
- × Make sure they take plenty of copies of the paper– great PR



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PERSONAL NOTES

- × Write each staffer a short note at the end of the first 10 weeks or so (I do them right after the fall convention)

- × Tell them all something positive

Be straight with them,

encourage if needed, and let them know they are special

- × Thanks to Kathy Daly for this idea!



9 PAPER PLATE AWARDS

- ✖ These are fun awards that can be done periodically
- ✖ We do after the first issue, at the holiday party, and at the end of the year minimum
- ✖ Put an editor and a creative/silly kid in charge (balance is good)
- ✖ Avoid being mean– be as positive as possible



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YEARLY AWARDS

- × We have important awards engraved and put on a wall plaque in the classroom
- × These include staff member of the year, top non-editor, most spirited, most important non-staffer and adviser's award (people who get bunches of votes but not top vote getters in one area)
- × Create traditions

