

Dear IEJEE Reader,

We are excited by presenting you a new issue of International Electronic Journal of Elementary Education (IEJEE). On behalf of our editorial board, as an Editor-in-Chief, I would like to share a message I received from one of our researchers who published a paper in IEJEE. His paper was downloaded by 64 persons within a week. We also noticed that IEJEE is reaching more and more researchers, teachers, students and policy makers, particularly after being indexed in ERIC - Education Resources Information Center, USA.

As its previous issues, this issue of IEJEE also includes papers addressing several important topics.

*ERSOY & BOZKURT* addresses the changes, challenges and opportunities that the new technologies represent for elementary school teachers in their work. The authors use the metaphor of journey from sand table to interactive whiteboard for the changes that elementary teachers are going through in our time.

*NURLU* addresses the importance and the consequences of the teachers' self-efficacy in mathematics teaching. Her findings suggest that teachers with high self-efficacy demonstrate higher level of effort and persistence with students, are more open to new ideas and new methods. They believe in students' achievements and take responsibility for students' success. These teachers use to place more importance on building a warm relationship with their students rather than with the parents.

*BEDİR* investigated perception of teaching efficacy by primary and secondary school teachers. She found significant differences among teachers' perception concerning teaching efficacy across different variables such as the faculty they graduated, gender, course match, in-service training, branch, and seniority. An interesting finding seems to be the high level of self-efficacy among teachers with regard to class management and low level of self-efficacy with regard to choosing instructional methods/strategies.

*ÖZYÜREK & AYDIN* investigated the impact of computer-animated concept cartoons and outdoor science activities on creating awareness among seventh graders about light pollution. The findings show that both strategies can be effective in creating awareness about light pollution.

*ÇAKIR* investigated the instructional materials commonly employed by foreign language teachers at elementary schools. On the basis of his study ÇAKIR argue for utilization of variety of instructional materials to motivate learners. At the same time he wish to see instructional materials that can help teachers to create an interactive foreign language teaching atmosphere.

*ÖZERK & ÖZERK* has conducted a single-case study with a bilingual student with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). The aim was to teach the student social-communications skills through Video Modeling. Their study reveals that children with ASD can learn desirable behavioral skills as by-products. Video Modeling can also contribute positively to the social inclusion of bilingual children with ASD in school settings.

*DAĞDELEN & KÖSTERELİOĞLU* investigated the effect of conceptual change texts in overcoming misconceptions in "people and management" unit of a Social Studies Course. Their quasi-experiment study reveals that using conceptual change texts can be a helpful

strategy for prevent and overcoming misconceptions related to several topics in social studies.

*ÖZSOY, KURUYER & ÇAKIROĞLU* looked at the relationship between a small group of students' mathematical problem solving skills in relation to their reading levels. The researchers utilized several methodological approaches. Their findings show that there is a close relationship between the students' problem solving skills and their reading skills.

*LUO* presents a case study examining 3rd, 4th and 5th graders' design fixation and cooperative learning in an engineering design project. A mixed methods instrument, the Cooperative Learning Observation Protocol (CLOP), was adapted to record frequency and class observation on cooperative learning engagement through detailed field notes. She identifies three major themes for design fixation and the challenges the students encountered in cooperative learning process.

*GRAHAM, GRAHAM & WEST* take up an important issue: Vocabulary development. They designed a study to demonstrate the effect of implementing multi-component vocabulary strategy instruction in fourth grade social studies. Their study will without any doubt be an important contribution to our knowledge base with regard to teaching strategies for vocabulary development.

*KAŠPAROVÁ* addresses the legal and principal aspects of home education. On the basis of a longitudinal ethnographic study, she discusses how the homeschoolers combat the structural discrimination embodied in their lawful protection in the Czech Republic. Her main argument is the importance of the right of homeschoolers to be included. In her analytical discussions, she includes Pierre Bourdieu's theoretical perspectives regarding various forms of capital.

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**Editor-In-Chief**