

Sarasota, Florida

School Matters

An inside look at what's happening in Southwest Florida classrooms

Pumped about punctuation

By **Tiffany Lankes**



Exclamation Point

The garbled words and jumbled sentences of the text messaging era may be enough to drive any English teacher to pull her hair out.

But this week, those frustrated by this technological smearing of the English language can ban together with punctuation lovers across the country and celebrate National Punctuation Day on Thursday.

This will be the sixth annual National Punctuation Day, which was started by a newspaperman who became frustrated with the growing absence of punctuation in mainstream culture.

Even Yahoo! – “the company with the trademarked exclamation point”—is helping promote it. In a press e-mail it cites statistics for how many people searched for punctuation information on its Web site.

“It’s a valiant effort, and despite the tech trends to the contrary, people do care about punctuation—even if they are mostly schoolkids.

- In the past 30 days, the modest lookups on Yahoo! Search for ‘punctuation’ primarily come from kids under 13 (44%).
- The remaining 56% is spread out amongst people 13-44.
- Who resorts to the Web when it comes to checking ‘punctuation’? Boys: They make up 39% of the searches.”

Anyone interested in more information, or ideas for ways to celebrate in your classroom, the official National Punctuation Day Web site offers plenty of resources.