

# THE TEACHER TIMES

VOL 2 NO. 2

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## FOR THE CLASSROOM

### Spring Cleaning

#### A) Rearrange your Room: Suggestions and Solutions

A successful classroom begins with a physical layout that inspires and nurtures learning. Here are some suggestions and solutions that can give a fresh look to your classroom this spring.

##### Examine the seats

Should your classroom consist of tables, desks, or a combination of both? Remember that round tables encourage small group discussion but discourage whole class lectures, while desks sharpen focus on the teacher but isolate peer mentoring.

##### Rearrange the seats

Consider the following seating arrangements to help determine the classroom set-up that best reflects your teaching style:

Small groups: Tables or clusters of desks.

Whole-group discussions: A circle or a horseshoe configuration.

Individualized instruction: Arrange desks, tables and shelves to create isolated learning stations.

##### Innovate the workspace

Think outside the box and escape from the traditional classroom by looking to libraries, offices, art galleries, and malls for innovative interior design ideas. Note how they use plants, rugs, art, and furniture to create and enhance public space.

##### Consider the color

A study in Munich, Germany found that using the colors of light blue, yellow, yellow-green, and orange in the classroom temporarily raised students' IQs by as much as 12 points while the colors of white, black and brown caused a drop in IQ scores.

##### Reevaluate the space

Identify inefficient and wasted areas in your classroom. Start by observing student traffic in your classroom. Is it free and flowing or are students stumbling over themselves

and furniture? Complete your evaluation by pondering your furniture. Do you really need a teacher's desk when you never spend any time there? Are piles of books cluttering needed space?

##### Dampen the transitions

Are the transitions between activities filled with the sound of scraping desks being moved by students? Dampen the sound and protect the classroom floors by putting old tennis balls on the legs of students' desks.

##### B) Teacher Workspace Tips

Now that you've got the classroom organized, it's time to focus on getting your workspace organized.

The last quarter of the school year is the best time to monitor your daily routine and evaluate how you can best organize your classroom for optimum efficiency. Here are some ideas for organizing and brightening your own workspace.

##### Declutter your workspace

Creating a clutter-free and pleasant workspace will improve your productivity and efficiency. Open those desk drawers and pull out everything and put it in a box. Then put back only the items that are necessary.

##### Purge your files

Now is the best time to review your lessons and reflect on what did and did not work during the first semester. Conduct some quick "lesson feedback polls" with your students to determine which lessons they found to be the most insightful and delightful.

##### Brighten and Clean Up Your Desk

In a study at the University of Alberta, researchers replaced fluorescent lights with full-spectrum ones. After this change, the participants' aggressive behavior diminished and their blood pressure dropped. Take advantage of this research by putting a lamp with an incandescent light bulb on your desk. For an added bonus cleanse the air with a houseplant. Research shows that the following plants are the most effective in filtering toxins from the air: Boston fern, English ivy, Australian Sword Fern, Peace Lily, and the Rubber Plant.



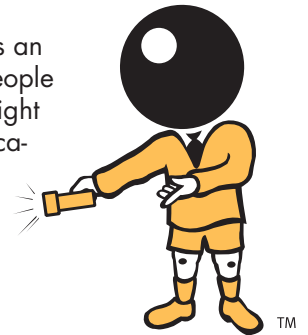
# BIC Introduces A New Twist On Multitasking!

In response to today's fast-paced, on-the-go lifestyle – BIC introduces an all new ball pen and highlighter in one that fulfills consumers' ever-changing needs. Today's students, parents and professionals are constantly fumbling with two writing instruments, one to take notes and the other to highlight important information. To make life simpler, BIC is introducing BIC DUO™, a ballpoint pen that changes instantly to a highlighter with a simple twist of the pen's barrel.



## PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

BIC DUO™ ball pen and highlighter is an innovative product that allows busy people an effortless way to capture and highlight crucial information without the complications of a separate ball pen and highlighter – providing a hassle-free writing experience.



BIC DUO™ ball pen and highlighter in one has a suggested retail price of \$4.99.

# Teacher's White Board



## Q & A

**Q:** Can you share one of your ideas using **BIC Mark-it** Permanent Markers for a fun seasonal craft?

**A:** We have many craft ideas on our **BIC Mark-it** website, at [www.bicmarkit.com](http://www.bicmarkit.com). These ideas are updated weekly, so you can try them all! As the theme for this edition of the BIC Teacher Times is "Spring Cleaning," try the fun "Decorative Art Supply Organizer" craft below.

**Materials**

**BIC Mark-it** Permanent Markers in assorted colors

Clear plastic shelf organizer

Stencils (or draw design freehand)

BIC® mechanical pencil

**Instructions**

Using a BIC® mechanical pencil, trace, stencil or draw designs freehand onto the shelves and the top of the organizer.

Mark shelves with "crayons, markers, paint, etc." or whatever supplies you would like to store.

Color in designs using **BIC Mark-it** Permanent Markers



The Teacher's White Board section is the area of the BIC Teacher Times dedicated just to you and your opinions. This is your chance to tell us what you think about BIC® products, ask BIC questions, or share some advice with other teachers. All submissions become the property of BIC and we may publish your entry. Remember to include your name, grade you teach, school and state.

Send your comments and feedback to: [Teachers@bicworld.com](mailto:Teachers@bicworld.com)