

Last chance! Order Today! My Early Autumn 2006 Walter Drake Catalog arrived today.

For some of you, August signals the return of the NFL. For others, it's the Back To School Sales, the Nordstrom Anniversary Sale or the Summer Clearance advertisements. August promises sunshine and beach picnics, concerts in the park, farmer's markets and lawn mowing.

For me, a team leader whose district's Welcome Back letter has yet to arrive, I have time to think over the past year as I sit on my back porch and watch the bees feasting on my lavender hedge. Plus, I still have \$100.00 of team leader money to spend. Thus my excitement when the Walter Drake catalog arrives in the mail.

If I were a city dweller, I could run over to Lippmann's Novelty Store for gadgets and what-nots. I could borrow the leadership teacher's summer Oriental Trading catalog and order, in very large quantities, the various and sundry props and toys that we use on our team for celebrations with our students and that I use with our team members during team and faculty meetings. But, Walter's is my inspiration. What else sits with me and let's me consider each object and how it might fit a teammate or a unit of study.

Why, page 7 highlights *Giant Calendars keep you on track all year*. It's 14 ½" by 21 ¾". That size is bound to hold all our activities plus the various units we are trying to coordinate among the 4 core teachers. Page 6 has *Charming Pixie Face Stickers*, 144 for a price even our math teacher would approve. That *Self-Inking Stamp in Block Letters or Script* on page 13 would work well for our team name and our logo. It prints *Thousands of Crisp, Clear impressions*.

During our team days and our bridge building contests, we all need the *Portable Traveling Timer that hands around your neck* on a 36" cord. I found that on page 23. Then imagine having this bright yellow timer handy when I ask my classes for a 1 minute silent quick write. I could set the timer to ding two minutes before the end of class so project work would be put away. Oh the uses for this Traveling Timer are endless. Wow! *Plastic All Purpose Gloves, a set of 100 for \$2.99*, p. 43, those hold such possibilities, as does the *Gorilla Tape with double thick adhesive bond to repair and seal thing, found on page 43*.

I don't usually spend much time on the personal hygiene section though some of my students, come spring, could use some of these products. One product did catch my eye, though. Item A. Page # 68: *The Impressive Hearing Technology MagniEar lets you*

- *Hear a whisper 100 ft. away*
- *4 extra batteries included.*

Who hasn't wanted to be able to ear what's being whispered during standardized test taking or listen in on two girls, head to head, pointing in your direction.

However, *the Powerful Personal Megaphone (p. 76) lets you be heard above a crowd. Batteries not included*, might be my team leader favorite. I can see me now with my personal megaphone on our team field trip, leading the troops through the woods as we find our spots for our annual ivy pull. I'd not lose one student or team member. I'd be heard loud and clear!

And so I while away a morning considering all things *Walter*. I dog-ear some pages. *Last Chance*, the headline reads. Tomorrow is soon enough, I decide. Today it's still early August ~ *Early Autumn 2006* and team time are still days away.