

Fountain Pen Makes a Comeback in Scotland



Students at one elementary school in Scotland are learning to write in an old-fashioned way. They are being taught to write using fountain pens. They use fountain pens to do much of their schoolwork.

Many people don't think neat handwriting is important. Most people use computers to "write," they say. But one school principal, Bryan Lewis, does not agree. Lewis thinks neat handwriting is very important. That's why students at his school must use fountain pens to do their work. He says the students at his school take more care to do their schoolwork when they do it in fountain pen. They do better on tests and get better grades too, he added.

When your parents were in school, they probably spent a few hours each week learning to write neatly. But some teachers say there is little time to teach *cursive* handwriting today. They must spend more time teaching reading and math and getting students ready for tests. Besides, many students use computers to do their class work and homework. They don't write letters; they send e-mails instead.

Fountain pens were common writing tools many years ago. Unlike other pens that you throw away when the ink is gone, fountain pens can be refilled with ink and used over and over. Writing neatly with a fountain pen can be difficult. Fountain pen ink cannot be erased.

Other teachers say it is still important to learn to write neatly. Students who learn cursive can write faster than those who print. They do a better job of getting their ideas on paper too. They write more, and students who write more also write better. Kids with good handwriting often feel proud of themselves too.

MORE FACTS ABOUT HANDWRITING

- The tip of a fountain pen is called the nib.
- For hundreds of years before the fountain pen was invented, people wrote by dipping the pointed end of a bird quill into ink.

THINK ABOUT THE NEWS

Some people say that soon no one will write anything on paper.
Everything will be typed on a computer.
But other people say it is important to learn to write.
What do you think?