

# The Special Extra!

Special Education Newsletter

April 2023

## From the Desk of Shirden Prince

Director of Special Education

***“Don’t you know what this is? It’s spring fever. That is what the name of it is. And when you’ve got it, you want it—oh you don’t quite know what it is you DO want, but it fairly makes your heart ache, you want it so!” ~Mark Twain~***

April is here and Spring is in the air. We’ve made it through the worst of Winter (by California standards) and now the days are starting to get longer and warmer. As we gear up for the final stretch it is my hope that you are all able to get some well-deserved rest and relaxation during your week off. You’ve earned it!



# THIS AND THAT

## Gentle reminders:

- All IEP's need to be completed **3-5 days** prior to the meeting date for review by a site administrator.
- **All IEP's should be finalized and turned in to Ana within 5 days of when the meeting was held.**
- **RSP Teachers** – please monitor student schedules for any changes that might affect service delivery.
- Please make sure you are inviting all necessary personnel to your IEP meetings (nurse, psych, etc.) and giving them as much notice as possible so that they are able to attend.

## Kudos!

Each month this section of the newsletter will be used to give kudos to one (or more) of our awesome staff members.

This month's kudos go to Erica Lopez for putting together an incredible prom night for our students. The venue was beautiful, the music was great (shout out to our DJ extraordinaire Mr. Sanchez) and it all made for a very special night. A lot of hard work and love went in to making it a night that our kiddos and their families will never forget.

**Kudos!**



# WHO IS THE MOST AWESOME PERSON TODAY?



## Quote of the Month



# INSPIRE

WE ARE THE MUSIC MAKERS, AND WE ARE THE DREAMERS OF DREAMS.  
- WILLY WONKA

# Classroom *Hacks*

## **Managing Behaviors**

As educators, we all know that dealing with student behavior comes with the job. While most students comply with what is required of them, there is often one who has a hard time behaving appropriately. When this happens, we end up spending a lot of time and energy trying to get everyone back on track. This can be exhausting and it can put the learning environment of your classroom at risk.

Disruptive behavior can stem from a variety of causes – problems at home, depression, stress, lack of self-esteem, mental health challenges and even physiological factors such as being hungry, lack of sleep or illness but there are some tactics that can be used to help manage unwanted behavior.

### **Setting Clear Expectations for Student Behaviors**

One important tactic for managing student behavior is setting behavior standards for the classroom. Linda Dusenbury, PhD, is an expert in evidence-based strategies for promoting student motivation and she recommends establishing ground rules for classroom behavior which can help maintain a positive environment. One way to achieve this is to collaborate with students when developing class rules, without allowing them to control it. This will give them ownership in the expectations of the class while still establishing that the teacher oversees the classroom.

### **Be Sensitive to Mental Health Challenges**

Understanding the role mental health plays in students' behavior is an important part of addressing inappropriate classroom behavior. It is important to be aware that symptoms of depression and undiagnosed anxiety disorders can often manifest in unwanted behavior in the classroom. We, as educators, need to remember that inappropriate behaviors in the classroom can be symptoms of mental health challenges and while we cannot diagnose or treat any possible disorders it is our responsibility to report our concerns if we see a student exhibiting troubling behaviors.

### **Praise and Positive Reinforcement**

Another strategy we can use to promote good behavior is by rewarding positive acts, such as completing work, listening in class, and being respectful to others. Students respond well to positive reinforcement and will often adjust their behavior accordingly when it is used consistently. I used a classroom economy system that allowed students to earn "Prince Pay" each week. Students could use the "pay" they earned to make purchases from my student store which contained school supplies such as mechanical pencils and pencil lead. I also had coupons for intangibles such as a homework pass or skip a quiz. This is just one of many examples of positive reinforcement that can be used to reduce those unwanted behaviors in class.

[Behavior Management Strategies](#)



***CHECK THIS OUT!***

### **Virtual Classroom Field Trips**

Here are some great field trip ideas that don't cost a thing and they don't require you to leave the comfort of the classroom.

#### **[Amazon Robotics Fulfillment Center Tour](#)**

Take a 45-minute behind the scenes tour of an Amazon fulfillment center to see how computer science, engineering, and real people work together to make the magic happen.

#### **[15 Aquarium Virtual Field Trips](#)**

This site features aquariums from across the globe that you can visit with your students.

#### **[20 Art Museum Tours](#)**

Take your students on tours of the Louvre in Paris, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and many others from around the world.

#### **[Stellarium Web \(Planetarium\)](#)**

Using Stellarium Web, students can explore over 60,000 stars, locate planets, and watch sunrises and solar eclipses. If you enter your location, you can see all the constellations that are visible in the night sky in your part of the world.

#### **[Discovery Education](#)**

Discovery Education hosts a variety of virtual events – each with a companion guide with hands-on learning activities. Past offerings have included events like “Making a New Life: The Courage of a Refugee” and “The Future is Now” (architectural and engineering innovations).

#### **[The Strong Museum of Play](#)**

Explore online exhibits and discover the history and evolution of play. Check out board games that changed play, sports video games that shaped digital play, and the making of Monopoly, just to name a few. I have personally been to this museum and it is worth checking out.



# Upcoming Events

## April

3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Spring Break (No school)

14<sup>th</sup> – Claudia Rodriguez 🎂

18<sup>th</sup> – Board Meeting @ RFK

19<sup>th</sup> – Late Start

24<sup>th</sup> – ProAct Training @ CCHS

25<sup>th</sup> – ProAct Training @ CCHS

26<sup>th</sup> – Administrative Professionals Day

30<sup>th</sup> – Rosa Medina 🎂

## May

3<sup>rd</sup> – Late Start

9<sup>th</sup> – Board Meeting @ RFK

17<sup>th</sup> – Late Start

25<sup>th</sup> – Gabriela Sandoval 🎂

26<sup>th</sup> – Denise Mendoza 🎂

31<sup>st</sup> – VHS Graduation

31<sup>st</sup> – RFK Graduation

## June

1<sup>st</sup> – CCHS Graduation

2<sup>nd</sup> – DHS Graduation

3<sup>rd</sup> – Amanda Shepherd 🎂

6<sup>th</sup> – Rufina Lara 🎂

15<sup>th</sup> – Elizabeth Manjarres 🎂

19<sup>th</sup> – Shantelle Andrade 🎂

21<sup>st</sup> – Leah Oung 🎂

23<sup>rd</sup> – Kendyl Chavez 🎂

26<sup>th</sup> – Rudy Arellano 🎂

27<sup>th</sup> – Luke Magnia 🎂









