

The Special Extra!

Special Education Newsletter

August 2022

From the Desk of Shirden Prince

Director of Special Education

“Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right.”

~Oprah Winfrey~

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year. For those of you that I have not yet had the pleasure to meet, I am Shirden Prince your new Director of Special Education and I am very excited to be joining the team! I wanted to start this inaugural newsletter off by sharing some information about me. I started out as a classified employee where I spent 11 years as a school custodian and groundsman. I then transitioned to the classroom for 7 years teaching in kindergarten, third and sixth grade. This year will be my 12th year as an administrator having been an assistant principal and principal at the elementary and high school levels as well as the Coordinator of Special Education for Alternative Education (court and community schools) at the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office. I am married with one child who is starting her senior year at the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York. I am avid collector of Star Wars memorabilia and I enjoy traveling with my family.

My plan (fingers crossed) is to put out a monthly newsletter with helpful and informative information for all of you. I look forward to supporting you all in the great work you are doing for our students.



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.**

Kudos!

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

This month all the kudos go to my incredible secretary Ana Villarreal. After 11 years as an administrator I have learned that having a good secretary makes or breaks an office and boy did I hit the jackpot with Ana! She keeps me on track, points out any errors on paperwork I make (which happens often) and always with a smile on her face. Thank you for all that you do Ana!

Kudos!

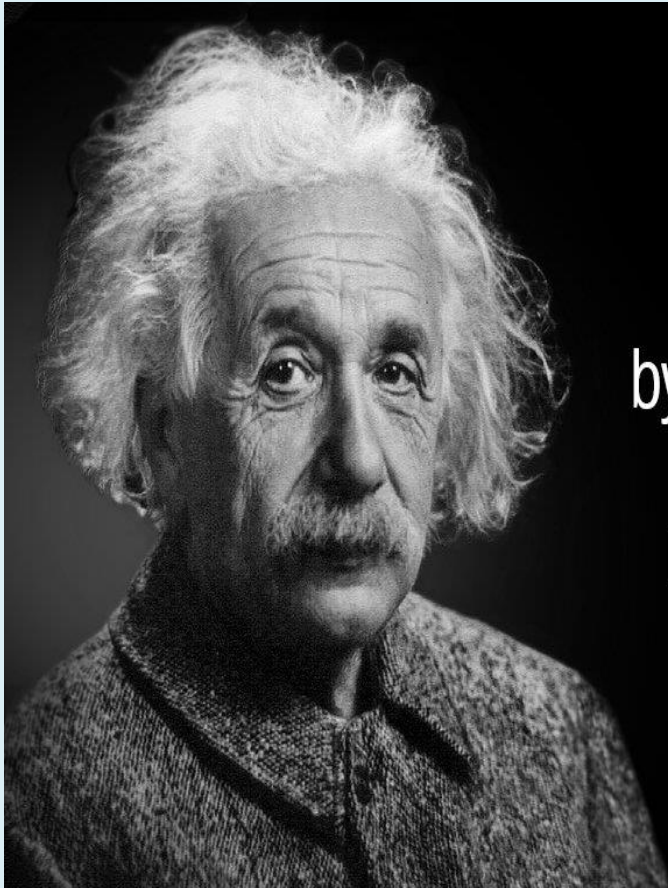


WHO IS THE MOST AWESOME PERSON TODAY?



I REALLY LIKE WHAT YOU ARE DOING, KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK

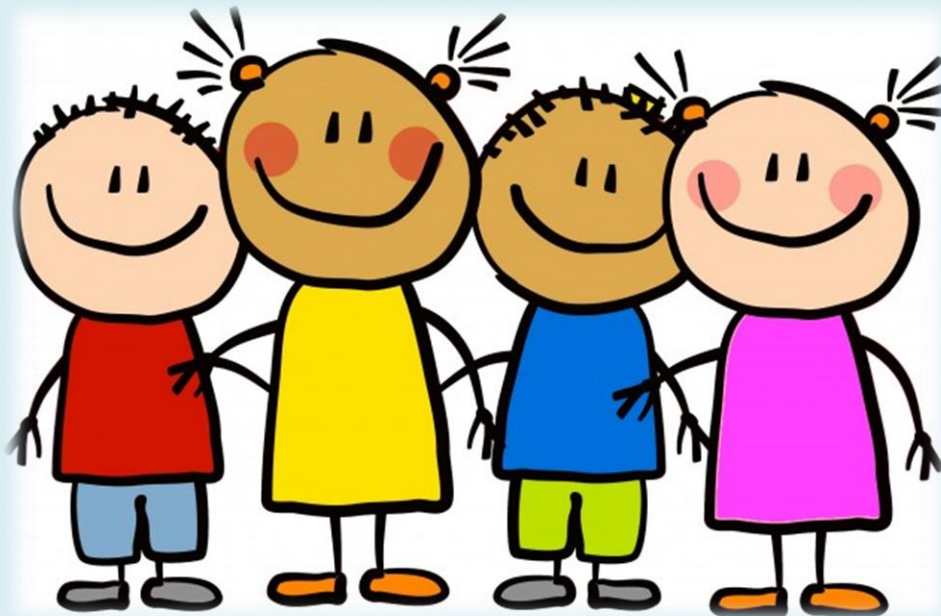
Quote of the Month



Everybody is a genius.
But if you judge a fish
by its ability to climb a tree,
it will live its whole life
believing that it is stupid.

– *Albert Einstein*

AZ QUOTES

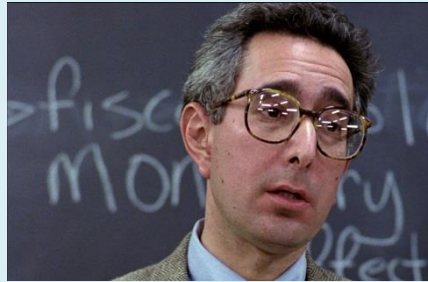


Classroom Management *Hacks*

Need a diffuser?

What exactly is a **diffuser**? They are words that, as a Teacher or Paraprofessional, you can say to redirect a student's behavior towards the direction of success in the classroom.

This is so boring!!



Oh, this certainly is boring John. In fact, one day you might need this and you won't find it boring. I remember when I was your age, it was 1989.....



Well Mr. Stein, you just fell into the students' diffuser of not wanting to participate in your classroom expectations.



The "I'm bored" diffuser!

Tips:

- Keep it short and direct!
 - "Nevertheless..." Keep going with your teaching.
 - "I understand..." and continue with the lesson.

This short, direct statement, allows the student to know you heard them, but you continue with the lesson.

Don't engage in a long, drawn out conversation.

For more diffusers, you can click on the link below:

[Diffusers](#)

CHECK THIS OUT!

A space to share websites that provide helpful information and ideas for your classrooms, students and families.

[Adapting for Autism](#)

A site with information and resources for working with autistic students. Sign-up is free and while there are resources for sale the site also has free resources, a blog and an email newsletter.

[KidNeeds](#)

A worldwide resource that provides children with special needs, families and other caregivers with access to comprehensive information and resources.

[Learning Disabilities Online](#)

LD OnLine features hundreds of helpful articles, expert interviews, videos, columns by noted experts, first-person essays, children's writing and artwork, and a comprehensive resource guide.

[Do2Learn](#)

Do2Learn provides thousands of free pages with social skills and behavioral regulation activities and guidance, learning songs, and games, communication cards, academic material, and transition guides for employment and life skills.



Upcoming Events

August

4th – New Teacher Orientation

4th & 5th – Health Aide Training

8th & 9th – Staff Development Days

9th – Board of Trustees Meeting @ RFK

10th – 1st Day of School

September

5th – Labor Day (**No School**)

13th – Board of Trustees Meeting @ RFK

