

The Special Extra!

Special Education Newsletter

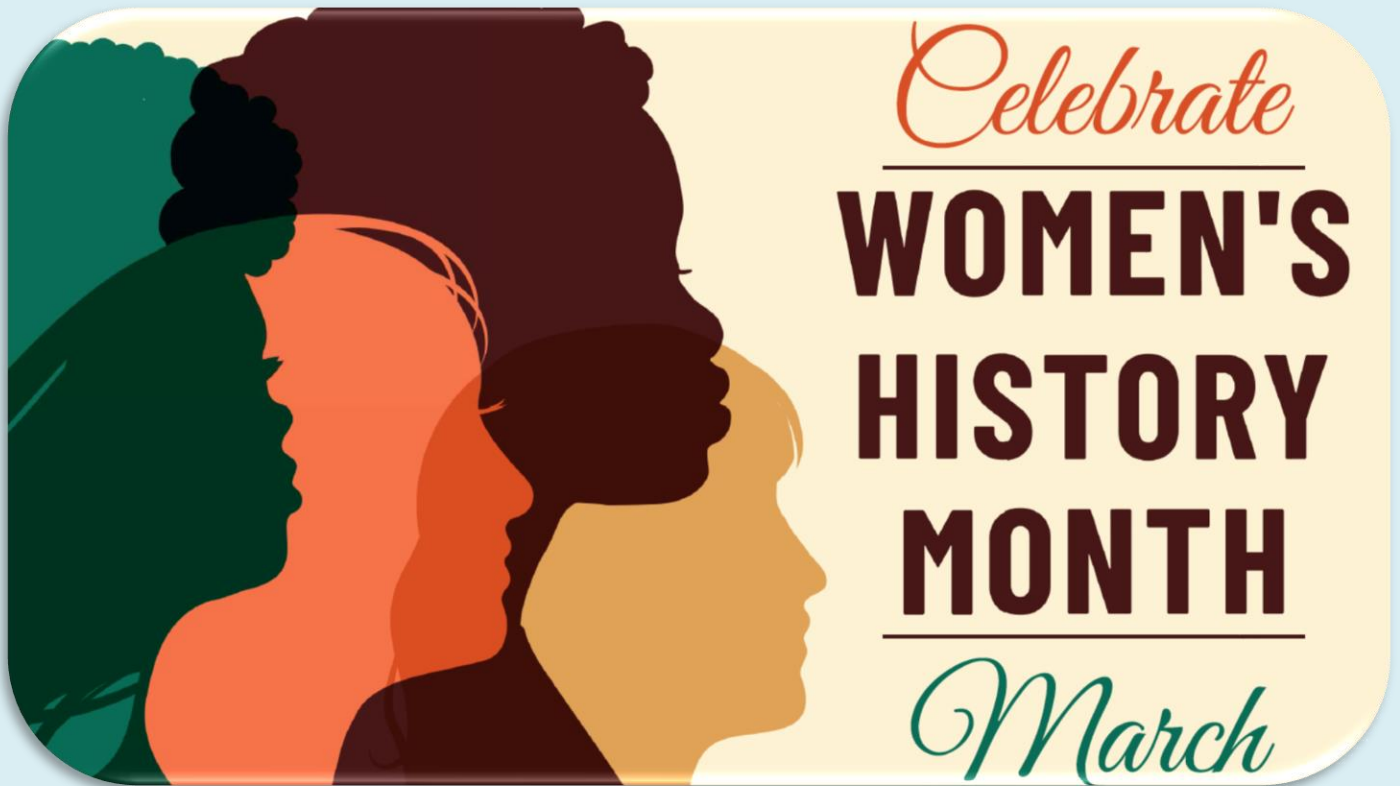
March 2023

From the Desk of Shirden Prince

Director of Special Education

“Feminism isn’t about making women stronger. Women are already strong, it’s about changing the way the world perceives that strength.” ~G.D. Anderson~

Before I had my daughter I never thought much about “Feminism” or “Women’s Rights” and when I did, I will be honest and tell you that I often associated it with loud, pushy women who just seemed angry and I had no clue as to why. It wasn’t until my daughter, Ilyana, was born that I began to understand. You see, my daughter was never the “stereotypical” little girl (whatever that is). She liked playing with dinosaurs and hated dolls. She made it clear from a young age that she did not like dresses and if you called her a princess she would let you know that she was not, nor would she ever be a princess. Although my wife and I loved the fact that she knew what she liked and had no qualms about letting everyone know it, there were times when other adults in her life would try to get her to conform to their idea of how girls should look and act. This made us determined to make sure that she learned about the many strong women in history who didn’t necessarily conform to traditional roles and how they changed the world in the process. Women like Susan B. Anthony, Amelia Earhart and Sojourner Truth who challenged the system and made a positive impact in the lives of all women. This month is about honoring those incredible women and so many more.



THIS AND THAT

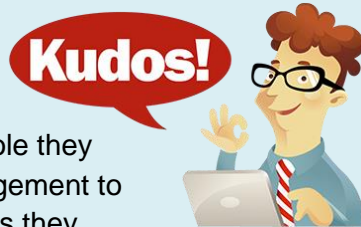
Gentle reminders:

- 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 Mrs. Manjarrez, Mrs. Khoo and Mr. Mendoza for stepping up to be our Paper Trail Blazers. In this role they will provide support and encouragement to our Special Education teachers as they navigate through the process of getting our students up and running with our new Paper 24-hour tutoring services. Thank for your willingness to support your fellow teachers!



WHO IS THE MOST AWESOME PERSON TODAY?



Quote of the Month



PERSISTENCE

All great achievements require time. -Maya Angelou

Classroom *Hacks*

Building Student Rapport

If you want the best from your students, it is essential to build a rapport with them. Building rapport is not accomplished by preaching to your students or trying to make them better people. It's about learning who they are, accepting their uniqueness and actively celebrating it and really listening to what they have to say. Below are some strategies that you might find useful in establishing rapport with your students.

Stand in the Hall Between Classes

Taking the time to chat with students as they pass by can go a long way. Smile at them and say "Hi". They may ignore you at first but if you are consistent, they will eventually respond in kind. Standing outside your door also lets you welcome your students to your classroom everyday which shows them that you are glad to see them.

Be a Club Advisor or Open Your Room to Students Outside of Class Time

If there aren't any clubs in need of an advisor, ask your students if they want to start a new club.

Opening your room up before or after school for students to have a place to get work done or ask for extra help will also go a long way in building those relationships.

Go to School Events Whenever Possible

There is nothing kids appreciate more than to see their teacher at their game, concert or other event. If you can't make it to an event outside of school, just asking how it went will let them know that you care.

Pay Attention to Their Non-Verbal Cues

Students, like everyone else, are entitled to their personal space. If they cover up their work or move away as you walk by, try to respect that and don't take it personally. If a student doesn't want you looking over their shoulder try asking them to show you their work instead.

Always Look for the Good in Students

For many students the only communication from the school to their families is negative. It is important to continually be on the lookout for something positive from these students and when it happens, make a quick call home or send a note. It's easy to see and praise the accomplishments of the "good" kids but it's also important to find ways to praise those students who aren't normally the recipients of positive feedback.

Be Sincere

Teenagers can spot fake sincerity a mile away. You are here (I hope) because you have a passion for working with young people. Take the time and effort to let them know it.

CHECK THIS OUT!

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

[Easy CBM](#)

This website was designed to give teacher insight into which of their students may need additional instructional supports as well as to provide a means to measure the effectiveness of their teaching. There is a “Lite” version than can used for free as well as a “Deluxe” that requires a yearly fee.

[Quizizz](#)

Quizizz is a free program where teachers can create various assessments quickly and easily to measure student understanding of a specific topic or skill.

[NoRedInk](#)

NoRedInk is a free resource that provides teachers with the ability to create, manage and monitor classes over a period of time by delivering mini lessons and assessments on targeted skills while engaging students with various references to popular culture.

[Teacher Sherpa](#)

Teacher Sherpa give Special Education teachers the ability to choose between creating custom worksheets and editing worksheets they find online to be more engaging for or relevant to their students’ individualized needs. It is free and easy to use with thousands of premade lesson templates from other teachers, giving you a variety of options across grade levels and content areas.

[Brain Genie](#)

Brain Genie is a free website that helps teach and reinforce math skills at a variety of different levels. It has hundreds of pre-programmed lessons and assessments which allows teachers to pick and choose the skills that students need to focus on, providing different ways of explaining the material before assessing students on what they have learned.



Upcoming Events

March

1st – Late Start
5th – Jackie Luna 🍰
7th – Luciano Flores 🍰
13th – ProAct Training @ RFK
14th – ProAct Training @ RFK
14th – Board Meeting @ RFK
15th – Late Start
16th – Joshua Mendoza 🍰
19th – Cristi Tallman 🍰
20th – Dulce Toralba 🍰
27th – Maria De Anda 🍰
28th – Elizabeth Magnia 🍰
29th – Clarissa Torres 🍰
29th – Late Start

April

3rd – 7th Spring Break (No school)
14th – Claudia Rodriguez 🍰
18th – Board Meeting @ RFK
19th – Late Start
24th – ProAct Training @ CCHS
25th – ProAct Training @ CCHS
26th – Administrative Professionals Day
30th – Rosa Medina 🍰

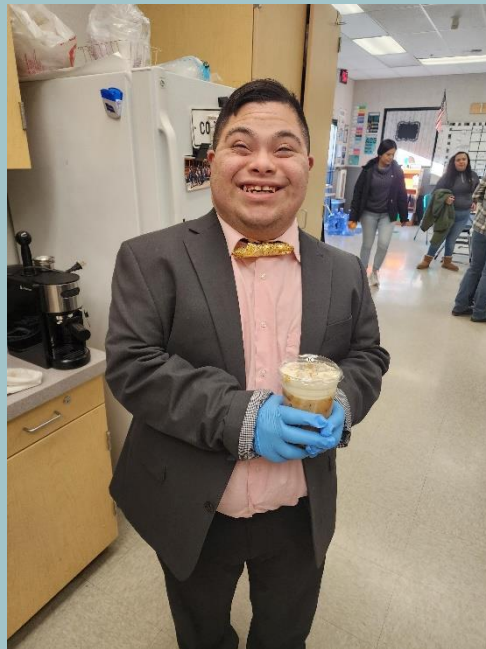




Service



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