

The Special Extra!

Special Education Newsletter

November 2022

From the Desk of Shirden Prince

Director of Special Education

“It’s a funny thing about life, once you begin to take note of the things you are grateful for, you begin to lose sight of the things that you lack.”

~Germany Kent~

And in the blink of an eye, November is here. While I believe that we should reflect upon all the things we are thankful for throughout the year, not just around the holidays, I must confess that I am not always good about it. So, I would like to share how thankful I am for all of you. No one reading this right now has an easy job and I am grateful for each and every one of you for making the decision to show up every day to support the students in your care. Your dedication is part of the foundation that our students build their hopes and dreams on. I hope that the upcoming Thanksgiving break allows you to get some much needed rest but that it also gives you the time to reflect on the impact you have on the lives of your students. You may be one of the only consistently positive aspects of their lives which makes what you do all the more important. Thank you again and always remember that who you are and what you do matters.

A large, three-dimensional graphic of the words "THANK YOU" in a bold, red, sans-serif font. The letters are thick and blocky, with a slight shadow and a reflection on the surface below them, giving it a 3D effect. The word "THANK" is on the top line and "YOU" is on the bottom line, with the letters of "YOU" being significantly larger than those of "THANK".

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 out to Jacob Fragoso, Maria De Anda and Michelle Lumabao. They have a student in their classroom that has been dealing with some very severe mental health issues and they have been phenomenal in their handling of the situations that have arisen. Their calm and caring demeanors along with their professional attitude when handling the various crises that they have endured is to be commended.

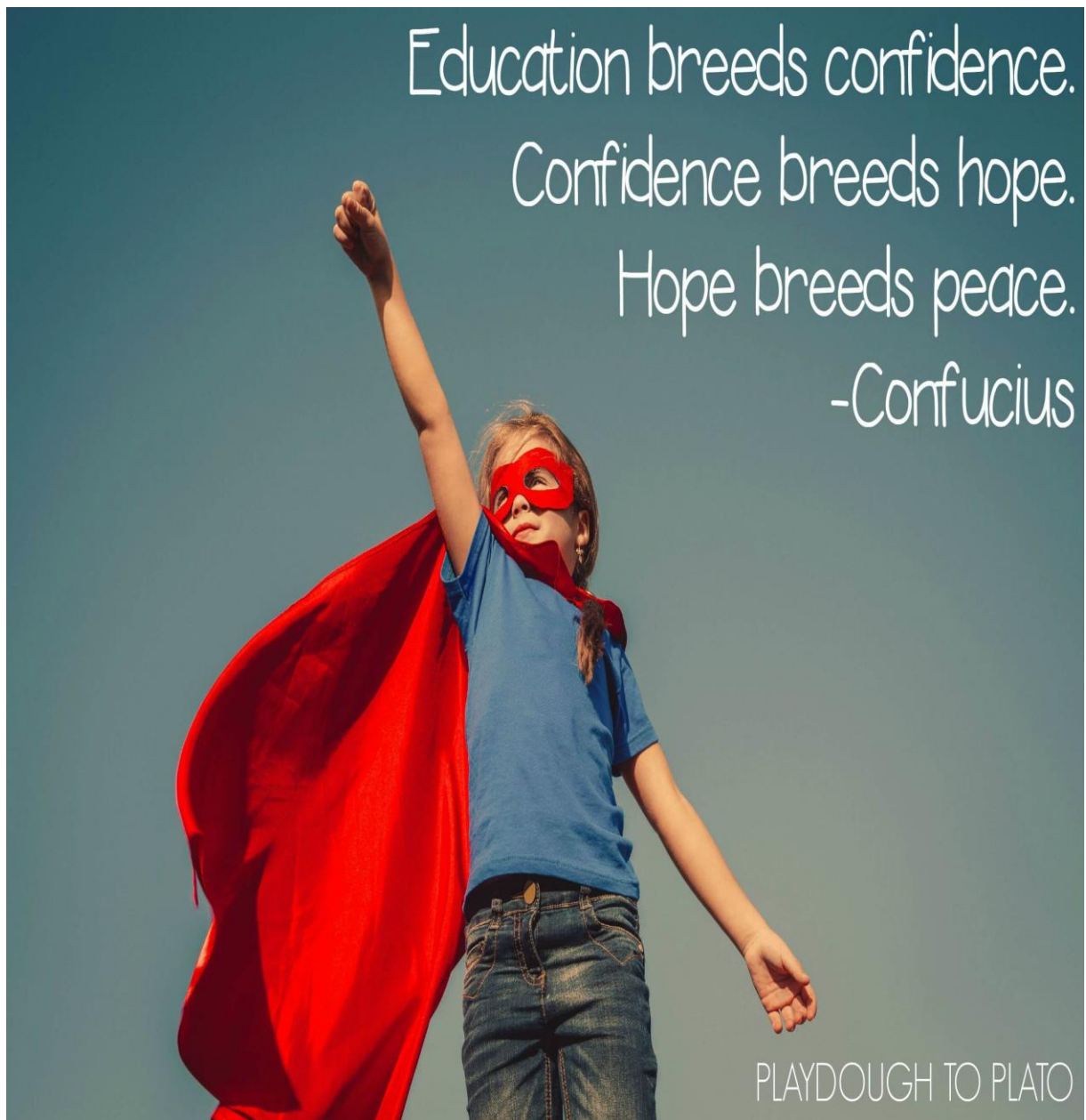
Kudos!



WHO IS THE MOST AWESOME PERSON TODAY?



Quote of the Month



Education breeds confidence.
Confidence breeds hope.
Hope breeds peace.
-Confucius

PLAYDOUGH TO PLATO

Classroom *Hacks*

Classroom Behavior Management

Classroom management is challenging in any classroom but it is even more so in a classroom full of students with a variety of unique needs. Often these behaviors can be distracting and frustrating for both teachers and other students. It is estimated that an average of 144 minutes per week of instruction time is lost in classrooms because of behavior disruptions. (EAB, 2019)

Here are some tips and strategies that can be used in your classroom.

Establish Relationships With Students

Students need to believe that you are invested in them and that you know them. It is important that you find a way to make a connection with every student.

Positive Learning Environment

Establishing a positive learning environment where the focus is both on learning and positives will go a long way in reducing student behaviors. Special education students need to know you are there to support their learning and that you are willing to help them when the learning is challenging for them.

Organize Your Lessons

Students need to know the objective of your lesson and what you expect them to learn. It is important to provide them opportunities to practice and to check for understanding throughout the lesson.

Focus on Strengths

It is easy to forget that everyone is good at something. If you are struggling with a student it is important to focus on those strengths. This is why having a relationship with them is so important. The more you know about the student the easier it is to find those strengths.

Reminders and Cues

It is important to let students know what you want them to do and how to do it. If students are not sure what to do, they will do what they want. Specific praise is a good way to remind students:

“Thank you for completing the warm-up activity and getting started on your daily problems Joseph”

Nonverbal cues, such as making eye contact or placing a post-it on the students desk, can also be used to remind a student what they should or should not be doing.

Active Supervision

Students need to see you actively involved in what is happening in the classroom. Proximity is extremely effective in stopping negative behaviors before they begin. This also helps you to better monitor what the students are working on and to provide assistance when needed.

[Research-Based Classroom Management Strategies](#)

CHECK THIS OUT!

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

[Child Development Institute](#)

The mission of this website is to become the “go to” site for parents for information, products and services related to their child’s special needs.

[Parents Helping Parents](#)

The mission of PHP is to support, educate and inspire families and the community to build bright futures for youth and adults with special needs.

[Special Education Toolkit](#)

This page provides parents and teachers of children with disabilities information on specific disabilities, a glossary of special education terms, and links to helpful resources.

[Special Ed News](#)

Special Education News is an online newspaper that provides information on issues related to special education.



Listen to the Music!



Lotteria!

You can't win if you don't play!



Upcoming Events

November

4th – Karla Beltran 🎂
8th – Election Day 🗳️
8th – Felicia Torres 🎂
11th – Veteran's Day 🇺🇸 (No School)
12th – Giselle Perales 🎂
16th – Jacob Fragoso 🎂
17th – Tony Herrera 🎂
20th – Andrea Rios 🎂
21st – 25th Thanksgiving Break 🦃 (No School)
22nd – Stephanie Tafoya 🎂
30 – Maria Cisneros 🎂

December

4th – Ruby Castillo 🎂
9th – Jasmine Guerrero 🎂
13th – Jessica Villalobos 🎂
13th – Board Meeting @ RFK
18th – Isabel Soto 🎂
18th – Steven Short 🎂
26th – Start of Winter Break 🎁 (No School)
30th – Mirissa Sotelo 🎂
30th – Alyssa Blanco 🎂

