

The Special Extra!

Special Education Newsletter

October 2022

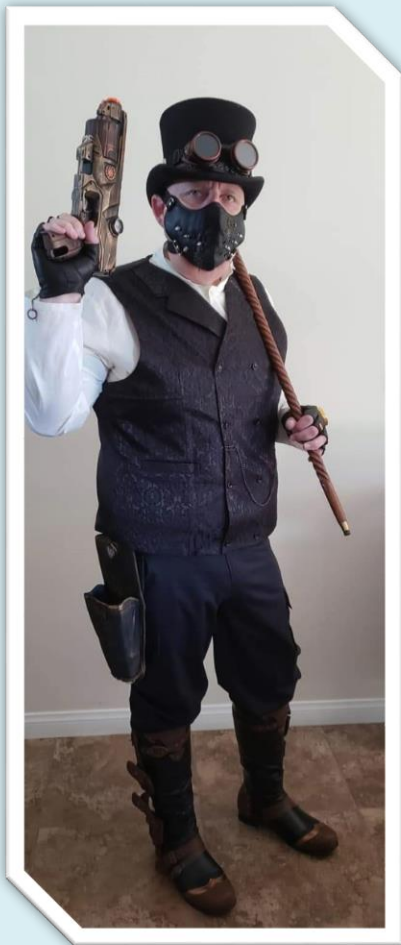
From the Desk of Shirden Prince

Director of Special Education

“When inclusive education is fully embraced, we abandon the idea that children have to become “normal” in order to contribute to the world. We begin to look beyond typical ways of becoming valued members of the community, and in doing so, begin to realize the achievable goal of providing all children with an authentic sense of belonging.

~Norman Kunc~

October is here and that means cooler temperatures (eventually), the days are getting shorter and the holiday season will soon be upon us. This is my favorite time of year. I am not a fan of the Sun or the heat that comes with the Summer in Kern County but I am always excited when Halloween time comes around. I enjoy decorating my home (just not too scary because the wife won't allow it), dressing up and passing out candy to all of the trick or treaters. Below are pics of one of my favorite costumes. My wife and I attended Comic Con in San Diego several years ago and we went with a Steampunk cosplay theme.



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 of our awesome staff members.

This month's Kudos are going out to our SPED teachers who are doing an incredible job of getting their IEP paperwork turned in within the five day window after holding a meeting. Your hard work is appreciated and while I would love to say that it is all due to my incredible leadership, the fact is that it's all you. Keep up the great work!!

Kudos!



**YOU
ROCK!**

**WHO IS THE
MOST AWESOME
PERSON TODAY?**



Quote of the Month

**IF IT DOESN'T
CHALLENGE YOU,
IT DOESN'T
CHANGE YOU.**



Classroom *Hacks*

Inclusion in the General Education Classroom

While there are laws in place requiring schools to be an inclusive environment, not all educators truly understand the concept. It is our responsibility, as special education professionals, to make sure our general education colleagues understand the importance of fostering a classroom that is accepting and inclusive for students with special needs. We can do this by educating them on the benefits of inclusion and how to create an inclusive environment.

Benefits of Inclusion:

- ❖ Role models – Students with special needs have the opportunity to learn acceptable social behaviors from their general education peers.
- ❖ Social Emotional Development – Inclusion supports the social emotional needs of the special education student and allows them to have as normal a school experience as possible.
- ❖ Tolerance – Inclusion allows general education students to see special needs students for who they are and not just their disability.

Creating an Inclusive Environment:

- ❖ Encourage Interaction – Give students the opportunity to interact with each other.
- ❖ Know the Needs of the Student – Teachers should educate themselves on the specific disabilities of students in their class.
- ❖ Focus on the Strengths – Every child has strengths, it is our responsibility to find and develop them.

Inclusion Strategies:

- ❖ Differentiate instruction so that all students can be successful.
- ❖ Adapt to the needs of the students by constantly assessing their progress.
- ❖ Set the tone of the classroom by having a positive attitude.

Here is an article about Inclusion that can be shared with your general education colleagues:

[5 Effective Strategies for the Inclusive Classroom](#)

CHECK THIS OUT!

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

[SmartKids](#)

A website for parents with children who have dyslexia, ADHD, or have other learning disabilities.

[Support for Families](#)

This site offers information and resources to parents who have children with multiple disabilities.

[Orthopedic Impairments](#)

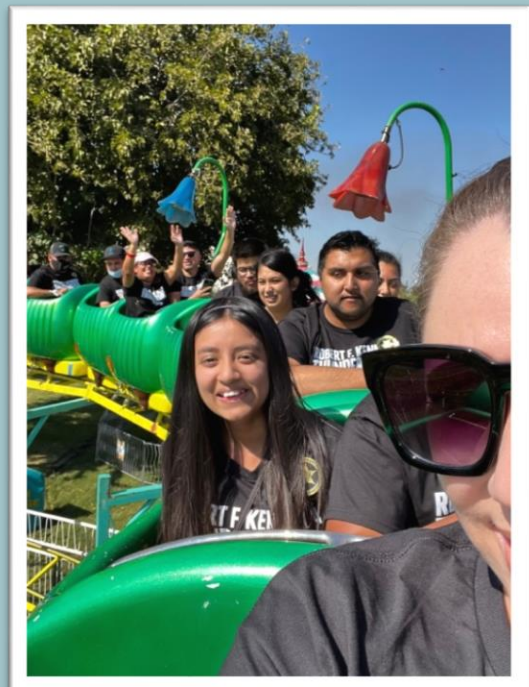
Orthopedic Impairments is a website project that provides support for parents and teachers of children identified with OI.

[Reading Rockets](#)

This site provides support for working with students who have trouble reading or communicating. It has sections specifically for teachers, librarians, school psychologists and more.



Living Our Best Lives!



RFK Having a Fair-ly Good Time!!!



Club life at CCHS!



Upcoming Events

October

- 3rd - Kim Khoo's Birthday (DT) 🎂
- 4th - Giancarlo Montiel's Birthday (CCHS/RFK) 🎂
- 5th - Roden Leynes' Birthday (RFK) 🎂
- 7th - Amaneet Gill's Birthday (CCHS) 🎂
- 11th - Board of Trustees Meeting @ RFK
- 29th - Lilia Guzman's Birthday (DT) 🎂
- 30th - Santa Rojo's Birthday (CCHS) 🎂

November

- 8th - Election Day 🗳️
- 11th - Veteran's Day 🇺🇸 (No School)
- 21st - 25th Thanksgiving Break 🦃 (No School)

