

# The Special Extra!

Special Education Newsletter

September 2022

## From the Desk of Shirden Prince

Director of Special Education

***“To this end the greatest asset of a school is the personality of the teacher.”  
~John Strachan~***

Welcome to September, we made it through the first month! The new school year is in full swing and I have really enjoyed getting out to the sites and seeing all of you with your students. Your positive attitudes and honest desire to support your students is appreciated and is the reason we have such an incredible Special Education program here at DJUHSD. The first few weeks of school can be rough, for us and our students, as we work to get back into a regular routine. I hope that you are able to get some rest and relaxation during the upcoming three day weekend.



# 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 I would like to give Kudos to our incredible RSP Teachers. The beginning of the school year is often chaotic and this one was no different. There were many necessary changes being made to the master schedules on a daily basis for the first week of school which caused a lot of student movement. This required our awesome RSP teachers to make a lot of student schedule changes to ensure that all of their students were getting the support they needed. This was not a quick or easy process but they were able to make it work and I truly appreciate all of their hard work. Thank you all for your dedication to our students!



# WHO IS THE MOST AWESOME PERSON TODAY?



## Quote of the Month

**EQUAL IS**

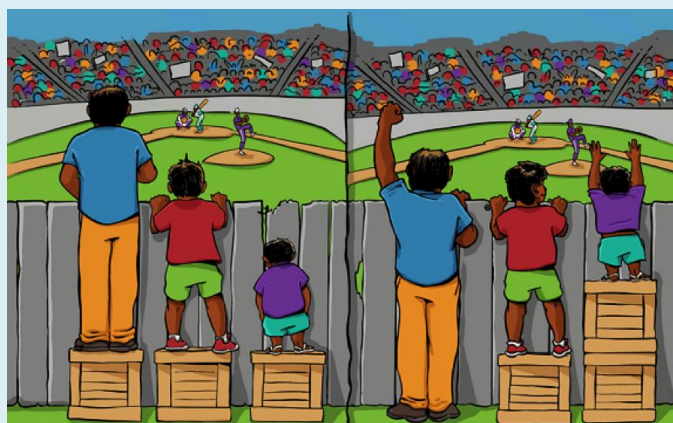
everyone getting the same thing.



**FAIR IS**

everyone getting what  
they need in order to  
be **SUCCESSFUL**

We will always try to be *fair*  
but it won't always feel *equal*



### **EQUALITY**

Equality = Sameness

Equality promotes fairness and justice by giving everyone the same thing.

*BUT, it can only work if everyone starts from the same place. In this example, equality only works if everyone is the same height.*

### **EQUITY**

Equity = Fairness

Equity is about making sure people get access to the same opportunities.

Sometimes our differences or history can create barriers to participation, so we must *FIRST ensure EQUITY* before we can enjoy equality.

Source: Angus Maguire for the Interaction Institute for Social Change <http://interactioninstitute.org/illustrating-equality-vs-equity/>



# Classroom Management *Hacks*

## Classroom Transitions

Effective transitions are a key component to the classroom environment and just like any other procedure, they are taught through explicit explanations, modeling, rehearsal, and review.

**The three basic types of transition are:**

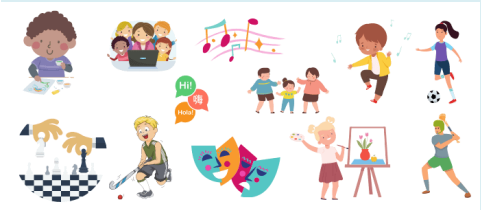
Entering the classroom



Taking a seat



Switching between activities



### Tips:

- **Secure students' attention**
  - "Focus on me, please"
- **Explain the procedure**
  - "Return to your desks and take out your history books."
- **Give a signal to start**
  - "When I say "begin", you will quietly proceed."
- **Initiate the transition**
  - "And....begin."
- **Observe**
  - Watch to make sure students are following directions.

Check out this article for some more tips on transitioning:

[Ten Tips to Smooth Transitions](#)

## *CHECK THIS OUT!*

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

### [AFIRM - Autism Focused Intervention Resources & Modules](#)

This site provides free training modules for both teachers and paraprofessionals.

### [Adapted Literature](#)

This site has a large selection of books in PowerPoint format that have been adapted to help students with severe disabilities access the curriculum.

### [Apps to Support Special Ed Students](#)

Many of these apps can be downloaded to a Chromebook and most, but not all, are free.



# Upcoming Events

## September

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Melisa Perez's Birthday (RFK) 🎂
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Labor Day **(No School)**
- 13<sup>th</sup> – Board of Trustees Meeting @ RFK
- 13<sup>th</sup> – Carmen Perez's Birthday (RFK) 🎂
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – Yesica Fernandez's Birthday (RFK) 🎂
- 27<sup>th</sup> – Amparo Chavez's Birthday (SPED Office) 🎂
- 30<sup>th</sup> – Patti Ledesma's Birthday (RFK) 🎂

## October

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



Mark Your  
Calendar

