

Tuesday Tribune

February 18, 2014

Reflecting on Love & Logic...

Last week I was conferencing with some parents and referenced the colorful flip chart that Julie E. & Emily put together for our beginning staff meeting. The parents that I met with recognized that they tend to react with anger and immediate punishment. They said they feel like they need to show their children who is in charge when they misbehave. We talked about empathetic responses to calm the situation and that it is okay to delay consequences. As we all know, the calming part may take a lot longer than we would prefer. Assuring that the child WILL be held accountable is critical, but re-teaching before the child and adult are ready will likely not produce the desired results. Jim Faye reminds us that delaying consequences is a better choice.

Another shout out to Julie & Emily for producing these useful flip charts! Misplaced your copy? I have extras 😊

The follow-up e-mail from the parents stated how fortunate they are to have their children at Costello where students are treated with dignity and compassion. Thank you Costello staff!

Fourth Grade Team...

Thank you for your willingness to host the Visible Thinking discussion on Thursday. Everyone walked away with new ideas to take back to their classrooms. It is helpful to see how everyone approaches the routines differently. A common piece that I heard from each of you was that narrowing the topic produced more thoughtful and in-depth responses from the students.

Cultures of Thinking Seminar Invitation...

Bemis is hosting their 2nd annual Cultures of Thinking seminar on March 11, 2014 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The title of the seminar is “Cultural Forces at Work.” There will be opportunities for you to observe classrooms through a formal process and the opportunity to wander in and out classrooms.

Please let me know if you are interested in attending by Friday, February 21th, I will need to let the Bemis team know.

Kalpa Sessions...

You can register now for the rest of this year’s NCA/PLC meetings. **Please reference e-mails from 2-17.**

Please check electronic calendar for the most current updates.

Observations...

I will be working to complete the rest of the observations this month. **Please schedule a post-observation through Jenny as soon after your observation as your calendar allows.**

The post-observation reflection questions in Teachscape will guide our discussion. It is not necessary to write these out, just be familiar with the questions. Thank you.

Switch Day...

is Thursday, February 20. Follow Monday Specials schedule.

Parent/Teacher Conferences, March 13...

If you are in the process of considering any students for retention **please set up a time for us to discuss this prior to talking with parents.** The district has some worthwhile tools that could be helpful when considering this decision.

If you have any conferences that you would like me to participate in please let me know. I usually try to attend one conference per teacher.

Lunch and dinner will be on your own for March 13. We will likely order out for dinner on Thursday. As discussed, PTO will provide lunch on Friday, March 14.

Costello Fundraising...

The Night Auction on Friday, March 7th and the Costello Fair on Saturday, March 22nd are wonderful opportunities to connect with students and families. I know many of you have already signed up to help at the fair and have purchased tickets to the auction. Thank you for supporting these exciting events.

Brain Freeze Thursdays...

2nd-5th grade teachers, please advertise this to your students and parents. We have volunteers, but could always use more. We are also asking parents to donate the treats.

<http://www.volunteerspot.com/index>

The money for 4th and 5th grade will go toward offsetting the cost of camp for next year. 2nd and 3rd grade profits will be for projects that we normally ask parents to fund.

We are not currently planning on doing kindergarten and first grade ice cream.

Maintenance Update from Ken Miller...

Now that we are starting to see a fluctuation of the temperature from extreme cold to mild winter conditions, we are going to have an increase number in roof leaks and concrete heaving problems. The

stumbling block is there is very little that can be done until weather conditions improve when it comes to patching the roofs and the ice starts to melt under the concrete allowing the slabs to settle back in place.

- With 1.8 million square feet of roofs, and a highly unusual cold (snowbound) winter spell for the past 8 weeks we are now faced with layers of snow that normally would have dissipated due to the sun and warmer (normal temperatures for this time of year) conditions. The custodians have been instructed to make periodic inspections of the roof drains and treat them with calcium chloride to ensure they are not impacted with ice. We have also installed collectors (leak grabber kits) in areas that have extensive roof leaks at a number of the schools so far. And no you can't shovel the roofs without doing additional damage to the rubber surface or creating instability on the roof structural integrity.
- As for heaving concrete slabs, we have already had to remove a number of threshold plates. In some areas the concrete slabs have buckled or risen to the point that we are unable to open some of the exterior doors. There is very little that we can do, and cutting down the metal or FRP doors is not an option without destroying the door. We are also seeing a number of issues with the concrete walkways heaving and large grabs in the asphalt parking lots.

Please report building concerns to Matt via e-mail and copy me on these so that I am also aware. Work that cannot be completed at the building level will require Matt to complete a work order for maintenance to resolve the issue(s).

**"Winning is not everything,
but the effort to win is."**

-Zig Ziglar

Have a terrific three day week!

Tammy