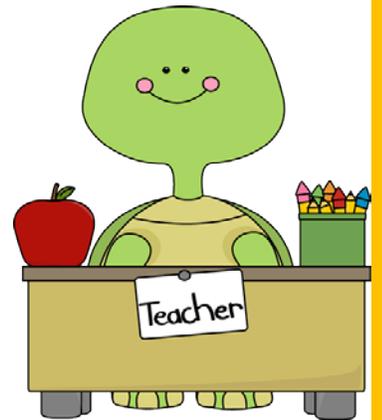


Social-Emotional Learning Newsletter

May 2014 Edition

A NOTE FROM YOUR COACHES: It's hard to believe another school year is almost over. As the third year of PATHS and Second Step implementation wraps up we want to again stress what a wonderful job you have all done with not only delivering lessons, but also generalizing these concepts throughout the school day. We will be conducting a few end-of-the-year activities so please keep an eye open for emails regarding those details! (Activities include interviews with students, Twiggle Day in elementary schools and final data collection.) This newsletter will highlight some of the outstanding work done in classrooms this year. In addition we have tried to include ideas that would serve as positive end-of-the-year activities related to social-emotional learning and ways to extend these concepts to students' homes for the summer. As always, please don't hesitate if you have any questions or stories for us!



A 5th GRADE CLASS RAISES MONEY FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Mrs. Monahan's 5th grade class at Ramos Elementary went above and beyond with setting a goal and working towards that goal to help others. As part of a PATHS lesson, students were introduced to a story called *Food from the Hood* which was about students that grew a garden to raise money for college scholarships. The lesson suggests that the class then completes their own community service activity. Simultaneously, Mrs. Monahan's class was reading *Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper. The book is about a girl named Melody who is unable to speak without an assistive device. This sparked students' interest and they decided to set a goal to raise money to purchase a communication device for a group of students who would benefit from it in their own school. Students decided to sell carwash tickets to a local carwash in order to raise the money to purchase this device. We wish Mrs. Monahan's class lots of luck in reaching their goal and applaud their efforts in setting a goal to help others! Way to go!

PATHS MODEL SCHOOLS



We wanted to highlight the terrific work done at Muhlenberg and Roosevelt Elementary Schools for the past three years of Allentown's Social Emotional Learning Initiative. These two schools were selected as PATHS Model Schools based on their level of implementation, commitment, and dedication to generalizing skills, and positive attitudes towards the curriculum. Principals at both schools will be attending the PATHS conference later in May where they will receive an award for their work and share their successes with other principals and teachers who are using PATHS. Thumbs up to the staff at both Muhlenberg and Roosevelt for the great work!

END OF THE YEAR REFLECTION ACTIVITIES

What Can Students Take Away From PATHS and Second Step This Year?

Toss and Talk Frisbee: On a blank Frisbee divide the top flat side into sixths or eighths so it looks like a pizza. What goes in each section is up to you. Some suggestions would be to write a feeling word and have students describe a time they felt that way or ask them to act out that feeling, or write a problem and ask students how they would solve it. On a sunny day or in the gym ask students to make a large circle. While they toss the Frisbee around the circle students will respond to section that their thumb is in when the Frisbee is caught. You can also make multiple Frisbees and form smaller groups of students to keep the pace of the activity engaging to all. A beach ball can also be used if catching Frisbee is difficult for younger students. This is a great way for students to reflect on what they've learned through PATHS or Second Step this school year.

Turtle Shell Compliments: Give each student a paper plate and tape it on their backs. Explain that this is their "turtle shell". For K-2nd grade teachers this fits in perfectly with our Twiggles theme! Instruct students to go around the classroom and write a compliment on their classmates' shells. You may want to review the 4 types of compliments learned this school year. At the end, students can remove their shell and see all the wonderful things their classmates said about them. This is a great keepsake for students to take and to remember their past school year. Older grades may want to adapt the turtle shell to a booklet, poster another theme that seems to be more age appropriate for your students.



A beach ball or Frisbee can be used as a tool to let students reflect on what they've learned this year! Remind students they can only talk when they have the Frisbee or beach ball!

SEND SEL HOME FOR THE SUMMER

Strategy Sandwich: Create a strategy sandwich with your students so they can refer to it over the summer when they encounter a problem or uncomfortable feeling. On tan paper cut out slices of bread, this will be the front and back cover of the sandwich. On the front piece of bread have student's label it "*Student's Name*" *Calm Down Sandwich*. The inside pieces might include cheese, meats, and veggie cut outs. On each of these cut outs students can write strategies they use to calm down. Once strategies are written the last piece of bread can be placed to finish the sandwich. These can be stapled, placed on a paperclip or ring or in a plastic sandwich baggy for students to take home and use over the summer.

Cool Down Kit: Have a class discussion with your students about items or activities that help them cool down. Compile a list of items that would be able to fit in a pencil or shoe box. Some ideas might be a bean bag, crayons to color, a squishy ball and a journal. As a class you can then construct a letter home to parents explaining that students have learned important skills all school year and would like to continue to use them throughout the summer at home. Suggest that parents gather a few of these items and store them in a shoebox or pencil box for their child to use throughout the summer.



Here is an example of the strategy sandwich idea!

PRINCIPAL CORNER

The end of the year is a great time to celebrate success in your school. Most schools have monthly or quarterly awards ceremonies. Celebrate the positives done with SEL in classrooms this year by creating awards centered around SEL topics. Try giving awards to students or teachers for Best Problem Solver, Best Feeling Identifier or Most Improved Behavior! This is a great way to show the importance of teaching SEL skills.

Questions or Comments

Email: ESewell@devereux.org or RGuzie@devereux.org