**August 2015**

**News you Can Use…**

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**Photo Hunt**

Organize the class into smaller teams of 4-5 participants. Have each team come up with a team name. Teams are given a selection of photos of different items in your classroom. Working as team, they must locate these items and write down where they found them. The team must stay together at all times and support each other during the challenge. Once they have found all the photos, they return back to the teacher with their results. If they return before the time has expired and all locations are correct, send them off to make their own scavenger hunt challenge using different objects in the room and drawing them. Suggested questions to ask in the review -

When you received your photos, what was the first thing you did?

How effective was your planning?

How well did you communicate as a team? How could you improve?

*A follow-up to this activity can be a group T-Chart for what teamwork looks like and sounds like in the classroom.*

**Our Colorful Community**

Before the students come into the classroom, fill one whole board with unkind words and actions in black and blue marker (mean, frowning, hitting, yelling, bully…). When we act without thinking, our words hurt others. Being a member of a classroom community means thinking about the feelings and needs of others, not just ourselves. Read some of the hurtful words with the students. Tape a poster to the middle of the board with the question “How do we want our class to be?” Have the students work in small groups to come up with new words that describe attributes they want in their classroom community. Give them bright colored markers to replace the black and blue reactive words with community building proactive words. *This can be a great starter for work on the classroom mission.*

**At the Bus Stop**

The students express their opinions in front of their classmates by getting on and off an imaginary bus. Create a space in the room with tape or manipulatives to create an imaginary bus. Have all students stand inside the bus. As the “bus driver” you stand at the front of the bus. The driver calls out the word pairs as he or she points to one side and the other. The passengers get off the bus on the side they most associate with at that time. For example; the bus driver says, “white milk” (pointing to the left side) and “chocolate milk” (points to the right side). Students walk to the side of the bus (rope) they associate with or even a statement they agree on. Pause and allow the two groups to see who chose what. Some examples of categories are – day/night, cat/dog, sun/rain, shark/dolphin, run/walk, read/ watch TV, listen/talk. Then the bus driver says “Back on the bus!” and everyone steps back on – standing in between the ropes again. *A follow-up to this activity can be a discussion on respect (for other’s thoughts and ideas) and what it looks like at school.*

**Best Back to School Tips from Real Teachers**

1. **Get and stay organized! This year will run much smoother and you will feel better prepared.**
2. **Teach and model respect to all your students by giving and expecting it to be returned.**
3. **Practice rules and expectations… practice and repeat; practice and repeat; practice and repeat**
4. **Teach and practice routines…practice and repeat; practice and repeat; practice and repeat.**
5. **Have a freezer full of premade casseroles so you don’t have to worry about dinner for a month!**
6. **BREATHE! It sounds so simple, but so many of us are stressed to the max and just need to remember to take a moment for ourselves.**

Jill’s Schedule! Jill Cell – 473- 4856

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