**August 2015**

**News you Can Use…**

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**Habit 1 – Be proactive**

Before the students come into the building, fill one whole board with “reactive” words and actions in black and blue marker (mean, frowning, hitting, yelling, bully…). When we react without thinking, our words hurt others. Being proactive means thinking before you speak and carrying your weather with you instead of blowing it about. Tape a poster to the middle of the board with the question “How can we be proactive and take care of each other?” Have the students work in small groups to come up with new words that describe how a person acts when he or she is proactive. 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.*

**Habit 2 – Begin with the end in mind**

Students will work in groups of two using an egg, 2 drinking straws, and a piece of duct tape. The groups will each need to wrap their egg to prevent it from breaking when dropped from 2 meters. Questions to discuss with the group – How did you need to work with your partner to get your egg wrapped? Did knowing the end goal make a difference in your planning? *This can be a great time to start a conversation about learning requirements and goals!*

**Habit 3 – Put First Things First**

For younger kids – Cut out a bear and clothes to go on the bear – underpants, socks, pants, shirt, coat, shoes. Mark each of the pieces of clothing with a different number 1-6. Hang the bear on the front board and hand out the pieces to 6 volunteers. Have another volunteer roll a dice. The number that comes up is the first piece of clothing that goes on the bear. Repeat the process until the bear is dressed (completely wrong.) Act shocked that the bear is dressed incorrectly and choose new volunteers to try the process again. You can do this until everyone has a turn or as long as you like. ☺ Questions to discuss – Why was important for the bear to put on his socks before his shoes? How do we put first things first in our life?

For older kids – Divide the students into groups of 3 or 4. Give the scenario to all students that they are shipwrecked on a deserted island after their ship crashes. They must prioritize the items listed, keeping only 4. Items include – fresh water, flashlight, television, gaming system, canned goods, fishing pole, bucket of candy, and a bicycle. Discuss as a whole group the decisions made by the smaller groups and their reasoning. How does habit 3 come into play in this scenario? How do we put first things first in our life?

**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!

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