

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Concept Schools is pleased to announce an exciting new opportunity for you and your students to get involved and get noticed in sharing outreach and positivity to our parents, stakeholders, and public followers.

The main Concept Schools website is starting a new student blogging initiative! We are looking for student bloggers to share their perspective, explore their creative writing, and engage our community online. Concept Schools is offering students a \$100 gift card for every student who gets their entry published on the main website. We are also considering potential rewards for you teachers that help them reach this success and student rewards for adding to our page.

A blog post can look different for younger elementary students. They can draw a picture and write a caption or post a video.

See here for more details:

<http://conceptelementary.blogspot.com/?view=snapshot>

If you and/or your students would like to participate, you can reach out to Don Shanahan (Director of Upper Elementary) at shanahan@conceptschoools.org.

CONNECT TO OUR RESOURCES

Have you check out the Department's web page? There are links to some great things there as well as a central place to find things like the unit outlines and yearly scope/sequence documents.

<http://elementary.conceptschoools.org/>

One of the newest additions to the website is Symbaloo! This is a collection of links that take you to websites commonly used by us elementary teachers. I am currently working on one for students (K-2) and elementary parents. You are more than welcome to pass along the link to anyone!

<https://www.symbaloo.com/mix/departmentofprimaryed>

In addition to the website, you can also periodically check our Google Drive to find things that I have created or are not on the website. Here is the link to the Google Drive for K-2 Resources.

[https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B6FjXc7-](https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B6FjXc7-cwyUQ0ZvQtZMDNvX3M&usp=sharing)

[cwyUQ0ZvQtZMDNvX3M&usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B6FjXc7-cwyUQ0ZvQtZMDNvX3M&usp=sharing)

FREE?!?!?

Communicating with Parents

Oh remember the days when a simple weekly newsletter was enough! "Back in the day", If there was an urgent message, we often resorted to pinning notes to the shirts of our students or leaving messages on answering machines! In our fast paced world, everyone would love to stay connected via a device or computer is a very timely fashion. Below are some free apps/sites that teachers can use to boost communication between themselves and parents.

Remind

<https://www.remind.com/>

This is by far one of the best apps for teacher/parent communication. Remind 101 lets teachers to send text messages to parents on a private platform; no one needs to exchange cell phone numbers! Simply create an account that parents can "join" by sending a single text message sent to a special code. Because teachers can message. Teachers can access Remind from a computer or from an app downloaded onto any device!

BuzzMob

<https://www.buzzmob.com/>

This free app lets parents, teachers and students connect on a private network that requires authorization before a user can see updates. One of the best features of BuzzMob is that you don't need to go onto any website; you can update straight from your phone or device right on the app.

Class Messenger

<https://www.classmessenger.com/>

This is another terrific site where teachers can send all kinds of wonderful things to their parents! This app (and site) moves beyond simple messages to sending things such as surveys or order forms. You can also create surveys, volunteer sign-ups and a whole host of other things. Also, this app also allows parents to message you (without going through e-mail!) Teachers (and parents) can even send attachments and pictures through this site.



Contact Information:

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Managing Behavior...Positively!

By Jennifer Sajovec

We all love Spring but that warm weather also brings out the "Squirellyness" (yes, I made this word up) in our young students. Are you finding yourself giving more corrections than praise? (Note: we should try to give 5 positive praises for every one negative.) Try out some of the strategies below to shift your behavior management to management from drab to FAB!!!

Reward Them with Notes

We all love getting special handwritten notes, especially in a time when everyone communicates through text and emojis.

When you notice a positive behavior, jot down a special "Thank You." note to your student. Better yet, send that note home with your students. Parents will greatly appreciate seeing the special connection you have with their child!

Brag Tags

Do you have any students walking around with key chains or small toys hanging from their backpacks? Kids love showing off their treasures! You can build on this by making BRAG TAGS for your students.

Brag Tags are a classroom incentive system that are used to encourage, promote, and celebrate positive behavior. These tags are approximately 2"x3" and hung on a necklace, key ring or a book ring. ([find rings here](#)) When a student demonstrates a behavior that the teacher feels is exemplary, a tag is rewarded to that student.

Some teachers allow students to wear these necklaces while some prefer to have them hanging up. Students can then be invited to wear their brag tag necklaces home at the end of the week so their families can celebrate in their success.

Check out these websites on brag tags:

<http://www.luckylittlelearners.com/2015/07/brag-tags.html>

<http://applesforablogspot.com/2015/04/so-what-are-brag-tags.html>

<http://learningwithfirstties.blogspot.com/2015/07/do-you-brag-tag.html>

Reward Coupons

How many of you have spent tons of money on prize box rewards or small trinkets to give out as rewards? Reward coupons are a great cost-effective alternative to prizes.

These coupons are pretty easy to make. Simply print on cardstock, laminate and cut. The best part is that when students trade them in, you can reuse the coupon.

<http://www.aplusfirstties.blogspot.com/2012/08/fantastic-followers-freebie-2.html?m=1>

<http://proudtobeprimary.com/class-coupons-classroom-management/>

Team Points

Do your students love a little competition? If so, then Team Points would be a great motivator. Students can earn points as a group when a teacher notices their group positive behavior. Try something like this "Groups who are quiet with all supplies ready before the timer sounds will earn one point on the Bravo Board."



http://proudtobeprimary.com/table-groups-classroom-management/?utm_content=buffer00ef&utm_medium=social&utm_source=pinterest.com&utm_campaign=buffer

At the end of the week (or even day), the team with the highest gets to choose a special reward.

Caution: Some students get carried away at "encouraging" their team mates. You will want to have a class discussion on positive ways to talk to your team mates. Also, you can tell the class that if you hear any negative comments, the table is out of the running for points.

Secret Student

At the beginning of each day, the teacher selects a student to be "The Secret Student." (Keep track on who you select on a class roster.) Then fill out the Secret Student form and stick it in a container. At the end of the day, the teacher pulls out the name and if that student had a good day, he/she gets a note home as well as a trip to the prize box. If the student didn't have such a good day, you can choose not to call them out. Just simply put the form in your pocket and explain that the student didn't have a very good day but there's more chances in the future.

This works when you drop little reminders such as "I need to check on my Secret Student." The whole class steps up their game because they don't know who is the Secret Student!

<http://www.primarypossibilities.com/2012/09/positive-behavior-rewards.html>

Free Forms:

<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Secret-Student-Forms-320299>

