

dePaul School

Respect [Teach [challenge [inspire

Language of Success

At dePaul we have always focused on praising the effort, not just the outcome. In his book, *Nowhere to Hide*, Jerome Schultz discusses the same concept calling it the "language of success." He advocates "using language that helps students focus on the process they use more than the product they create."

As a parent, you can use the same approach. When reviewing your child's homework or completed class work, ask questions like: How do you think you did? Are you satisfied with this? What goal were you working on? Did you achieve your goal? A simpler rating scale could be 1=not the best work you can do, 2=work that is OK, but not great, 3=about the best you can do.

If practiced over time, this method will lead to your child asking you what you think of their work, but then saying, "I know, I know-what do I think?" That's the goal of this approach and we find that it's a really great feeling (for both teacher/parent and student) when it gets to this point!

Vicki Howell, Head of School

Excessive Stress: Strategies for Helping Struggling Learners

Howard Margolis

Excerpt from Multibriefs.com, 1/19/16

Excessive stress — unjustified, overwhelming and relentless demands adults thrust upon children — can devastate all children, especially struggling learners. Struggling learners, including many children with dyslexia become excessively stressed when they believe they have no control over a situation

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Tarpon Springs Sponge Docks Field Trip

Upcoming Events

March 9

Summer Reading Camp
Information Session, 4:30-5:30

March 18

Traditional Student Field Trip
Dunedin Fine Arts Center

March 21-25

Spring Break – School Closed

March 28

Classes Resume

April 2

FL Branch of IDA Spring
Conference, Ft. Lauderdale



Tarpon Springs Sponge Docks Field Trip

or activity, believe they can't succeed, and believe their lack of control and inevitable failure will harm them immeasurably.

Teachers can often help such learners develop a realistic sense of control and a belief that with reasonable, moderate effort and the right use of effective learning strategies, they can succeed. This helps prevent chronic, destructive stress. Teachers can do this by repeatedly:

1. Giving LD students materials and activities at their proper independent and instructional levels, and not at their frustration levels.
2. Giving limited choices to engage in just-right activities they're likely to find interesting and satisfying.
3. Giving them feedback that emphasizes their recent successes, efforts, persistence and the right use of effective strategies.
4. Encouraging struggling learners to share their needs and concerns, and as they do, listening with empathy.
5. Providing them with frequent opportunities for exercise and other physical activities.
6. Giving them an abundance of opportunities to engage in activities they correctly believe they'll succeed in, feel good about, and offer moderate but not excessive challenge.

To read the complete article, go to <http://exclusive.multibriefs.com>. Another excellent resource on the effects of chronic stress among LD students and how to help kids improve learning and self-esteem is *Nowhere to Hide*, by Jerome Schultz.

Class Notes

...Overdue book notices from the library are being sent home with students. Please check around your house for these missing items!! Replacement cost is \$10 for paperback, \$20 for hardcover books.

...The iPads donated by Stratus Video are in use in all Traditional classrooms! Students are practicing math facts and cursive, taking AR quizzes and participating in teacher-generated interactive whiteboard quizzes with them! Teachers and students love them!!

...Mrs. Nicolo's Social Studies class is studying China and learning about the Chinese New Year – complete with lanterns and fried rice. (It is the year of the Monkey☺)

...Students in Mr. Kenny's iPad class are creating original movie trailers using iMovie - even adding special effects via other apps!

Ms. Leigh Leaving

Ms. Leigh, Joie's Aide and our Activities Assistant, will be leaving February 19. Ms. Leigh is going back to teaching fulltime and will be working with exceptional students at Fuguitt Elementary. We will miss her and know she will be great with her students! Best of luck, Ms. Leigh!

Parent Volunteers Needed!

With Ms. Leigh leaving, we are in need of parent volunteers to supervise Friday lunch beginning February 26. Volunteers will set out the pizza and supervise the traditional students from 11:30-12:10. If you are available and would like to help out, please contact Mrs. Iannucci at 796-7679 or

kiannucci@thedepaulschool.org

2016-2017 Re-Enrollment

Current families should have received their re-enrollment information in the mail. Completed Registration Form and the \$300 Registration & Materials Fee is due no later than Friday, March 4. Open enrollment will begin Monday, March 7 and we expect to be full on that day. Please use the form that was included in the mailing if you are not planning on returning so we may plan accordingly.

We are working with the church to create 2 additional classrooms (for 6-8 year olds) to meet the growing need. More information on this will be coming soon!

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