



THE RESTORATIVE PRACTICES --ADVOCATE--

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A NEWSLETTER for EDUCATORS

Restorative Expression

“Leaders are called upon to build new bridges, promote the common good, and uplift others. Restorative justice can serve as an indispensable tool for achieving these goals. Restorative justice focuses on the interrelatedness of the human experience and offers an alternative framework for resolving conflict and the resulting harm. It seeks to address the question of how to “make things right.” -

Dr. Artika Tyner

“I have a dream that we won’t have to talk about ‘restorative justice’ because it will be understood that true justice is about restoration, and about transformation. I have a dream” - **Howard Zehr**

“When people collectively come together and strategize and plan, working together and acting together, they create a power that they can effectively use in their situation to effect change.” - **Rev. Dr. James Lawson, Jr.**

“It is in the shelter of each other that the people live.” - **Irish Proverb**

FOCUS> IT’S ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIP!

In restorative practices, when we say, “**It’s ALL about RELATIONSHIP,**” we encourage you to join us in refusing to underestimate the truth and power of this statement. You can start by trying to imagine anything that is NOT about relationship. It is likely impossible. But as powerful as this statement is, it is just the beginning. If relationships are ubiquitous and unavoidable, then quantity is not necessarily the issue. The challenge is in nurturing relationships of quality... everywhere.

One of the frameworks we have found significantly resonant with the core of restorative practices is “**The Four Agreements**” as taught by **Don Miguel Ruiz** from the Toltec tradition. One of the four is “**Don’t make assumptions.**” Easier said than done, of course, but consider the following insight in light of the importance of the effort:

“Assumptions are the termites of relationships.” Henry Winkler

Now ... ask yourself how often do your assumptions keep you from truly connecting with the people around you and valuing them from the inside out.

Do you assume you have little or nothing in common? Do you assume that agreeing on the pursuit of common goals is enough? Do you assume that sometimes backgrounds are too diverse to allow for common ground? Do you assume that you are better than others ... or less than? Do you assume that you are communicating meaning when you make conversation, requests or demands? Do you have ANY assumptions that are quietly and secretly eating away at the integrity of the timber from which good relationships are built?

Consider, too, what occurs for you and others when you examine your BEST relationships by comparison to what damage you know is clearly being done in your poorest relationships.

In an effort to build better relationships, we would do well to take a tip from **Albert Schweitzer**, who said, “**Constant kindness can accomplish much. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust and hostility to evaporate.**” Oh ... and while we are at it, kindness might very well be a great catalyst for the other three of the four agreements, too: **Always do your best.** **Be impeccable with your word.** **Don’t take anything personally.**

(See “**For Your Restorative Toolbox**” for more. Page 2)

CALENDAR

FOR YOU!

January 13, February 18, March 11, April 7 – USD 259 Elementary & Secondary Assistant Principals Trained by The IIRP – The International Institute of Restorative Practices!

For Your Information*

(NOTE: This calendar section is set aside for events and meetings designed to help us network with one another collaboratively to increase our restorative Attitudes, Skills & Knowledge – The ASK framework for RP.

*Ongoing Restorative Practices collaboration in USD 259, Wichita and beyond for your awareness. Your input and feedback to participating team members is welcome!

RESEARCH

CORNER

2015

The Promise of Restorative Practices to Transform Teacher-Student Relationships and Achieve Equity in School Discipline

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ABSTRACT

Restorative approaches to school discipline are increasingly being implemented throughout the United States in an attempt to reduce reliance on suspension and eradicate the racial discipline gap. Yet, little is known about the experience of students in classrooms utilizing restorative practices (RP). This study draws on student surveys (N D 412) in 29 high school classrooms. Hierarchical linear modeling and regression analyses show that high RP implementing teachers had more positive relationships with their diverse students. Students perceived them as more respectful, and they issued fewer exclusionary discipline referrals compared with low RP implementers. In addition, the findings demonstrate some initial promise of well-implemented RP for narrowing the racial discipline gap. The study found that higher RP implementers issued fewer discipline referrals to Latino and African American students compared with lower RP implementers. The study findings have implications for equity-focused consultation in schools that honor student experience of new programming.

(For more, click below or copy and past URL to your search engine.)

http://www.antoniocasella.eu/restorative/Gregory_RJ_2015.pdf

For your...

RESTORATIVE
TOOLBOX



THE FOUR AGREEMENTS – Don Miguel Ruiz Powerful Wisdom from the Toltec Tradition – A Sketch

Be Impeccable with your word. – Speak with integrity. Say only what you mean. Avoid using the word to speak against yourself or to gossip about others. Use the power of your word in the direction of truth and love. ...To be impeccable means to take responsibility for yourself, to not participate in “the blame game.” Be impeccable with yourself and that will reflect in your life and your relationships with others. This agreement can help change thousands of other agreements, especially ones that create fear instead of love.

Don’t take anything personally. – Nothing others do is because of you. What others say and do is a projection of their own dream. ... Even if someone yells at you, gossips about you, harms you or yours, it still is not about you! Their actions and words are based on what they believe in their personal dream. ...When people have beliefs that are different from our own [and vice versa], we get scared, defend ourselves, and impose our point of view on others. ... Why become angry, create conflict, and expend energy arguing when you are aware of this?

Don’t make assumptions. – Find the courage to ask questions and to express what you really want. Communicate with others as clearly as you can to avoid misunderstandings, sadness, and drama. With just this one agreement, you can completely transform your life. ... When we make assumptions it is because we believe we know what others are thinking and feeling. We believe we know their point of view, their dream. We forget that our beliefs are just our point of view based on our belief system and personal experiences and have nothing to do with what others think and feel. ... Stop expecting the people around you to know what is in your head.

Always do your best. – Your best is going to change from moment to moment; it will be different when you are healthy as opposed to sick. Under any circumstance, simply do your best, and you will avoid self-judgment, self-abuse, and regret. ...Doing your best means enjoying the action without expecting a reward. ... Living in the moment and releasing the past helps us to do the best we can in the moment. It allows us to be fully alive right now... ...If you do your best always, transformation will happen as a matter of course.

(For more, log in to your district Google account, click this link: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1A6zynybJoW9tKB6FIBhfprKj7R9ZrpSI> and see Appendix 1. The book by Don Miguel Ruiz is also highly recommended.)

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