

The Principal's Corner

TOPA Sienna Hills is Open during Educator Walk-Outs

Frustrated by low pay and years of poor funding by the state, tens of thousands of Arizona teachers staged a walk-out on Thursday, April 27 to march on the Capitol. To support the teachers and school staff, scores of school districts and charter schools closed, with many others providing reduced schedules or limited offerings to accommodate students who need care. On April 10, the TOPA board of directors passed a resolution supporting our teachers in the #RedForEd movement, but have opted to keep schools open.

The marching teachers yesterday included a large majority of the faculty at TOPA Sienna Hills. The school stayed open on Thursday, with reduced staff, some guest teachers, and a number of volunteers. Scholars participated in learning activities throughout the day.

Schools across the state remain closed Friday. Friday is not a school day at TOPA, but it remains unclear whether teachers will return to work Monday. Should the walk-outs continue, the plan is for TOPA Sienna Hills to remain open next week, continuing the alternative schedule.

Parenting with Love and Logic

Basics of Great Parenting

Dr. Charles Fay, Love & Logic Blog, 3/28/2018

Do great parents use a large variety of good parenting skills? Not typically!

Great parents don't overwhelm themselves by trying to use every trick in the book. Instead, they rely on a small number of skills yet apply them with consistency. If you're feeling overwhelmed by your kids, could it be that you're trying too hard to do too many things? Might it be time to get back to the basics? What are these "basics"? Listed below are the top three I've observed from my experience with thousands of truly great parents and educators:



1. They demonstrate unconditional warmth and love. Kids feel this magical type of love when their parents spend plenty of time with them, when their parents focus on their strengths, and when their parents display empathy instead of anger or sarcasm when things go wrong.

2. Their "yes" is always "yes" and their "no" is always "no." Great parents are extremely careful to set only the limits they know they can enforce. They remember this important rule for setting limits:

- Never tell a stubborn child what to do.
- Instead, describe what you will do or allow.

Would you like your kids to believe that every word you say is important? If so, learn about Enforceable Statements in our audio: Love Me Enough to Set Some Limits.

3. They allow their kids to experience the logical and natural consequences of their decisions. Isn't it hard to watch our kids struggle with the consequences of their mistakes? While it breaks our hearts at times, allowing them to learn in this way gives them a tremendous advantage as they grow. They develop respect, responsibility, and a good grasp of good old-fashioned common sense.

The key, of course, is to display empathy rather than anger. If you ever find this difficult, listen to our audio: Keeping Cool When Parenting Heats Up. Raising great kids really can be a joy when we remember that we don't have to overcomplicate things with too many skills and too much theory. Keep it simple and enjoy your kids.

Recipe of the Month: Fish Tacos & Mango Pico De Gallo

We are always looking for ways to make quick and easy dinners. The kids have game nights, practice, or evening meetings. One of our favorite quick meals is Fish Taco with Mango Pico. We cheat and cut corners every way possible by either using frozen battered fish or usually I just pick up the precooked battered tilapia at our local grocery store. **Lorrese Roer**
4 servings -- 45 minute cook & prep time

Ingredients

Fish: Any type of battered precooked fish. We have even used the frozen. The amount depends on your family size. We use 6 pieces of battered tilapia for our family of six.

Tortillas: The small taco-size flour tortillas

Mango Pico De Gallo – Mix together:

- 3 medium ripe tomatoes, diced
- ½ mango, diced
- ½ medium onion, diced
- ¼ cup fresh cilantro, chopped
- 1 jalapeño seeded, minced
- 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
- ¼ tsp salt



Instructions

Cut up fish into bit pieces, put on the tortilla, and add the yummy mango pico. Sometimes we add shredded cabbage if we have the time.

Upcoming Events in May and Beyond

- April 28 – Father-Daughter Dance
- April 30-May 3 – Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 8 – Spring Concert (6:00 pm) Grades K-2
- May 9 – Spring Concert (6:00 pm) Grades 3-5
- May 10 – Fiesta Fun Run.
- May 28 – Memorial Day – NO SCHOOL.
- May 30 – Moving Up Ceremonies
 - Kinder – 9:00
 - 1st – 8:00
 - 2nd – 10:00
 - 3rd – 1:00
 - 4th – 2:00
 - 5th – 3:00
- May 31 – Half Day, Water Day, Last Day of School.



IB Learner Profile Student Recognition – March 2018

L to R: Natalie Faver (2); Mya North (K); Isabella Hinojos (K) Ava Grotte (3); Ethan Mercado (K); Brody Warren (K)

Insert: Sarah Cota (2)

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