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A Busy Fall for SOP

The 2017-2018 school year is well under way and we've had a busy fall season across the Commonwealth! Mary and I visited several regions and hosted our first ever SOP Finance Day. It was a great opportunity to share who we are, who we serve, and what we do. Your finance contacts in the school divisions also enjoyed touring an SOP and seeing in practice what they usually just see on paper.

Our leadership met in Staunton in October for the annual SOP Leadership retreat where Lisa Gray led us through several activities and reminded us, "There is no small change!" and to help us remember that we must always be flexible and understanding in our daily practice. We also began to focus on what leadership means to us as individuals and as a group.

In late October our detention leadership participated in our first ever joint workshop with detention leadership. We heard from nationally recognized principal Hamish Brewer who reminded us how important our jobs are and the

impact we can have on our students. We shared ideas, laughter, and best practices as we made new connections across centers.

Our first SOL testing window went off without a hitch with the new Pearson Access Next. A huge thank you to our STC's who made it through this time of "no small change"!

Finally, we celebrated recognitions at Richmond and Chesterfield Juvenile Detention Centers! Rodney Robinson (Richmond) was named the division's Teacher of the Year. This was the first time the award was given to a teacher who teaches in a non-traditional setting. Jenna Gradwell (Chesterfield) was recognized as an REB Teacher of Excellence for her work as literacy coach.

We hope to keep this momentum as we move into the Winter season. Thank you for all you do each and every day for our students and our programs. You make SOP's the place to be!

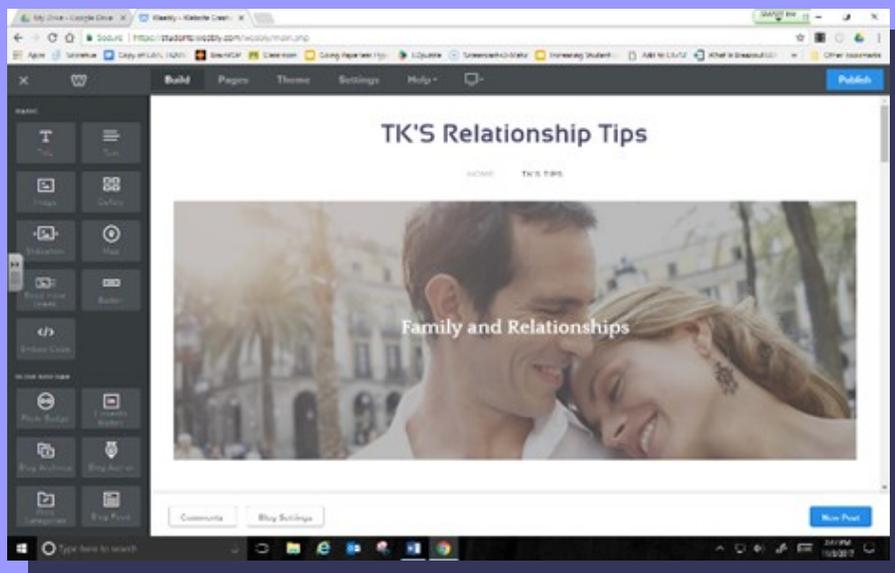
Blogging for Learning

One of the of the assignments in the Independent Living curriculum is to create a “Lifestyle Blog” demonstrating what students have learned in the relationships, family, dating, and parenting unit. Students complete four entries covering the categories of healthy living, caring for family, navigating conflict in relationships, and writing a review about a child’s toy.

As students in detention are not permitted to publish to the world-wide-web, we publish, in-house, using a free site called Weebly. Weebly is an effective learning tool for teachers in detention as it provides an online learning format utilizing a website where students no longer have to use an e-mail to access the site. Weebly also contains a blogging platform that students can create and access, but also keep private through the

settings in the program. In addition to sharing and connecting in-house with others what they’ve learned, effective use of technology is also demonstrated. Navigating on a website where students have to actually build the pages is another great skill students acquire with this lesson. So, overall, it is a win-win technology experience for both teachers and students alike.

–Virginia Passaris,
Virginia Beach Juvenile



E&H Visits HJDC

Head Coach David Willson and all members of the 2017-2018 Emory and Henry College (E&H) Men's Basketball team recently visited the students at Highlands Juvenile Detention Center (HJDC). Students were treated to a Saturday morning of drills, games, and important messages from players and coaches on the team. The drills were led by E&H players and showcased the importance of dribbling, passing, and shooting. Students and E&H players then participated in fun and engaging basketball games. Finally, players talked at great length to students about grit, teamwork, and passion. Players reminded students to "take care of the little things in life," and "not be afraid to let people help you

when you need help". At the end of the morning, Coach Willson discussed the importance of perseverance both on and off the basketball court. He highlighted student athletes on his team who persevered despite having consecutive losing seasons. That perseverance shown by his current seniors allowed them to reach the Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC) Championship game last season. The team also accomplished their first 20 win season in quite some time. Students were reminded that life will not be easy and that they must persevere, even when they feel like everything is working against them.

Submitted by Adam K. Smith, Highlands Juvenile Detention Center



Bell Ringers for New River Valley

Each day in Life Skills the students start their day with a bell ringer assignment. The assignment recently was to write a poem. After several minutes of complaining the students started writing. Mrs. Kelly Page, the Life Skills teacher, asked if anyone wanted to share their poem. The results were amazing! One student, who has lacked confidence in both reading and writing not only wrote the following poem, but also volunteered to read it aloud to his classmates.

Beeep! Gotta get outta sleep
Make my bed, brush my teeth
Lay under one sheet to keep my bed neat
Stand at my door, ready to go out on the floor
Reese's Puffs and P.E. stuff
I'm in juvy I've had enough
~C.C.

This was a wonderful reminder to Mrs. Page and the other teachers that simple activities can provide the students the opportunity to experience success.

[Bell Ringer Journal purchased from Teachers Pay Teachers offered by The SuperHERO Teacher]

Submitted by Keith Rowland, New River Valley Juvenile Detention



Piedmont Juvenile Detention Center’s Mock Election Predicts State Results

On Tuesday, November 7, residents and staff at Piedmont Detention Center filled in an official sample ballot for the Virginia statewide election. Ralph Northam, along with other Democrats on the ballot, easily won the mock election. Students expressed excitement that their results were predictive of the statewide outcomes.

During literacy classes, students considered all the key issues of this year’s election for governor and prioritized the issues of greatest relevance to them. Among the issues at the

top of the lists for residents were education reform and affordable healthcare.

With recognition for the media literacy techniques being used, students viewed political ads and debates to learn each candidate’s position on the issues of greatest importance to them. Residents also showed keen interest in the Libertarian candidate’s views, while recognizing that this candidate had no real chance of winning and that votes for him could have an important effect on the overall election results. Once students had decided on their candidates, they cre-

ated campaign posters to increase enthusiasm for the upcoming election.

“The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison men because they are different from other men.”

-Lyndon B. Johnson

Submitted by Sandra Boswell
Piedmont Juvenile Detention Center



Having a Whale of a Time

Back in October, Shenandoah Valley Juvenile Center had the privilege of hosting a celebrity guest speaker. Most famously seen in the thrilling documentary film *Blackfish* in 2012, John Hargrove visited our facility to speak about his work advocating for captive orca whales in SeaWorld custody.

The ORR/DCs bilingual teacher Ms. Quintero was instrumental in arranging John Hargrove's visit. After reading his memoir *Beneath the Surface: Killer Whales, SeaWorld, and the Truth Beyond Blackfish*, Ms. Quintero suggested we coordinate local and ORR/DC instruction around a nonfiction unit on whales in captivity.

Students studied disparate sources to dig deeper into this real-world issue. Even though the film is several years old, Hargrove is still testifying before U.S. Congress to help enact laws that will further protect orcas. It was insightful hearing the students relate the whales' experiences to their own detained status.

Mr. Hargrove took a special interest in the opportunity to visit a detention facility because he could relate to the students' experience. It was an insightful visit as the students got to hear a real success story of someone who started from a circumstance much like their own. His visit continues to make waves with the students as they now write him letters.

Submitted by Leslie Schallock Shenandoah Valley Juvenile Center



Norfolk Hospital School Program Organizes a ‘Sock Hop!’

On November 20, 2017, the staff at Norfolk CHKD’s Hospital School Program organized a Sock Hop breakfast and collected contributions of socks to donate to the residents at the Signature Health Care facility in Norfolk.

Submitted by Janice Teagle , CHKD





State Operated Programs

Thanks to everyone who submitted articles for Sharing Our Progress this Fall! Please continue to submit articles for the next newsletter this upcoming winter season.

Articles must be submitted the **15th day of the month before the publication.**

Newsletters will be published on the 1st of October, December, March, and June.

Submit articles in MSWord

format to:

sharingourprogress@gmail.com

A few guidelines for articles:

1. Provide articles that are **75-200** words in length. If you have more information to offer the field, include your email so that you may be contacted.
2. Provide author's name at the end of the article.
3. Submit graphics as JPGs or GIFs.
4. Submitted articles written by you or your staff.
5. Proof your article.
6. Send articles any time.

Thanks for all your support and contributions to our newsletter!!

