

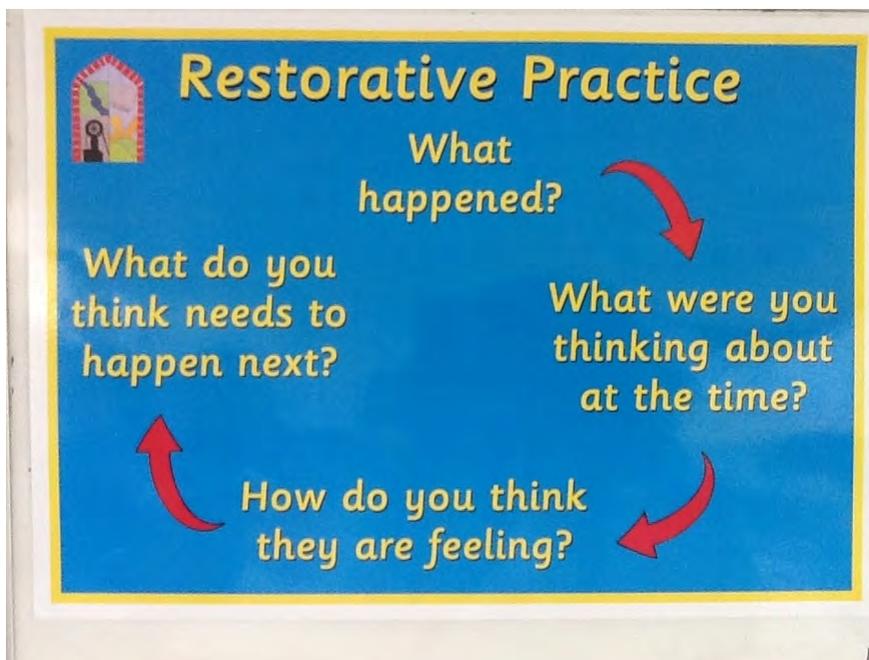


ROSEVILLE AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Raider's Den

THE HEARTBEAT OF 623

News for the week.



One of the concerns that people have about the use of Restorative Practices in schools is centered on the idea of students being held accountable for their actions. Here is a passage from a manual by Margaret Thorsborne and David Vinegrad (Restorative

Practices and Bullying: Rethinking Behaviour Management) which addresses this concern:

“For many, the term accountability is synonymous with punishment. Do the crime, do the time. In other words, accountability is usually about the need for consequences for one’s actions, and getting one’s just desserts. Howard Zehr, an American criminologist and a pioneer of the modern concept of restorative justice has some helpful comments about the limitations of this traditional view of accountability. He explains that this abstract approach runs the risk of the wrongdoer and his/her caregivers focusing on the unfairness of the process and its outcomes. They are

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subsequently diverted from any useful self-reflection. As long as the consequences are decided for wrongdoers by school officials and therefore ‘dispensers of justice’, then accountability will not involve responsibility.”

How to Ace Early Childrearing

Research suggest that parents do five things with their babies and toddlers - do you recall doing these with your children?

- **Maximize love, manage stress.**
- **Talk, sing, and point.**
- **Count, group, and compare.**
- **Explore through movement and play.**
- **Read and discuss stories.**

Created by Harvard professor Ronald Ferguson in consultation with colleagues and area parents, [Boston Basics](#) aims to close economic and racial gaps that are evident by age two. Supported by numerous foundations and local agencies, the Basics are available online (see the videos at the website), in hospitals, doctors’ offices, faith-based organizations, community agencies, workplaces, museums, libraries, childcare centers, housing developments, homeless shelters, retail establishments, and schools. “The effort isn’t about fixing bad parenting strategies among the nation’s disadvantaged,” says Mathewson. “It’s about distributing information that is universally useful.”

Of the five childrearing precepts, “maximize love, manage stress” is counterintuitive for many parents. They’ve been acculturated to avoid too much coddling and holding of their babies lest they spoil them. With baby boys, the fear is that too much affection will prevent them from growing up to be strong and independent. “This concern about spoiling babies is pervasive,” says Ferguson, “whereas the sense of safety and being loved is foundational for later development.” Research shows that physical affection, loving words, and security are vital to developing the executive function skills that allow older children to control their own behavior and achieve academically.

Adults tend to parent as they were parented, says Sarah McLean, the mother of three young children who is using the Basics on a daily basis. She’s caught herself treating her toddler son differently than her daughters, expecting him to get up after falling down (mom is inclined to pick up the girls and comfort them after a spill). “We can’t shed the bad and keep the good if we don’t have some sort of disruption of how this could be different,” says McLean. “The Boston Basics really offers that.” Ferguson hopes that by blanketing the Boston area with these practices, attitudes and beliefs about childrearing will undergo a transformation similar to the use of seatbelts in cars, which a massive advertising campaign moved from 14 percent in 1985 to 84

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percent in 2011.

“Can Love Close the Achievement Gap?” by Tara García Mathewson in The Atlantic, April 17, 2017

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time
May 1	No School - Teacher PD	All Day
May 4	Spring Play	7:30
May 5	Spring Play	7:30
May 6	Spring Play	3:00 and 7:30
May 15	Spring Music Concert	7:30
May 16	AVID Family Night	5:30 -7:00
May 23	Title I Family Night Spring Music Concert	5:30 – 7:00 7:30
May 25	Spring Music Concert	7:30
May 26	No School - Teacher PD	All Day
May 29	No School – Memorial Day	All Day

For more information about Roseville Area Middle School and the Raider's Den, contact Dr. Brookins, Principal at tyrone.brookins@isd623.org or 651.482.5280.

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