

My narrative on how I plan to connect my classroom with our larger school community and how I provide outreach to my student's families is expressed in the following way:

Our school-wide theme is all about SOAR which stands for a) Safety, b) Organization, c) Achievement, and d) Respect". This is as well integrated in my classroom; the same rules apply, only on a smaller scale for my students. Students have the chance to earn SOAR points in my class as well as all throughout the school where they show their upmost best behavior; this shows them that a sense of community is well planned in our school.

We also have a yearly theme, and this year the unanimous vote went to Safari. All teachers' classrooms are set around a Safari theme which ties my classroom together with our school as a whole.

We have monthly PTO events where parents can come visit our school to see what their children have achieved so far, view our lavishly decorated hallways with student works, and see their child's teacher to touch base on how their child is doing in class. On top of these monthly Parent Teacher Organization meetings, we incorporate several school-wide get-togethers such as the Christmas show where students get to show their yearly performance.

As a teacher working in a school community, I have to make sure to understand the available resources that are available to me through the school. As a community, we as teachers work in teams and in order for students to be successful in all levels, it is important to work together to tackle any bumps along the way. As discussed in chapter 11 in our book, several resources are available such as the Administration, the school psychologist, the consultation team, the counselor, etc.

The next important step is to be aware of how to stay connected with parents and students families, when to contact them such as in discipline or behavior issues concerning their attention,

and to simply keep them informed on how their child is doing in school. I especially value strong relationships with my student's parents, as I as an ELL myself know how important it is to have support from all sides to help a student be successful. I should know my students backgrounds and cultures, as diversity in the classroom is growing at a rapid scale. I should also be aware of home-situations as they can play an essential role in how certain students behave in my class. I need to be aware of my students in general and show them my respect, and to have them understand that I believe in them. As quoted in Levin and Nolan (2014), "teachers who are 'warm demanders' demonstrate a sense of confidence and belief in student ability by communicating high expectations. But along with student accountability comes teacher accountability and the continual support of students' effort." I feel it is essential for me to give praise and to assure students that I have their best interest at heart. I can show this best by letting students know both their parents and I are their supporters. Building parent-teacher relationships is essential and not easy, as I will most likely have to contact these parents on good terms as well as on bad terms when their child has misbehaved or is not participating/not doing their directed school work. I have learned that it is good to let parents know how well their student is doing, and then politely go into detail, as we have described in our Case Study #3.

When asked on how I reach out to my students' parents, I would state that this is possible on so many levels. I can send out daily reminders and progress reports, weekly newsletters, email with parents or talk over the phone, I can have weekly meetings with parents if they wish to do so to monitor their child's progress, and I can also post their update and daily activities/achievements on my personal teacher website. On this website I can also incorporate several links for parents to be able to volunteer and be a part of the school community.

As with discipline issues, I will have to remember to work with the school as a team to tackle behavior issues where again I can rely on a counselor to be available, etc. Overall it is a school community, and only as a team are we able to be great role models to our students.