CREATING A CARING AND CHALLENGING COMMUNITY

A.K.A.

The Magic Blend

enough

Tipping Point

Enough.

Malcolm Gladwell
THE WORLD IS A PHENOMENOLOGICAL PLACE

WHY THIS MATTERS:

You may not like the beginning of the answer…

There’s not a silver bullet…

Just a long hard slog…

You build it the same way you build any program…
STEP #1: DEFINING WHAT CARING MEANS

STEP #2: SETTING CARING AS A PRIORITY

STEP #3: DEFINING CARING IN A WAY THAT CAN BE SEEN AND MEASURED

STEP #4: PUTTING IT IN WRITING AND IN EVALUATIONS

STEP #5: DEVELOPING A SYSTEM OF REWARDS AND THE OPPOSITE OF REWARDS THAT INSURES THAT A CULTURE OF CARING HAPPENS AND IS NOT JUST RHETORIC FOR ADMISSIONS...

HOWEVER: There are some tricks of the trade...

1. Beginnings and Endings are magical [A.K.A. the OREO approach]

FOR THE YEAR:

A representation of each student at the beginning of each year: I have arrived!

A representation of each student to leave as part of them at the end of the year or years at the school.

MEET AND GREET!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

A visitor to the school knows...

[have a stranger walk through your school...]

TEACHERS

For the day or class period:

Meet and greet at the door
Or a special entry procedure
Or...

Some kind of consistent ending comment/routine

Consider the magic of music
STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

1. DECISION MAKING
   - The environment
   - The rules
   - The procedures
   BUT NOT THE SEATING ARRANGEMENTS

2. CONNECTEDNESS
   - Traditions
   - Cooperative learning
   - Service
   ‘Out of skin’

THE TEACHER

Clearly cares about the school

EACH student believes the teacher cares about him or her
[use your words, adolescents misread adult faces and intentions]

The students believe the teacher is passionate about teaching or her/his subject area

WHY THIS MATTERS:
THE GOALS AND RULES:

Articulate caring in your teacher evaluations, philosophy statement, your view book, your ‘sayings’ posted around the school [and coming out of your mouths], the awards, prizes given… so much so that it is impossible not to ‘feel’ it!

The formal and informal discipline code responds to serious transgressions against the caring philosophy… e.g. disrespectful language, sarcasm, bullying… SANCTUARY

Your turn!!

ADD TO THE LIST…

WHAT NEEDS TO BE…

added, deleted, cherished at your school?

However:

DON’T FORGET THE MAGIC BLEND
FOR RESOURCES OR EMAIL:

www.DEAKgroup.com