

May Staff Development Newsletter

— A NEWSLETTER FOR THE SEWARD STAFF BY DR. DOMINY —

HAPPY MAY DAY!

Did you know??

What does May Day have to do with the international distress call, "Mayday, Mayday, Mayday"? Nothing, as it turns out. The code was invented in 1923 by an airport radio officer in London. Challenged to come up with a word that would be easily understood by pilots and ground staff in case of an emergency, Frederick Mockford coined the word "mayday" because it sounded like "m'aider," a shortened version of the French term for "come and help me."- History Channel.com

Staff, it does not seem possible, but May is officially here. In the natural world, May is a time of new growth and beauty. In the education world, May marks an ending, if there can really be an ending in education. The end of the school year is a time for celebration, reflection, and finishing strong.

We celebrate our graduates, they are the ultimate reward in K-12 education. Graduation is a culmination of the work of all of us over a long period of time. We have a great deal of ourselves invested in each child we have worked with. On graduation day, we get to share the joy of our students as they reach an educational milestone. This milestone could not have been accomplished without the considerable work of all of you.

We celebrate our retirees, we are thankful for the years of service to our schools and our profession. Our staff truly makes a difference in Seward Public Schools and we thank the staff who are retiring this year and those that have retired in the past who paved the path of success for Seward Public Schools.

We celebrate you! Thank you for all of the time that you gave to support our students and families and make this school year a success!

The last thing we have left to do is finish strong! Our students need us to maintain the structures and boundaries that made them successful. They need the adults to model how to take advantage of the moments and finish the race!

Thank you

Matt

ELEMENT #35 DEMONSTRATING WITHITNESS

May is the time that we begin to take field trips, have field days, outside speakers, etc. Students can feel the change of schedule and with the changes come changes in behavior. The end of the school year can be very difficult for some students and these are the students who have thrived in your classrooms because of the structure and routines that you have in place. We want students to have opportunities to make great memories in May and extend learning to things outside of the classroom, but please do not forget the structures, routines, and procedures that made you successful during the year. When a teacher is demonstrating withitness, they are alert and aware of what is happening at all times and identifies possible disruptive behavior and proactively addresses them. Strategies for demonstrating withitness include being proactive, occupying the whole room physically and visually, noticing potential problems, and using a series of graduated actions.

When this element is in action, the teacher will observe the following behaviors in students:

- * Students recognize that the teacher is aware of their behavior.
- *Students describe the teacher as aware of what is going on.
- *Students extinguish potentially disruptive behaviors quickly and efficiently.

