It’s Never Too Late To Clean Up Your Act!

With Zipora Schuck

February 12, 2014
Our Guest: Zipora Schuck, MA, MS

Mrs. Schuck is a School Psychologist from Rockland County, NY. She is dedicated to helping children find success during the school day and beyond, through her work with teachers, principals, parents and children. She holds two masters degrees, one in Special Education and one in School Psychology as well as having completed extensive post graduate work in administration.

After working for the NYC Dept. of Education, she assumed the role of Director of the Learning Center at the Beth Rochel School in Monsey, as well as founding Pathways Consulting Services LLC, a professional development agency. She has served as the permanent educational consultant for many schools in Monsey over the last decade, and presents trainings throughout the country. Mrs. Schuck is also an adjunct faculty instructor for Mercy College, teaching in both the undergraduate and graduate programs of Special Education and Psychology.

From all her responsibilities, she most enjoys her counseling and coaching sessions with children and teens, giving them the cognitive, linguistic, social and emotional tools they need to succeed in the real world.
Welcome to the mid-year slump! Good habits, organization, and neat supplies are things of the past. We all could use a 7th inning stretch. Attention given to these areas now, will help ensure a successful second half of the year for both you and your students.
Session Goals:

• To help teachers recognize the importance of maintaining organization.

• To offer concrete strategies for related student skills.
What Do Walmart and Gyms Have in Common?

They both know that good habits and resolutions fade.

The winter (or new calendar year) are good times to get back on track.
Didn’t you always want to be a model?

✓ Check your desktop and drawers
✓ Return all student work
✓ Plan the trajectory of curriculum to still be completed this year.
✓ Do you have the necessary supplies and books?
✓ Are you in compliance with all school paperwork?
A Careful Look With Different Eyes

Observe carefully for three days.

Keep a running list of areas that need an early spring cleaning, re-teaching, or a better system.
Update The Environment

- Bulletin boards
- Student work displays
- Books
- Projects
- Windows
Student Desks and Binders

- Completed work
- New folders
- Archives
- Supplies
- Visual maps
Important Homework Tonight!

Empty out briefcases in school.
Give a homework free night!
Encourage washing of the book bags at home.
But isn’t Pesach around the corner?

- Getting to it then leaves little instruction time left in the year
- The end of the year is filled with high stakes testing, curriculum wrap-ups -
- It’s harder to be distracted then by organizational and scheduling issues
Time To Upgrade All -

Routines
Rules
Systems
How To

- All classroom procedures need a system
- From Arrival to Dismissal and everything in between
Study Buddy Groups

- Especially helpful with all the winter absences
- Include 1 academically strong student, 1 weaker student, and 2-3 average kids
- Give credit whenever Study Buddy Group goes into effect
Time for Six Month Social Check-up -

• What skills or lack of skills have you noticed?
• Which skills have you addressed?
• What social dynamics need attention?
• How can you include skills throughout your teaching?
Mid-Year Teacher and Student Conferences

✓ Schedule five minutes.
✓ Ask them about the first part of their year.
✓ Discuss their goals for the second part.
✓ Ask about things they may need more support with.
✓ Discuss the different ways they’ve grown and matured.
✓ Look at all the work accomplished.
Class Countdown to Summer

• Talk about making it count
• Reflect on how much we’ve covered
• Mention upcoming curriculum topics
• Elicit goals from the students
• Examine the weekly/daily schedule
• Discuss that what works well is equally as important as what needs to be adjusted
Build in Some Exercise

Get them moving at recess.

Stretch throughout the day.

Exercise sends much needed endorphins to the brain.
Involve the School

Referrals for extra help

- P3’s
- Evaluation
- Outside counseling
- Social skill training
Data Collection

To back up the need -

- Ten day baseline
- Observable and measurable
- No subjective terms or opinions
Memo to Parents

- At PTA or in writing
- Ask for a supply restock
- Discuss goals for the rest of the year
- *Don’t end up in June feeling bad that you ever got around to something.*
Getting it Together at Home

- Embedded schedules and checklists for nighttime/morning routine
- The everything box
- First aid for burned out students kit
911 for Homework Help – Ideas for Parents

- Designated homework time
- Homework supply bin
- Outsourcing when necessary
- Treats and shtick – keep it exciting!
- Incentives to carry them over the slump (students, teachers and parents too)
- Get it back on track before Pesach cleaning and spring fever hit full force.
Do it for the very reason...

...that you are modeling being a responsible adult. *Having a clear direction, purging of unnecessary “stuff”, flexibility to change things not working, and attention to the details are some of the biggest life lessons you can teach your students.*
### Upcoming Hidden Sparks Without Walls Sessions

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<td>Wed March 5</td>
<td>For Teachers and Parents: What’s Behind Children’s Challenging Behavior and What Can We Do to Help?</td>
<td>Claire Wurtzel</td>
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<td>Wed March 26</td>
<td>For Teachers: Screen Time and Bullying (for elementary through high school age students)</td>
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For more information visit: www.hiddensparks.org
Hidden Sparks is a non-profit whose purpose is to help children with learning differences reach their full potential in school and life. Hidden Sparks develops and supports professional development programs for Jewish day schools to help increase understanding and support for teaching to diverse learners.

Guided by a philosophy that helping schools meet the needs of children with learning and behavioral differences will ultimately benefit all students, Hidden Sparks’ programs combine professional development in learning and positive behavioral support, guided classroom observation and one on one coaching.
The Hidden Sparks program is currently in 23 Jewish day schools/yeshivot in the New York metro area, 7 schools in Baltimore and 2 schools in Chicago.

Since inception, Hidden Sparks has trained 77 Internal Coaches from 45 ICP participating schools and has provided school-based coaching to a total of 15 Hidden Sparks External Coach Schools.

More than 1,000 teachers have received Hidden Sparks training, impacting an estimated 10,000 students.

If you are interested in bringing Hidden Sparks to your school or city, please contact us at:
212-767-7707 or news@hiddensparks.org
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