

MAY FOCUS: Improving Faculty & Staff Relations



With your student activity program there are certain times when your students

need to be out of class to work on a project and also times when the school day is disrupted because of a project.

It is important for students to offer support to programs that recognize the faculty and staff. Your student organization should be concerned about faculty/staff relations because:

1. It makes the faculty and staff feel more appreciated.
2. It creates a more friendly environment at your school.
3. It involves them in your organization and its projects.
4. It creates more support for your projects and more help when needed.
5. It encourages more interaction with the faculty and staff.

Faculty and staff appreciation should be a year round event but be sure to say "thank you" in some way at the end of the year. An appreciation breakfast or

luncheon is a nice way to end the year. Select a date and send invitations. Decorate the tables for a special look. Remember everyone likes to eat!

When school starts the next year plan a special welcome back for faculty and staff. One way is to help them get their rooms or areas ready. Post a sign up sheet for helpers and let them select a time slot. Tasks could include things such as moving books, rearranging desks, decorating rooms and bulletin boards, hanging posters, arranging schedules for distribution, etc.



Another idea is to decorate the faculty lounge. Have signs saying "Good Luck" and "Welcome Back." Post pictures of new staff members to make them feel welcome. Make the lounge festive and inviting. This is also a great time for a "Welcome Back" breakfast.

Monthly appreciations could include Card and Candy Grams. Design a colorful card with a poem that a student has written or find one. Put some small candy in the card and put them in mailboxes at school.

As well as faculty, be sure to recognize Guidance Counselors, Media Specialist, Nurses, Bus Drivers, Security Guards, Cafeteria Workers, Administrators, Secretaries, Paraprofessionals, and anyone else who works at your school. There are many special days and weeks during the year such as National Teacher Appreciation Day and National Secretaries Day when faculty / staff can be recognized.

An idea for Thanksgiving is to have a colorful drawing of a turkey. Use red, yellow, and orange cut outs for feathers and write a faculty or staff name on each feather. Arrange the feathers on the turkey and hang it in a place where it will be easily seen such as the faculty lounge or the mailroom. Include a banner which says "We are thankful for our faculty and staff." Another easy way to say thanks is to wash windows on cars in the faculty and staff parking lot.

This newsletter is a joint effort of Jackie Burch and Herff Jones, Inc.

Leadership was defined by James McGregor Burns as “leaders acting -as well as caring, inspiring, and persuading others to act - for certain shared goals that represent the values - the wants and needs, the aspirations and expectations - of themselves and the people they represent.”

This is a role that almost everyone is called on to play. True leaders step up to the challenge.



MEETINGS

Your group is getting ready for a meeting. Never have a meeting just for the sake of meeting or because someone or something says that there should be a meeting each month. Each meeting should have a clear purpose and goal(s).

Consider the size of the group attending and the business to be considered. This will determine how much time the meeting will take. Always start at the appointed time. If the meeting has a team building activity, decide on the desired tone such as a celebration or a “get-to-know-you” or learning activity.



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Position this activity before the actual business meeting. Never let a meeting be too long and drag. Remember your attendees are busy people. Students have other activities such as sports practice and homework.

FUNDRAISING IDEAS

Win The Game Ball. A few days before a big football game have each of the players and coaches sign a football. Sell chances to win the football before and during the game. Use it for the first play of the game. Before the game ends draw and announce the winner of the football. This is especially popular when your team is having a good season. It would also work for basketball, baseball, soccer, etc.

Best Legs. Take pictures of the legs of 5 faculty men or male students and post them above 5 jars. Have the students vote for the best legs by putting money in a jar. The identity of the legs’ owner is kept secret until the appropriate time, such as a Pep Rally, and then the winner is announced. The one with the most money is the winner.

Flea Market. Your school parking lot could be a great location for a flea market on a Saturday. Advertise the event and encourage people to buy booth space for a huge garage sale. Also take donations and run a large booth for your organization. Selling refreshments to the shoppers is another great idea.

A flea market will make even more money if it becomes an annual event. The key to the

event’s success is publicity—people to buy spaces and to get the crowds to attend. This could be successful in the spring and the fall.

Cotton Candy. Purchasing a cotton candy machine is a great fundraising investment because people love cotton candy! If your organization owns a machine, cotton candy could be sold at games, after school, etc. Permission would probably be granted to sell in front of a local store. It is very cheap to make and easy to sell. The machine could also be rented to other clubs and organizations.

Another excellent purchase that will also raise a lot of money is a popcorn making machine.



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“The challenge of leadership is to be strong, but not rude; be kind, but not weak; be bold, but not bully; be thoughtful, but not lazy; be humble, but not timid; be proud, but not arrogant; have humor, but without folly.”

~ Jim Rohn ~