



Lesson Plan - Week of March 21, 2005

Appreciation Tree

This activity makes a great bulletin board! It is suitable for a single class or a whole team or school to do. Fall and spring are the logical times for it.

1. Ask students to think of people in their school or community who help them or make their lives better or safer. Include people they might not think about every day, like cafeteria workers, custodians, secretaries, playground aides, support personnel, etc. Each student selects a person to appreciate.
2. Each student cuts out a colorful leaf shape in fall colors (or green ones if done in the spring). These should be 6" long or a bit larger to leave room for writing. If students are young, pre-cut shapes can be provided.
3. Students write a short note on the leaf, thanking a person by name ("Thank you, Mr. Murphy, for getting the balls and jump ropes for us on the playground. We have more fun because of you!"). Students may sign the notes or not.
4. Draw or cut out a large tree and mount on the bulletin board. Students may read the notes aloud to the class, then stick or pin them to the tree. An alternative would be to stick the leaves to windows or even a wall.
5. Sharing the names aloud is important. Some of the students may become aware of people and their names for the first time. It is a nice touch to have all the students thank the people named as they encounter them during the day.
6. Notify the staff to stop by and look at the tree. They may be surprised and pleased to be publicly thanked!
7. If this is a whole school initiative, you may want to plan a ceremony where the honorees are invited to hear their names read.