Goal #1: Parent Communication:

How and When Achieved:

Throughout PSIII I had the privilege of interacting with the student’s in my classrooms parents on multiple occasions. My goal was to interact with parents in the specific setting of parent teacher interviews. However, through the use of e-mail, my classroom app (Class Dojo) as well as when parents would pick up their children I was able to interact on an almost daily basis.

Instead of parent interviews, our class held a “Celebration of Learning” which allowed students to take their parents on a tour of the classroom. This included sharing their daily routines, completing a mad minute and spelling test, showing off their favourite artwork as well as other various aspects of their schooling that they were proud of. Because the students were the “tour-guides” there was minimal interaction between the student’s parents and I. It was a very relaxed atmosphere and although my goal of interacting with parents through interviews was not achieved I was able to gain a broader perspective in all of the interactions I did have outside of an interview.

One of the most effective and meaningful ways I interacted with parents was through the use of my Class Dojo app. This app was available to be downloaded by parents on their mobile devices as well as viewed on a computer. Points were awarded to students for aspects such as “working hard” and “staying on task”. Parents were then able to see on their own app how their child behaved during the day. There was also a place where parents could see pictures of their child’s activity throughout the day. Many parents told me how much they enjoyed seeing what their child was up to through pictures as well as the points they had received. This app was a great communication tool as well as a great starting place for me to work on my goal of meaningful and effective communication with parents.

Although my specific goal of interacting with parents in parent-teacher interviews was not met, I feel I gained an even better sense of what it means to “keep parents in the loop” on a regular basis that helped me grow as a professional.

How and When Achieved:

Classroom management was an extremely challenging goal for me to conquer in PSIII. Because of the classroom dynamics that I had the privilege of teaching in it took me a while to figure out the most effective strategies to implement and I was always look for more strategies to put in place. I believe classroom management will be a continual goal throughout my teaching career. The reason I believe this is because throughout my 4-month internship I have learned so much about classroom management but I feel like there is always something to improve upon as well as there is always continual growth that is expected.

One other aspect of my classroom management goal was to give multiple strategies a chance. On my first day of teaching I set out my strategies and expectations for the class. This seemed to go okay and the students appeared to be excited for the new systems I was offering. However, throughout the first month I discovered that not all of my strategies were working the way I wanted them to. I also discovered that this was not due to having ineffective strategies; rather this ineffectiveness was largely due to my lack on consistency. For example, I created “blurt sticky notes” that each student had on their desks. I did not keep up with this enough for the sticky notes to be meaningful and therefore it was not an effective strategy.

This aspect of continuity is something that I discovered to be true for all management strategies. I feel that this discovery helped me achieve my goal of delivering meaningful and effective management strategies in a way that I would not have been able to had I not had my initial discovery that it wasn’t the strategy that needed changing; rather it was the implementation that needed to be altered. This helped throughout my practicum and I feel as though it will continue to help my classroom management implementation throughout my career as a teacher.

Goal #2: Effective Classroom Management: