DEVELOPING A HARMONIOUS RELATIONSHIP WITH STUDENTS
Written by: Normita S. Bartolome
Teacher III
San Pablo Elementary School
Dinalupihan, Bataan

School is such an encouraging and safe environment where students spend most of the precious time of their entire life and call it their second home and teachers being their second parents, guide, friend philosopher and mentor are responsible for children’s welfare (Amit Kumar, 2016). They are expected to grow and nurture as a good individual in our community; and teachers play a huge role in this stage of every student’s life hence, they are expected to be the second-parent of their students inside the premises of the school.

In a November 2019 episode of “Wanted sa Radyo” a public affair show at Radyo5 92.3 News FM, hosted by Raffy Tulfo and Sharee Roman, one of its segment “Raffy Tulfo in Action” featured a grandmother and two parents complaining a grade 2 teacher, who allegedly maltreated their child, in a CCTV footage the teacher was seen telling the student to sit outside the classroom as a punishment for not bringing his report card (Inquirer.net, 2019) - this, as per the teacher, was her form of disciplining the child and not to punish nor traumatized him. However, this event came out of hand to the point of Raffy Tulfo asking the teacher’s licensed to be revoked which made his listeners, specially teachers to call out the broadcaster for making such remark. The Department of Education said that they will investigate the incident and will be handled by the regional and division offices respectively.

Now, as a teacher how do we know that we have reached our limit? How do we know that instead of disciplining them, we are hurting and embarrassing them? When do we know that it’s too much? When do we stop? Here are some tips on how we can call out the wrongs and appreciate the good of our students without making them feel inferior and traumatized:

1. **Know the school guidelines**

   It is best to familiarize yourself with the school’s rules and regulation (if there is any) to know if there are certain punishment for the child’s wrongdoing, considering the weight of their mistakes.

2. **Be fair, positive and consistent**
You are their parent, mentor and friend inside the classroom. Be the person they can trust and be comfortable with, the way you treat them will instil in their hearts and will help them mold for their future selves.

3. **Make learning fun**

Prepare a lesson and or activity that is age appropriate that they will surely enjoy. Make sure to make each lesson fun and interesting to learn. In this way, you can identify their skills, talent and weaknesses.

4. **Get to know your students**

Remember, you are not just a teacher in the classroom but you are also their friends- getting to know them starting with their names, favorites, and family background will make them comfortable with you and know that you are sincere, with this you can gain their trust.

5. **Let students know that you care**

They are not just there to learn, they are coming to school to also gain friends and have a grasp of the world. Let them feel that no matter how scary the world may be, there will always be someone to whom they can lean on, which is you.

School is considered as the second-home of each student as it is meant to be a place of learning and development, let us help them feel that it is a safe place where love, sincerity and kindness also do exist.

Sources:

https://buddymantra.com/school-second-home/

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uRTI621XWAE