The strategy that I have been using to connect with students has been encouraging them when they do good things.  This makes them smile and gets them interested in me and gives them a chance to ask questions.  It also makes them happy to see me being nice to them and then they want to be nice to me.  Also, I have been eavesdropping on their conversations and then joining in, which makes me seem approachable, friendly, and someone who wants to get to know them.  Another thing I have noticed is that being open and honest with them goes a long way with them in terms of developing relationships.
2.    The biggest challenge that I have faced in the field so far is trying not to be too nice so that the students will take me seriously.  However, I think that once I get more used to being in their classroom and teaching them and starting to understand how they learn best, that things will get better.  While I know that I could be a little stricter that some kids do not always appreciate having a very strict teacher. I am starting to see this take shape, as not only do I fell more confident when I am teaching them, I also feel as if I have earned their respect and they now treat me as a true teacher and not a student teacher.

At the same time, I feel as though my classroom management skills have greatly increased. Effective classroom management: Establishes and sustains an orderly environment in the classroom. Increases meaningful academic learning and facilitates social and emotional growth. Decreases negative behaviors and increases time spent academically engaged. The main goal of classroom management is to reduce misbehavior in the classroom. Effective classroom management gives the students little time to misbehave. Because the expectations are clearly explained, the students know what they need to do.

I have started to use ClassDojo as a way to address classroom management. As a class we came up with a rewards system for when they reach a certain number of points, as well as the different ways they can earn points. However, that all being said sometimes I have forgotten to use it and I often forget about using it. There have also been times where using it mid-lesson has disrupted the lesson and slightly flustered me.

10 Tips for teachers

This semester I have come up with 10 ways to work happily as a teacher
1. Avoid the bad trap. While it’s okay to have a bad day every now and again, a bad week or bad month is unacceptable. When something unpleasant happens, look for the silver lining.
2. Bounce on and stay positive. When we spend too much time mulling over an unpopular decision or lamenting a mistake, we create a downward spiral from which recovery can be difficult.  Recovering quickly from adversity moves us into more pleasant encounters.
3. Let go of grudges and jealousy. Success is a limitless commodity. Wishing we had more of it than someone else is emotionally taxing. Put  happiness before grudging, and success will come before you know it.
4. Plan for the unexpected to happen  Always have a backup lesson plan in case something happens like power outages or computer problems.  Always have something that can be done without extra materials
5. Go with the flow.  Rather than push against prevailing behavior and attitudes, turn around once in a while. Let reality take you where it takes you. You may end up in an invigorating place.
6. Keep learning.  Research shows that the brain never stops learning. Our own learning can be a huge lever for motivating the rest of the work culture.
7. Less is more. “Busyness” is the number one reason leaders give for not taking care of the most vital work in schools which is learning.  this forces teachers  to focus on the urgent rather than the important, if this is not the case, we need to immediately change our priorities.
8. Stay in a classroom. You can be having the worst day in the world, but if you hang out with students for a few minutes, a terrible day becomes a not-so-bad day in a matter of seconds.
9. Hang out with other happy people. Although we may not have a choice about the staff we work with, we do have a choice about how much time we spend with happy vs. unhappy staff members. Happiness is contagious. Catch it and spread it like a cold!
10. Practice. Better habits and skills come with practice. Don’t try to become happy overnight. Take baby steps to build stamina. Keep track of your progress in a happiness journal.

Lesson/ Overall Growth and Reflection

What I Have Done Well

Connected with students

Built relationships

Been professional

Been punctual

Encouraged with positivity and modelled positivity

Been planned ahead of time

Managed lesson timing well

Learned and used their names

Given help when needed

Moved around the room during a lesson

Used ClassDojo to monitor behaviour and reward good behaviour

Participated in school events/activities

Talked in a loud clear voice

What I Need to Improve On

Classroom management- which needs to be constantly evolving and changing

Having a solid plan B

Assessment-Frequency, and return/input time

Finding a way with a mask to sound/ be more excited

Incorporating treaty ed into different subjects

Improve whiteboard writing-clarity, size and height

Putting assignments, videos, books at their level

Dealing with sass/back talk immediately

Reinforcing daily routines

Adaptations and differentiation

Changing up assignment formats and layout