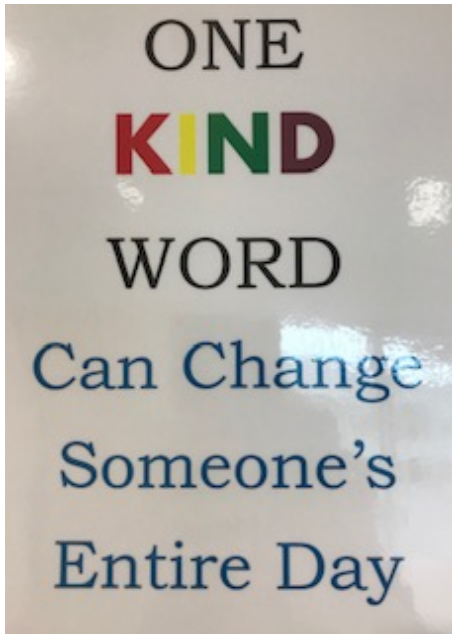


Just one kind word!

Yesterday I was able to provide individual coaching sessions in a community-based organisation with lots of space and impressive corona virus safety precautions. While we have coped incredibly well with communicating with each other via video and telephone links, meeting up in person brought back just how incredibly important it is to have face to face communication.



Meeting up also allows us to check out the culture of different organisations and how they have responded to issues such as staff safety and wellbeing. Amidst all the Covid-19 posters for one way traffic, social distancing and handwashing, I spotted these 2 posters. These are wonderful mantras to anchor us every day.

This first one resonated with a teaching on a child protection course more than thirty years ago which has stayed with me throughout my career. The speaker counselled a room full of professionals across a range of disciplines, including teachers, social workers and sports coaches to consider that whatever our role, on any particular day we just might be the most important person in a child's life. He said the as we may never know to which child that applied, we had to treat every child as if we were that person. I still get goose bumps thinking about how many times that guided my practice.

How about in all our interactions today, we treat everyone, including the big kids who are our colleagues and associates, as if they were truly special. Think of the smiles we could raise and the spirits that would be lifted. How about a

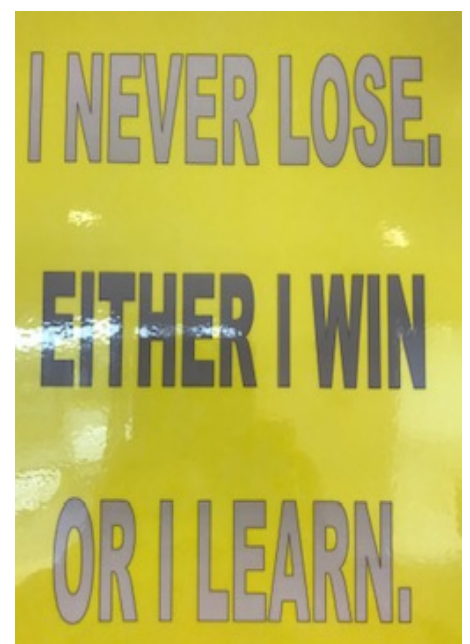
kind word to all teachers as they welcome children back to school and provide them with the much-missed sense of routine, social interaction with friends and opportunities for group learning.

The second poster seems equally pertinent as we work on finding our way back to more normal working practices.

Take time to reflect about what we learned from the past five months since our lives changed dramatically with lockdown. What have we discovered about ourselves? What worked well? what did not? Who did we support? Who did we come to rely on? Let us apply that learning as we find our way forward.

There is no failure – only feedback, we have to try new ways of operating – some will work better than others. Celebrate the wins and get the learning from the things we tried that did not work. Wrap up the learning into the next effort.

As leaders, it is our responsibility to role model the energy, attitude, creativity and determination we want to inspire in others.



For more information on leadership skills please visit my website at

www.lynnpeyton.com/core