

## Journal

During this time in Quarantine and writing this journal, I had time to reminisce and one quote from our pastor yesterday stood out to me “Who are we?” during this Covid-19 Pandemic. All of a sudden, one day our lifestyle changed. I realized that the only thing I can think that I did is adjust myself to do my responsibilities as a mother and wife for my family, as well as a teacher for my students, and as a person in my community along with myself.

For my family, it allows me more time for them. I love cooking, and now I am able to put more time into cooking food for them. Since I am not an expert in baking, I have the chance to practice and become a good baker:).

As an employee and teacher in this quarantine time, I have found myself very thankful for new technology. I am able to collaborate with my colleagues, administrators on how to be successful reaching out to our students and parents at this time of social distancing. One time, I mentioned to my team about how we can get our students together for the “End of the Year” party, so that we can see them personally. I told them, it’s nice to get them meet at Sunridge park and to keep the social distancing procedures. Where we all stay in the cars around the park and go around to hand them their certification, and a little present. Then, after a week we heard from our Director Ms. Camu, that we are going to do a “Drive by Home Visit.” My colleagues and I were very excited. The first thing that came to my mind was “what things will my ‘friends’, as we call them, get them excited to see us and show them how special they are to us?” Also, in order to keep continuing to learn their names, letters, numbers, and more and also be more convenient for their parents to teach their child at home. So, I thought about making a “School Readiness Binders.” I had the opportunity to make copies, then I laminated their names, alphabet letters, numbers, shapes, rhymes, and extra work activities then I put them in binder, with a generous donation from Ms. NR (my assistant) we added some crayons and markers. To make it even more exciting I bought them a Happy Meal McDonald gift card. The results were very successful, I saw how the parents really appreciated the “school readiness binders”, learning items, and our surprise gift that they were not expecting at all. Mostly, seeing the thrill of joy from our students when they saw the gift cards. I felt for the short period of time visiting them was worth it and successful. I am hoping that the plan I called “End of the Year Distancing Celebration” will come through or much better if we are able to get a chance to get together in normal ways.

For the community all I can share and do is to follow the social distance policy, keep in prayers, especially the people with COVV19 and the family who lost their loved ones. For the whole world is to strengthen our faith for healing and deliver us for this Pandemic crisis.

For myself, I \do gardening using the seeds I collected from the fruits we ate, experimenting using the used coffee grind as a soil, update on my Filipino shows and self-meditation.

For my Fowler Elementary School District family, I wish you and your family safe and well...

Thank you,

**Mrs. Cynthia Norman**

Head Start Lead Teacher Sunridge Elementary