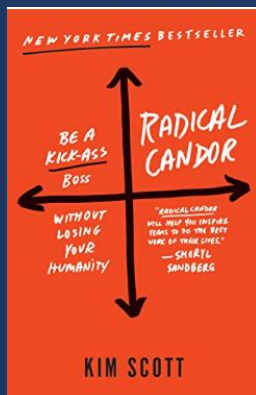


Blue Sky Thinkers



Blue Sky Reading Books in 2024

Radical Candour by Kim Scott



I had read sections of this previously in anticipation of a Department Head Retreat, but as I plan a full Leadership Goals, Growth and Development Plan for a School, this book was fabulous to re-read in its entirety. A must for all leaders.

Big Takeaways:

- Step 1. Share your stories.
- Step 2. Solicit feedback: Prove you can take it before you start dishing it out.
- Step 3. Growth Management: Career Conversations.
- Step 4 / Ongoing: Perfect your 1:1 conversations.
- Step 5. Give Guidance — Praise & Criticism — but make sure to focus on the good stuff.
- Step 6. Take a deep breath. Assess.

From - <https://www.radicalcandor.com/blog/rolling-out-radical-candor-part-one/>



Blue Sky Leadership in 2024





“Every Leader Needs to Navigate These 7 Tensions


by Jennifer Jordan, Michael Wade, and Elizabeth Teracino ([Click here](#))

“...we uncovered seven core tensions between the traditional and emerging leadership approaches. Those tensions create significant stress for leaders, as they are often unsure of what competencies, skills, and behaviors to exercise in a particular context.”



	<p>Particularly interesting for the veteran leader who might want to use this as a reflective piece to think about getting out of set leadership pathways that they may have developed over time. The seven tensions are a great tool for this as a personal reflection, or as a topic for a leadership team meeting generally.</p>
	<p>What Will HR Focus on in 2023? (Click Here) – Jordan Turner, The Gartner Group</p> <p>“To help HR leaders better manage and lead during these times, Gartner conducted an annual survey of more than 800 HR leaders and identified the top 5 priorities for HR in 2023. Top of the list is leader and manager effectiveness, but many HR leaders will also prioritize change management, employee experience, recruiting and future of work.”</p> <p>Recognizing that reflection is difficult in fast-paced organizations, this simple top five list is a great read and an opportunity for a quick reflection on you, your leadership and your organization.</p>
	<p>Organizational Effectiveness Model (Click Here)</p> <p>“Direction, People and Process are consistently recognized as the fundamental pillars to organizational effectiveness and successful leadership.”</p> <p>This tool from Berlineaton would be great to use as a conversation starter about your organization in a Leadership Retreat Process. Not simply as a check mark as to where your organization is, but to discover what is missing, or lacking.</p>

Blue Sky Fundraising

	<p>Top 8 Fundraising Trends for 2023 (Click Here) – GiveSmart Top 7 Nonprofit Fundraising Trends for 2023 (Click Here) -- DOJIGGY</p> <p>“If it seems challenging to spread the word about your campaigns, consider implementing some new ways to get your organization or charity on the radar. We did our research to determine the top eight fundraising trends to look out for in 2023.”</p> <p>While acknowledging these are promotions for services, the content is good as food for thought around your fund raising goals and strategies.</p>
	<p>The Latest Donor Trends and What They Mean for Your Independent School’s Fundraising (Click Here) – CASE (Council for Advancement and Support of Education) – September 2023</p> <p>“For years, traditional patterns and practices have defined most independent schools’ fundraising efforts and results. However, recent insights from CASE and the National Association of Independent Schools data partnership, Data and</p>

	<p>Analysis for School Leadership, reveal transformative shifts in the funding levels among single-sex and coeducational schools. These shifts are indicative of trends and evolutions taking place in education, and they signal a fundamental change in donors' philanthropic behavior."</p> <p>Not only is the content in this article truly outstanding, the links to other content are equally of more impressive as a collective.</p>
	<p>Four Fundraising Trends You Should Consider Now for Your School (Click Here) – ISM (Independent School Management)</p> <p>"The foundation of your Development program—how you build relationships with your donors and prospects sharing their resources with your school—is strategically-focused, nimble, and focused on strategic planning. Many changes have transformed our communities these past few years which have also underscored the need to assess the social landscape of giving—incorporating those trends into our planning."</p> <p>Four trends that you need to consider in your fundraising priorities. Have you made these a priority?</p>

Blue Sky Cell Phones in Classrooms... Again

	<p>Do smartphones belong in classrooms? Four scholars weigh in (Click Here) – By Louis-Philippe Beland, Arnold Lewis Glass, Daniel G. Krutka and Sarah Rose</p> <p>"Should smartphones be allowed in classrooms? A new report from UNESCO, the education arm of the United Nations, raises questions about the practice. Though smartphones can be used for educational purposes, the report says the devices also disrupt classroom learning, expose students to cyberbullying and can compromise students' privacy. About 1 in 7 countries globally, such as the Netherlands and France, have banned the use of smartphones in school – and academic performance improved as a result, particularly for low-performing students, the report notes."</p> <p>If you haven't already engaged in this debate in your school, and re-considered your approaches to technology, its time.</p>
	<p>Why Schools Should Ban Cell Phones in the Classroom—and Why Parents Have to Help (Click Here)</p> <p>"Parents, the next time you are about to send a quick trivial text message to your students while they're at school—maybe sitting in a classroom—stop. And think about this: it might take them only 10 seconds to respond with a thumbs-up</p>

emoji, but their brain will need 20 minutes to refocus on the algebra or history or physics lesson in front of them—20 minutes.”

I provided an entire text last time which dealt with “Stolen Focus” in my last Newsletter. The research is becoming quite clear.



5 Benefits of Mobile Learning in the Modern Classroom [\(Click Here\)](#)

“The smartphone offers new learning opportunities and provides approaches to foster the development of skills that are critical for learners delving further into the 21st century.”

I believe the power of digital technology is too powerful to ignore in its entirety, but how we come up with policies and approaches that allow for the advantages, and remove the disadvantages is the sweet spot we are trying to find. Effective policy making, not ignoring it, is the way to go!

Blue Sky Thinkers

