

ISBIS S2 Ep6: Three Funny Stories

Dr. David Barry: Hi School Believers, it's time for another mini-episode. But first, I'll read a review from a listener. I can't believe I missed this one because it came from one of the teachers we played Teacher, Feature, Trivia for. Back in Season 1, Episode 6, my guest Katie Manweller, an education librarian and a very good friend, played for Mrs. Reedy to get neurodiverse books for her neurodiverse students. Here's what she wrote in her review. Thank you both for sharing this information and for helping fund my Donors Choose Project. My project was fully funded last night, and I am so excited for my students to see themselves in our classroom stories during Read-A-Louds. I am so grateful to you both for jumpstarting my project early on. I cried when I got those first notifications about donations. I don't know how you found my project, but I am so, so thankful. Oh, Mrs. Reedy, we are so happy that you got your books for your class, and we got to play some small part in making that happen. Thanks so much for all you do for your students every day, and thanks so much for leaving this kind and thoughtful comment of the show. Keep doing the good work. I know it can be really hard sometimes, but it's teachers like you that are really making a difference in the lives of their students, and we're so happy to help you in any way that we can. It's really fun for me to read comments on the mini-episode, so please get on there, leave a five-star rating, leave a comment, and I will be happy to read it on an episode of I Still Believe in School.

I don't know about you, but I need a good laugh this week. It got me thinking about all the funny teaching stories my guests have shared over the last two seasons of I Still Believe in School. So I've decided that this week's mini episode is going to be a compilation of three of my guests' funniest teaching stories. It'll feel like one of those Golden Girls flashback episodes where Rose, Dorothy, Sophia and Blanche sit around a cheesecake and reminisce about their silly antics and hijinks. The first story I'm going to share is from Dr. Darius McInnes from season one, episode three. A reminder that he was a pre-K teacher at the time he experienced this hilarious moment in his classroom. Here it is.

Dr. Darius McInnes: When this airs, I'm going to send this to the parent of the child.

Dr. David Barry: Yay!

Dr. Darrius McInnes: When I taught Preschool 3, we were doing some activities with mixing some colors and, you know, in the classroom, and we used food coloring to do that. One day, my teaching assistant, who I love dearly, he had left some food coloring on the table during his break, and he was sitting with his back turned, and there was a child, who I love him, I

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love him dearly, and we will call him Joy. Okay. He didn't really sleep at that time, but he was always so curious of it's a thing, and so he grabbed the food coloring off of the desk. He doused himself in it, and I often send you a picture of it. He was completely purple, and we didn't know until I was coming back from my break, and my teacher said, it's dark in the room, so you really can't tell.

Dr. David Barry: Right.

Dr. Darrius McInnes: And another child, I walked in and I saw her face, and so trying to paint this for the listeners, imagine seeing the shock of your life, or your eyes are just wide open, your mouth is like your jaw is on the floor, and just, like I saw her face, and I'm like, oh my goodness, what's going on, you know?

Dr. David Barry: Right.

Dr. Darrius McInnes: And she's like, look at Joy, he's a monster. And I was like, what? And I looked and I said, oh my gosh. I think I probably woke up half the class. I was mortified, and I called his mom, and she's like, hey, Daris, is everything okay? And I said, yeah. She said, okay, whatever you tell me. Right. What happened? I was expecting her to freak out. She didn't.

Dr. David Barry: Oh, good.

Dr. Darrius McInnes: She got to the school where everyone saw he was covered in purple food coloring, and it was on him for a solid maybe two weeks. And every year, she'll send me-

Dr. David Barry: Two weeks?

Dr. Darrius McInnes: Two weeks. Oh my gosh. She sends it to me every year, and she calls it, we have a joke, it's called like, Purple Day, like, and I- It was, I will never forget that as long as that. I was so terrified.

Dr. David Barry: The second funny story comes from Kristen Aron in Season 1, Episode 7. She too was a pre-K teacher at the time she had this funny experience. Hers is a reminder that one ridiculous classroom mishap can often lead to another.

Kristen Aron: My funniest pre-K story. Oh god, this was funny in a horrible way. So one day, we were just having a normal day in pre-K, and kids are in centers, and we were just playing, and all of a sudden, I'm facing the teacher cabinet, which is against the wall, so my back is to the rest of the

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classroom. Just again, I think how all good, funny teacher stories start, like you're back to the classroom.

Dr. David Barry: Right, right.

Kristen Aron: And I am getting something, and everyone's been playing, it's been a totally fine day. And then I just hear this one little boy who I'll call Jim. Jim go, um, miss Chris, my tummy hurts, and I turn around to watch him projectile vomit onto the books.

Dr. David Barry: Over all the books. Oh, no.

Kristen Aron: I'm like, oh my gosh, oh my gosh. So my co-teacher and I, you know, like, she, she grabs him, she's cleaning him up, she's taking him to the bathroom to change and to, you know, call his mom, et cetera. And there are obviously certain state standards for how we get it clean, and the kids can't be near the solvent. So I'm trying to get them away and make, you know, 11 four-year-olds sit down while I'm cleaning up.

Dr. David Barry: Oh my gosh.

Kristen Aron: Yeah, right. And so we go through all this. So finally we get everything cleaned up, he gets picked up, the classroom still doesn't smell great. Ooh. And this school backed up on like a really beautiful green belt. Okay. And so while we couldn't go in the green belt, like we could walk near it and kind of see the trees and stuff, okay, this is a good day to get out in some nature. And so we go outside and we're walking on the green belt and there's this big bush of flowers. And one of my students is like, Ms. Krista, there's butterflies. And we walk over and we're just so excited because it's like, okay, this is something beautiful and positive. And then another kid goes, Ms. Krista, what's that? And I look and right next to this bush full of butterflies, it's a severed raccoon paw. What? And all my kids are like, Ms. Krista? And I'm just standing there with my co-teacher.

Dr. David Barry: That is so bizarre. Oh my god. What did you do?

Kristen Aron: Yeah, well, we just were like, okay, nobody touch it. Nature stays with nature.

Dr. David Barry: Nature stays with nature.

Kristen Aron: And then walked them back in while they're all like trying, kind of arguing over what it is, but we can't go back into the classroom because it smells like Clorox and vomit.

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Dr. David Barry: Oh gosh. Where do we go?

Kristen Aron: Yeah. And that was the day where my co-teacher and I, at the end of the day when the kids left, we were just crying, laughing.

Dr. David Barry: Last but not least, I had to share this one again from my best friend Bridget Joyce from Season 1, Episode 14. This one had me shaking. I was laughing so hard.

Bridget Joyce: In Westbrook, Maine, I was in this huge cinderblock classroom, like, used to be a computer lab. It was this big space, which was perfect for me because we had, like, you know, I told you already that we did a lot of physical stuff in the class, so that was really good to have the space. But it was beneath the functional life skills classroom. Which is basically for our students who were struggling, sometimes with some non-verbal autism or Down syndrome or Williams and things like that, but also working on life skills using cooking stuff and learning how to wash your clothes. So my room was beneath this and being the B plus person that I am, I did notice that once in a while over the weekend, they would set the laundry and I would come back on Monday and I would see little dots sometimes from the ceiling tiles. And you all know, if you've worked in a school, you know what I'm talking about. The white ceiling tiles that are just sitting there, that they just replace when anything goes wrong. The tile would be replaced, but I would see like remnants of like a tile gone awry. Like on my desk.

Dr. David Barry: Oh, okay.

Bridget Joyce: Like, okay, something happened upstairs, like they had to access it from down here, no big deal. A smarter person, an A plus teacher.

Dr. David Barry: What would they do?

Bridget Joyce: An A plus teacher would have moved her desk. Girl, they got this handled, whatever. They fixed it, right? And this would happen periodically, month to month. And I was in that room for like many years. Fast forward when I'm nine months pregnant, and teaching first period, with 13 of like the nicest freshman class ever. Like, it was the breakfast club. It was the weirdest rag tag bunch, but they were so delightful. We were having a great time. We're sitting there. And all of a sudden, as I'm teaching, water explodes out of the ceiling. Oh, no. Over my desk.

Dr. David Barry: I don't remember this.

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Bridget Joyce: Oh, God, it gets better. So we're all watching in horror, and I'm looking up at it, and I just look at the kids, and I just go, Oh, my God. Oh, my God. And I just keep saying this. They start jumping up because they're amazing. We all start just shoving things off my desk and shoving my desk as hard and as fast as we can across my room. The water, meanwhile, has exploded and is moved across the ceiling, is coming through the on light fixtures.

Dr. David Barry: Oh, no.

Bridget Joyce: Raining down in electricity water. I am running across the room to hit the lights, to turn them off. And so we all get to the door. So we're not going to be cut off by this giant puddle of water and electricity. One door at the front corner of the classroom. So I'm still screaming, Oh, my God. And the kids start screaming, there's water everywhere. Really high stress. And as I'm getting closer to the door, the door whips open and it's two administrators and the SRO's School Resource Officer with a first aid bag and gloves on because they heard us screaming, oh my god, there's water everywhere. Oh god, we thought you were giving births. Thought I was giving births.

Dr. David Barry: Oh my god, that's hilarious.

Bridget Joyce: Kids are like, why are you here? Turn off the lights, like none of them got it.

Dr. David Barry: Oh my god.

Bridget Joyce: I was like, so hard. I had to sit down in the, like, roll to the hallway crying with laughter. I was like two weeks away from my due day. Like, it was insane.

Dr. David Barry: I hope these funny teaching stories brought a smile to your face today. If you want to hear my funniest teaching story, which is also my grossest, check out season one, episode 15. It's about cleaning up my kindergarten classroom on the last day of school, in the dark, without gloves.

Thanks for listening, y'all. I'll be back next week with a full-length episode. Until then, take care of each other, take care of yourself. See you next time.