

2002-2003 Character Education School Events and School Improvement Initiatives

“How did they do that?” These schools provided contact information and event descriptions so other schools can learn from the success of their activities, trainings and community impact. Many other schools have also done these activities in Character Education and are encouraged to provide their activities and contact information for this website.

This is a beginning resource for this sharing website. It will be an ongoing process of adding many schools and activities to this list. Your activities provide the resources for “doing and learning” in Character Education.

**If there is a Character Education event, program or training that worked well for your school, that could be shared on this website contact:
Drinda Olsen at 701-328-2269 or dolsen@state.nd.us**

Asset Building

Activity: The process of professional development planning to create “assets and protective factors” within the school climate.

Establishing a school climate and programs that provide assets and protective factors is one of the new “Principles of Effectiveness” cited in *No Child Left Behind*.

**School: Carrington
Contact: Juanita Short and Joan Copenhaver
Phone: 701-652-2739**

Activity: The grant application process to distribute money to individual schools. Funds in excess of \$14,000 were requested to fund projects such as Kindness retreats, schoolwide character education programs, ongoing character education programs for the 2002-2003 school year, service projects and advisory and social skills activities.

**School: Fargo Public Schools
Contact: Tricia Erickson
Phone: 701-446-4804
E-Mail: ericktr@fargo.k12.nd.us**

Caring Communities

Activity: “Caring Month”

- **“Care Grams”** for Valentines Day could be bought for 25 cents and delivered to staff and students in all Lisbon schools. The Care Grams were either poems of “caring” or could be composed by the sender. Students deliver the care Grams and the monies were donated to the local food pantry. Valentines Day is red and white clothing day for the school.
- **“Secret Pals”** Students in each class draw names and do anonymous acts of kindness throughout the month. A recognition event is held at the end of the month revealing their secret pal and the caring deeds of kindness they did for their “Secret Pal.”

School: Lisbon
Contact: Marge Asche
Phone: 701-683-4106

Activity: Helping Hands Summer Camp. For students 12 & older. Anticipated 14+, 56 enrolled. 1,980 hours of service were completed. Celebration held in recognition of students' individual achievements completed, with 85% of the campers coming with family.

School: Grand Forks Public Schools
Contact: Mary Lien
Phone: 701-746-2200
E-Mail: mlien@fc.grand-forks.k12.nd.us

Activity: Dale Brown event at the Engelstad Arena. Fifty booths were set up for community members, children and adults to visit. The booths represented youth agencies and activities for youth around the community. Fifty high school students volunteered as ushers, greeters, etc. Approximately 5,000 community members were in attendance.

School: Grand Forks Public Schools
Contact: Mary Lien
Phone: 701-746-2200
E-Mail: mlien@fc.grand-forks.k12.nd.us

Character Counts Workshops

Activity: "Character Counts" local Workshop An one-semester credit class for school staff was given.

School: Lisbon
Contact: Marge Asche
Phone: 701-683-4106

Citizenship

Activity: November was designated as "Citizenship" month. During that month, a patriotic program was given, the lunch menu and daily announcements were adapted from concepts of the citizenship pillar.

School: Lisbon
Contact: Marge Asche
Phone: 701-683-4106

Activity: Character Counts Essay Contest. Districtwide essay contest for grades 1-12 on a person in the community who shows good character. The theme is "An adult who has made a difference in my life." The middle school and high school English departments will judge the essays. Elementary essays were due February 1st and middle school and high school essays were due February 15th. There will be a recognition tea for the winners on March 10, 2003.

School: Jamestown Public School
Contact: Donette Rasmussen
Phone: 701-252-3846
E-Mail: wdras@csicable.net

Collegial Book Studies

Activity: Collegial Book Studies for teachers, administration and staff. This provides an opportunity for credit (15 hours required for 1 credit) and working together as a unit in the learning process through books on selected topics. Examples are books on respect, asset building, and community involvement.

School: Carrington (Carrington has had 7 book studies)
Contact: Juanita Short and Joan Copenhaver
Phone: 701-652-2739
E-Mail: (Juanita Short) jshort@mail.carrington.k12.nd.us

Activity: Collegial Book Study for teachers. This provides teachers a class for credit focusing on a book selected that would relate to the topic of discipline/character connection.

School: Jamestown Public School
Contact: Donette Rasmussen
Phone: 701-252-3846
E-Mail: wdras@csicable.net

Ethics

Ethics Activity: “Ethics Day” for students in the Minot area Character Education School Districts

Sam Glen was the featured speaker with break out sessions on “Mentoring *Character Counts!*” “Leadership with Character,” “Character on the Court,” and “Ethics, the Future of this Country.” A set-aside session for funded Character Education Schools was held in the morning. This was an opportunity for many schools to see how an “ethics day” could be done. “Ethics Day” was sponsored by Pathfinder Family Center/ND Pass, and *Character Counts!* Minot Coalition, and Stanley High School Kids Council.

School: Jim Hill Middle School
Contact: Cindy Mau
Phone: 701-857-4477

Ethics Activity: A “community values survey” was given to grades 1-12, and to local businesses and churches. From this survey, the top ten priority community character traits were identified, a grant written and a High School *Character Counts!* group developed.

School: Drake and Goodrich
Contact: Mary Blumhagen
Phone: 701-465-3732/701-884-2469
E-mail: Mary.Blumhagen@sendit.nodak.edu

Ethics Activity: Attendance at the Josephson Training Institute for Athletics and Character Education. This 3-day training is to implement Character Education philosophy into athletics and activities. An athletic code of conduct was developed. This institute is an excellent resource for policy development.

Ethics Activity: “Pursuing Victory with Honor Project” This activity was done as a “community awareness” project for students, parents and the entire community with positive media and visual reminders for positive sportsmanship at school events. Focused parent meetings, in-service to all staff and coaches were part of the intensive awareness effort.

School: Yellowstone Consortium
Contact: Kiara Crosby
Phone: 701-275-8897
E-mail: Kiara.Crosby@sendit.nodak.edu

Activity: “Seven Gifts from Seven Grandfathers”. The Seven Gifts from the Seven Grandfathers are implemented into the calendar of events throughout the school year, with each month having a different theme. Activities are based on “The Seven Teachings” of the Ojibwe people.

School: Turtle Mountain Community School

Contact: Viola LaFontaine

Phone: 701-477-6471

E-Mail: vlafonta@sendit.nodak.edu

Activity: Core Values

- **“Climb Theatre”** Educational presentations for K-6, 7-8, and 9-12 in the areas of honesty, caring, friendliness, and responsibility or respect.
- **“Radio Ads”** Ads written by the students, such as poems or group readings, that were played on the radio.
- **“Core Value T-shirt Day”** 80% of the students are participating. All new students receive t-shirts. The T-shirt day is the first Friday of each month.

School: Valley City Public Schools

Contact: Mary Otto

Phone: 701-845-0622

E-Mail: motto@sendit.nodak.edu

Peer Youth Workers

Activity: Character Counts! Mentored by the Honor Society students. Honor Society students teach the younger grades about each *Character Counts!* Pillars. School counselors coordinate this activity in 2 of the 4 schools. This is a mentoring project.

School: Yellowstone Consortium

Contact: Kiara Crosby

Phone: 701-275-8897

E-Mail: Kiara.Crosby@sendit.nodak.edu

Activity: SADD “Students Against Destructive Decisions” This is a Peer Youth Project that involves mentoring, peer support and guidance and skill training. It is a national and state affiliation with opportunities for students to excel on many levels and with many ages of peers.

School: Beulah Public Schools

Contact: Bruce Wold

Phone: 701-873-2261

And/or

Contact: Janis Wallender

Phone: 701-873-2298

(There are many SADD Chapters in ND-This is both a prevention and Character Education Program)

Activity: Athletic Services Project. The girls basketball players help with Pee Wee practice.

School: New England Public School District

Contact: Riley Mattson

Phone: 701-579-4160

E-Mail: Riley.Mattson@sendit.nodak.edu

President Challenge Scholarships

Activity: This service award program effectively promotes volunteerism. Previously the “President Service Scholarship” is renamed the “Presidents Challenge Scholarship”. It is a recognition program for students and their volunteerism and community involvement.

School: Drake and Goodrich Public Schools
Contact: Mary Blumhagen
Phone 701-465-3732/701-884-2469
E-Mail: Mary.Blumhagen@sendit.nodak.edu

Professional Development

Activity: "First Build it, then Sustain it!" Careful planning and foundation structuring before implementation will help to sustain strategic planning for professional development. The foundation building process is crucial to success in professional development.

School: Grand Forks School District
Contact: Mary Lien
Phone: 7 01-746-2205
E-Mail: mlien@fc.grand_forks.k12

Activity: Lifeskills and Integrated Instruction. Provide training to teachers, parents, counselors, and administrators in Restitution, Control Theory, and Lifeskills and Lifelong Guidelines.

School: Bismarck Public Schools
Contact: Jason Hornbacher
Phone: 701-221-3470
E-Mail: Jason_hornbacher@educ.8.org

Activity: National Character Education Conference. Conference took place in Atlanta, GA October 17-19. One staff member was sent to the conference and came back with new ideas for all the coordinators.

School: Minot Public Schools
Contact: Cindy Mau
Phone: 701-857-4477
E-Mail: cmau@sendit.nodak.edu

Restitution

Restitution overview and training is available from Mary Otto, of Valley City.

School: Beulah Public School
Contact: Gail Wold
Phone: 701-873-4325
E-Mail: Gail.Wold@sendit.nodak.edu

School: Valley City Public School
Contact: Mary Otto (Trainer in Restitution)
Phone: 701-845-0622
E-Mail: motto@sendit.nodak.edu

Service Learning

Activity: "Service Learning" is a variety of activities that interface with local community needs. That could include mentoring projects, working with nursing homes, latchkey programs and tutoring. It is reaching out and sharing of talents to diversified groups.

School: Grand Forks (This was a district-wide collaboration)
Contact: Mary Lien
Phone 701-746-2205
E-Mail: mlien@fc.grand_forks.k12

School: Fargo Public School District
Contact: Tricia Erickson
Phone: 701-446-4804
E-Mail: ericktr@fargo.k12.nd.us

Activity: Knights of the Guild. The program identified knighthood behavior, organized knighting assemblies and used “Knight Reader” to advertise and inform parents and the community about the program.

School: Dakota Prairie Public School District
Contact: Janet Edlund
Phone: 701-345-8233
E-Mail: jedlund@sendit.nodak.edu
Or
Contact: Jacqueline Hodney
Phone: 701-345-8233
E-Mail: jhodny@sendit.nodak.edu

Physical Fitness

Activity: “Life Long Leisure Activity”. School purchased 20 sets of cross-country skis, 20 polar heart monitors and 20 pedometers. Lesson plans were written to incorporate life long leisure activities. PE instructors teach fundamentals of cross-country skiing.

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