Using the Newspaper to Promote Good Character

IDS OF CHARACTER



2014 - 2015



Publix.



Special
"Take-Home" Poster
Inside: Character
Education Activities
For Families

Kids of Character

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About this curriculum:

Kids of Character -- Using the Sun Sentinel to Promote Good Character, was written in response to the Florida Legislature Senate Bill 20E, a section of which mandated that character education be expanded to include grades K-12. The Broward County School District set the standard with their program which can be used as the state model for character education curriculum. If any school district would like a copy of the Broward curriculum, please e-mail: renee.m.brown@browardschools.com

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About the Sun Sentinel Kids of Character program:

Sun Sentinel Kids of Character is a partnership with Broward County Schools and Publix Super Markets to honor students for doing exemplary deeds, at home, in school and in the community. As partners, we also feel strongly that health and wellness should be included in programs on character education. You will find these topics incorporated into this curriculum guide.

A message from Broward County Schools:

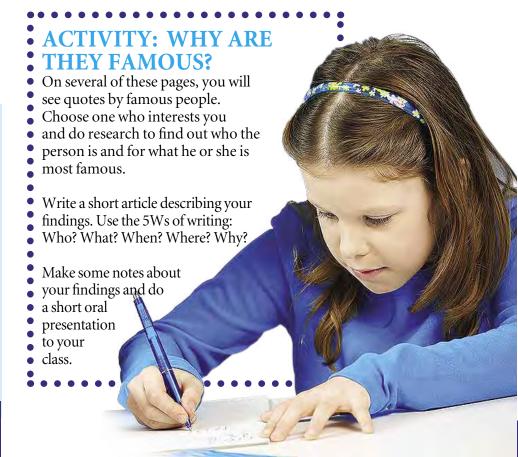
Access to all monthly Character Education activity sheets is available only through the Diversity, Cultural Outreach, and Prevention website at www.browardprevention.org Click on "character" and "monthly activities." For any questions, please contact Renee Brown, your Character Education Coordinator at renee.m.brown@browardschools.com

About the Sun Sentinel News In Education program:



Throughout the school year, the Sun Sentinel NIE program provides electronic newspapers, to South Florida schools at no charge. Our goal has been to help teachers help their students, promote literacy, encourage hands-on learning using the newspaper, and assist students in staying upto-date on the world around them. Another key focus of our program is providing curriculum materials, like *Kids of Character*, to enhance lessons in the classroom across all subject areas. These complimentary booklets are aligned with the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards and the Common Core State Standards.

For more information about Sun Sentinel News in Education and to download educational materials, visit our website at: www.SunSentinel.com/nie



*The following Reading standards apply to the entire tab grades 3 – 12 unless otherwise noted. The levels of competency will vary depending on the specific Common Core Standards for each grade. RI.4, RI.5.3, RI.6, RI.7.(3-6) RF.4 (3-5) L.1, L.2, L.3.(3-8), L.4, L.5
*Florida Standards: W.2. (3-12), W.4.(3-12), W.7.(3-12), W.8.(3-12) SL.4.(3-12), SL.6.(3-12)

Cooperation

... Working with others to accomplish a common purpose.

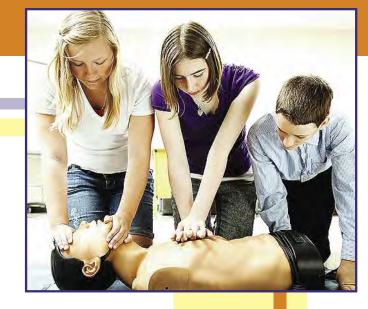
If you want to grow up strong and healthy, you must stay physically active. For most students that often means participating in a team sport.

On any team, cooperation is the key

"leader," but to win or play correctly

to success. Yes, there is often one

you must work together.



Demonstrators:

- 1. When given the opportunity I offer to take responsibility for the portion of the project/assignment where my skills, talents and/or knowledge can be utilized.
- 2. When assigned a specific role or task, I ask what is expected of me to successfully complete my part of the project.
- 3. I listen to the ideas from the other members of the project to understand how my task will enhance what they are to do.
- 4. I encourage my partners or team members. I assist them in anyway I can to be sure we complete the assigned task, and by the appointed time.
- 5. By working cooperatively I can often accomplish more in the same amount of time than I could by working alone.
- 6. When working with others to complete a project from which we all benefit, I feel good about myself.

ACTIVITY: GET MOVING!

Nike's slogan is "Just Do It." Your line should be "Sitting Around is Not an Option." Since 30% of Americans ages 3-17 are chronically overweight, it has become imperative to get moving. One of the best ways is to play a team sport. Another option is to exercise with another person.

Write down which team sport you might want to play and write a paragraph explaining why.

Make a pledge to yourself to join a team or exercise with another person. In a notebook or diary, set up a schedule keeping track of when and how long you practiced or participated each session. As you progress, describe the benefits of working with a group or partner.

ACTIVITY: WHICH TEAM SPORT IS BEST?

Divide the class into five groups. Each group will research one of the following team sports: baseball, basketball, football, hockey, and soccer.

Which sport appears to get the most coverage in the **Sun Sentinel**? Why?

Hold a class debate about which sport requires the most cooperation between teammates and which is the most strenuous. Use specific facts to support your argument.

ACTIVITY: CHOOSE A TEAM SPORT

Make a list of as many team sports as you can think of. Write a short paragraph about which two most demonstrate cooperation.



ACTIVITY: TEAMWORK = COOPERATION

Why are some individual sports expanded to also be played in teams (Tennis, gymnastics, etc.)? Write a letter to the editor explaining your opinion on whether this is beneficial or not beneficial to the sport.





... Meeting obligations by being reliable, accountable and dependable to self and others.

ACTIVITY: RESPONSIBILITY COLLAGE

You have responsibilities at home, school, and in the community. Cut out pictures, words, headlines, and phrases from the *Sun Sentinel* that show your other responsibilities. Create a collage with your words and phrases, and write an explanation of how/why these demonstrate responsibility.

BE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOU

You already know the importance of physical activity. In order to have a sense of well-being and to remain healthy, you must also take direct responsibility for what you eat. That means eating a variety of foods and making super healthy choices.

START WITH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

How do you make those choices? One good place to look is the produce (fruit and veggie) section of your local Publix. Admire the beautiful colors – juicy red tomatoes, crisp green beans, shiny oranges, purple grapes. This is nature's way of pointing you in the right direction toward better eating. The brighter the colors, the more nutrition each food contains.



ACTIVITY: MAKE RESPONSIBLE FOOD CHOICES

There are countless choices in the fresh produce department. Make a list of the ones you have never tried. Pledge to go to a nearby Publix & select one new fruit or vegetable each week. Keep a record of which ones you like best.

Demonstrators:

- 1. Being a person of my word. I do what I say I am going to do.
- 2. Using a check off list, I am sure that I will always have the tools I need to complete a task, job or assignment.
- 3. Doing my part to be sure that a team project is completed on time.
- 4. Doing my share, my part, to make sure this is the best place in which to learn, to live, to work, and to play. It makes me feel valuable.
- 5. Accepting the consequences, as well as the benefits, of my words, actions and behaviors.
- 6. Making choices that insure I lead a healthy and productive life while supporting others to do the same.



You know the drill. Don't overeat. Don't take drugs. Don't abuse alcohol. Don't watch too much TV. Don't, don't, don't! It sounds like you have no control over anything, right? Truth is, you do have control. By taking responsibility for your actions and thinking through consequences you put yourself in charge.

ACTIVITY: DO AN INTERVIEW

Look thought the *Sun Sentinel* for an article about a person who interests you. Note the specific facts and quotes included in the article and how the article is written to include the 5W's -- who, what, when, where, and why.

Choose someone you know well enough to interview about a time they acted in either an irresponsible or responsible manner. This person can be a friend, adult, parent, teacher or coach. Prepare questions to ask beforehand and make sure to include the 5W's. Also, write down exact words for direct quotes. What were the results of their actions? Write a short article about what you learned. Make sure you have permission to use names, dates, etc.

Citizenship ...Knowing, understanding and displaying a high regard for

and displaying a high regard for rules, laws, government, heritage, and for those who have served and sacrificed for community and country.

Demonstrators:

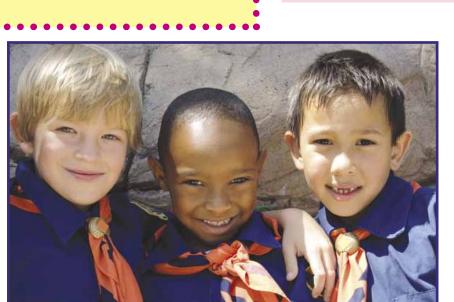
- 1. Being a member of a community (common unit) family, class, school, village, town, city, county, state, country (nation), continent, world.
- 2. Knowing that with every right there is the responsibility to use that right in an appropriate and respectful manner.
- 3. Choosing to be part of the solution, rather than to be part of the problem.
- 4. Being in service to my community by doing my part to help others who are in need.
- 5. Whether in school or in my community I respect and abide by the rules and laws, which are designed to make it a better and safer community in which to learn and live.

ACTIVITY: BE A CREATIVE CITIZEN

Complete one of the following using a theme of Good Citizenship: draw a picture or comic strip, write a poem, create a song or jingle, make a video, or write a play. Share your project with your class.



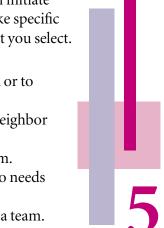
Look through the *Sun Sentinel* for stories about "everyday heroes" - people who practice citizenship by helping others in their school, neighborhood or elsewhere. As you read, ask yourself what it is that makes this person's actions special.



ACTIVITY:

With family, friends, or classmates, brainstorm an action or select one of the suggestions below that you can initiate to demonstrate what it is to be a good citizen. Make specific plans and goals towards accomplishing the project you select. Create a timeline for each step.

- Start a neighborhood or school garden for food or to beautify a blighted area.
- Cook something healthy to give to a friend or neighbor who is housebound.
- Set up an after school fitness or walking program.
- Play with a younger neighbor or small child who needs extra attention.
- Volunteer at a youth center or YMCA to coach a team.







- 1. Doing something for someone without being asked.
- 2. Saying or doing something to make someone feel a part of my class or group.
- 3. Helping someone to solve a problem or to complete a task.
- 4. Thinking of someone else's needs before my own.
- 5. Greeting everyone with a smile and a friendly word.
- 6. Saying and doing things that let others know I care about their feelings.

... Being helpful, thoughtful, caring, compassionate, and considerate.



Photo Credit: Debbie Rahamin

ACTIVITY: THE GIFT OF KINDNESS

Look through the *Sun Sentinel* for words and pictures that express kindness. Write a letter to a person that you would like to "give" these caring words to, and explain why you want to give these "gifts" to this person.

ACTIVITY:

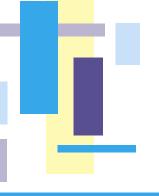
As a class, brainstorm ways to demonstrate kindness. Break into small groups with each selecting one of the brainstormed items. Create a one-act play demonstrating your choice and perform it for your classmates or, if possible, as a public service for the school.

ACTIVITY: START WITH KINDNESS TO OTHERS

Look through the *Sun Sentinel* for an article about an organization, place or group that is in need of help. Develop a plan and write a letter to the organization explaining why you would like to assist and inquiring as to what you can do.

ACTIVITY: CONTINUE BY BEING KIND TO YOU

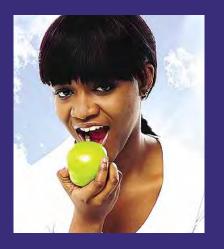
Eating less healthy foods, eating too much or too little, not drinking enough water... you have heard it all by now, and you have probably done one or all of these things. You aren't alone. Americans in general are not always kind to themselves, and we are paying the price with many health problems.



Divide the class into groups to research these issues: anorexia, bulimia, childhood obesity, dehydration, sedentary life style, stress, sleep deprivation, and early onset diabetes. Do an oral report to your class on your findings. Include visual aids such as posters, drawings, graphs, statistics, etc. Include solutions to these problems and where to find help.

TAKE-HOME POSTER





WAYS TO PROMOTE GOOD CHARACTER













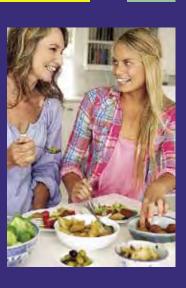












Once upon a time...

there was a group of kids who were honest, compassionate, disciplined, and kind.



These kids changed the world.

And everyone lived happily ever after.

Publix.

Congratulations to all the 2014/2015 Kids of Character from your friends and fans at Publix.®

Respect ... Showing consideration, understanding and regard for people, places and things.

Demonstrators:

- 1. Saying and doing what makes people feel safe and valued.
- 2. Looking at and listening to the person who is speaking to me.
- 3. Saying "please," thank you," "please be quiet," and when appropriate, "excuse me" and "I'm sorry".
- 4. Leaving other's belongings and property alone or receiving permission to borrow or use it.
- 5. Honoring everyone's right to a safe environment in which to learn to the best of his/her ability.
- 6. Telling myself to be and to do my best at all times!



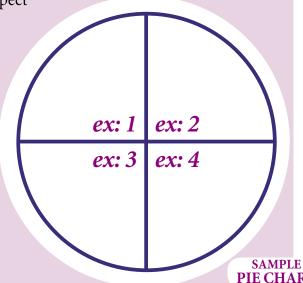


ACTIVITY: START WITH YOU

Every year you learn about the negative effects drugs and alcohol have on your health. Research to find specific facts on how these are harmful and create a poster, song, video, or electronic presentation sharing these facts and providing positive alternatives.

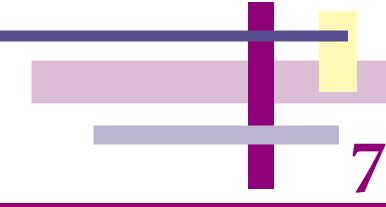
ACTIVITY: RESPECT THE WORLD AROUND YOU

Draw a large pie chart and divide it into four sections. Label each quarter with a specific way you can show respect for the environment (recycle, conserve water, alternate transportation, etc.). Search for articles in the Sun Sentinel or online demonstrating how others are practicing these actions and place them on the chart. In small groups, select one of these and create a plan for implementing it in your community.



ACTIVITY: SHOWING RESPECT FOR OTHERS

Interview a friend or relative. Create a list of adjectives that describe the qualities that you respect in that person. Write a short essay explaining your choice, using specific examples gleaned from your interview that convinced you that this is a person worthy of respect.





Honesty



... Being truthful, trustworthy, and sincere.

ACTIVITY: TRUTH VS. UNTRUTH

Read number 6 under the Honesty Demonstrators list on this page. Write and illustrate a short story defining the meaning of this sentence. If possible share your story as a lesson on honesty with younger children.

Demonstrators:

- 1. Taking responsibility for what I say and what I do, even if it means there may be a consequence.
- 2. Sharing what I know about a situation that could be harmful to others or to property.
- 3. Returning anything I find to the person who lost it, or turning it into the proper authorities.
- 4. Knowing what I say and do can be counted on as true.
- 5. Doing all of my own work, unless collaborating on a group project or studying with a partner or friend.
- 6. Remembering that it is easier to tell the truth than to live a lie.

ACTIVITY: DRAW A COMIC

Read the comic strips in the *Sun Sentinel*. Are there any characters that demonstrate honesty or dishonesty? Who are they? Which of their actions tell you that they are being honest

or dishonest? Explain.

Think about what being honest means to you. Then draw a comic strip that demonstrates your ideas about honesty.



ACTIVITY: TRUTH VS. MYTH

When asked if he chopped down a cherry tree, it has often been stated that our first President, George Washington, answered, "I cannot tell a lie." This statement seems to support the fact that President Washington was a man of great honesty because he admitted his guilt.

As it turns out, this statement is what is known as a myth. Research to discover the answers to the following questions:

What is a myth?

In what way does a myth differ from a lie? Why do you think myths often become "truth"? What purpose does a myth serve?

Based on the results of your research, explain whether you think it is acceptable to continue repeating this myth about our first President? Explain if you think it is acceptable to continue repeating any myth. Discuss your opinion with your classmates.

Self Control ... Having discipline over one's behavior

or actions.

ACTIVITY: MAKING BETTER CHOICES

Keeping in shape and eating well takes self-control. For example, it takes self-control to drink juice when you would prefer a soda. It is also easy to eat too much of even healthy foods. The chart you see here can help you control the size of your portions. Make copies and keep one at home. Take another copy with you when you go out to eat.

ONE SERVING

3 ounces of meat Medium piece of fruit 1 ounce of low-fat cheese ½ cup low-fat ice cream ½ cup brown rice or pasta 1 teaspoon peanut butter 1 ounce of nuts

SIZE (thickness/size of) a deck of cards a tennis ball 4 stacked dice a tennis ball size of your fist

tip of your thumb

one small handful

Here are other

self-control

when eating:

ways to practice

• Chew your food slowly. Don't rush.

• Drink a glass of water before a meal.

• Wait 20 minutes after eating before

• Brush your teeth after dinner to

discourage late-night snacks.

• Eat at least 5-7 servings of fruits

• Eat small meals more often.

and veggies each day to keep full.

taking a second helping.

ACTIVITY:

What is a calorie?

Divide the class into groups to research and become experts on each of the following questions pertaining to food and nutrition:

What is a vitamin? What is a mineral? What is a trans fat? What is a protein? What is a carbohydrate? What is polyunsaturated fat?

Have each group prepare for a panel discussion to share their information with the class. Allow time for a question and answer period after each presentation.

Demonstrators:

- 1. Before I speak or act, thinking how my words and actions can have a positive effect on myself and others.
- 2. Knowing that I can learn how to turn a frustrating situation into one that will be positive and productive.
- 3. Understanding that rules and laws are in place so that everyone can be safe and productive.
- 4. Using the power of my thoughts to control the actions of my body, to include what I say to myself and others.
- 5. Being sure that what I say and what I do is appropriate for the time and place.
- 6. Always asking myself, "How will this choice help me to fulfill my potential to be a better and healthier person?"



ACTIVITY:

Read through the sports section of the Sun Sentinel to find an article where an athlete or other participant exercised self-control. Write a letter to

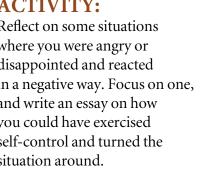
that person offering positive praise and reflecting on the effect that action had on the outcome and influenced others reading the article.

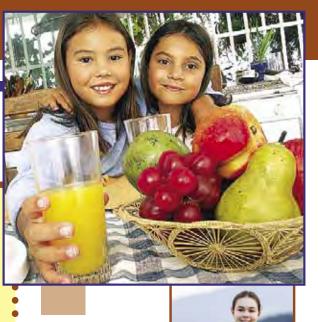


ACTIVITY:

Reflect on some situations where you were angry or disappointed and reacted in a negative way. Focus on one, and write an essay on how you could have exercised self-control and turned the situation around.









TOLERANCE... Recognizing and respecting differences, values, and beliefs of other people.

"Laws alone cannot secure freedom of expression; in order that every man present his views without penalty there must be spirit of tolerance in the entire population." - Albert Einstein (1879 - 1955)

Tolerance/Patriotism

Demonstrators:

- 1. Knowing that each of us has the right to his/her own thoughts and beliefs.
- 2. Appreciating that no two people are exactly alike and yet we all share many of the same traits and needs.
- 3. Believing that when taking the time to understand our differences, there is always something more I can learn about myself.
- 4. Understanding that to recognize another's beliefs still allows me the right to have my own.
 - 5. Realizing that each person's basic need is to feel safe and accepted as an 'equal'.
 - 6. I remind myself that "Differences can divide people while diversity can strengthen them!"

ACTIVITY: WE ARE ALL DIFFERENT - OR ARE WE?

Choose someone to write on the board. Have that person write two headlines: "On the Outside" and "On the Inside." Next, hold up a Tootsie Roll Pop. Everyone should describe what the Pop looks like on the outside and what it looks like on the inside. Write down the comments under the correct headline.

Continue class discussions to answer the following questions:

- 1. How are Tootsie Roll Pops like people, on the outside and on the inside?
- 2. If you choose a Tootsie Roll Pop by the color of its wrapper, should you also select friends by their outer appearance, such as clothing or the way they wear their hair?
- 3. Talk about a time you judged someone by their "outside", then later found out that the person was different on the inside.
- 4. Do you try different flavors of Tootsie Roll Pops or do you always stick with the same flavor or color? Why? In the same way do you try out new friends or always choose the same types of friends?
- 5. Tootsie Roll Pops have a hard exterior, but a soft center. People are often the same way. Why do you think that is?
- 6. Why is it important to be tolerant of outside differences or appearances?

PATRIOTISM

... Love and devotion to one's country.

ACTIVITY: OUR FLAG

Look at the United States flag. Note the red and white stripes and the blue background with the white stars. Research to discover the symbolism of each item. Now select another country and research its flag. Draw a picture of the flag labeling the symbols or writing them on an index card below your drawing. Have a class discussion as to why it is important for each country to have its own flag.

ACTIVITY: PATRIOTICS

Those who fought for the independence of our country from England were called patriots. Research to discover the origin of the term patriotism and why this term applied to the residents of the Thirteen Colonies. Keep in mind that not all of those residing in the colonies were in agreement with independence from England. Set up a class debate to argue whether the colonials were patriotic or unpatriotic.

ACTIVITY: BULLYING

Bullying is a form of intolerance. Think of a real-life situation or read through the *Sun Sentinel* to find a human interest story about a bullying situation. Write a letter to the editor expressing

how the situation could be turned into one of tolerance rather than intolerance.

ACTIVITY: WRITE A STORY

Write a short story or poem describing what the world would be like if everyone was the same.

ACTIVITY: ENCOURAGE VOTING!

By law you cannot vote until you are 18. However, that does not mean that you can't urge others over 18 to get out and vote. Remind friends, relatives, parents, and other family members that voting may be the number one way to show true patriotism.

Resources

COOPERATION - SEPTEMBER

Elementary

Weird Friends – Unlikely Allies in the Animal Kingdom, Jose Aruego Space Challenger: The Story of Guion Bluford, James Haskins

Secondary

Holes, Louis Sachar The Leftover Kid, Carol Snyder Animal Farm, George Orwell Freak the Mighty, Rodman Philbrick

Websites

Between The Lions – www.pbskids.org/lions

RESPONSIBILITY - OCTOBER

Elementary

<u>Arthur's Computer Disaster</u>, Marc Brown <u>Stone Fox</u>, John Reynolds Gardiner

Secondary

Hatchet, Gary Paulsen Tiger Woods, William Durbin Rough Waters, S.L. Rottman Michael Jordan, David Pietrusza

Websites

The Academy Of Achievement – www.achievement.org
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – www.epa.gov/students

CITIZENSHIP - NOVEMBER

Elementary

<u>Halmoni and the Picnic</u>, Sook Nyul Choi <u>The Cabin Faced West</u>, Jean Fritz

Secondary

<u>Johnny Tremain</u>, Esther Forbes <u>Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH</u>, Robert C. O'Brien <u>The March on Washington</u>, James Haskins

Websites

Ellis Island – www.ellisisland.org First Gov For Kids – www.kids.gov

KINDNESS - DECEMBER

Elementary

<u>The Teddy Bear</u>, David McPhail <u>Four Ugly Cats In Apartment 3D</u>, Marilyn Sachs

Secondar

The Life and Times of Mother Teresa, Tanya Rice Catwings, Ursula K. Le Guin Pay It Forward, Catherine Ryan Hyde Petey, Ben Mikaelsen

Websites

Stories To Grow By – www.storiestogrowby.com Center for Youth as Resources – www.yar.org

RESPECT - JANUARY

Elementary

<u>I'm Sorry</u>, Sam McBratney <u>The Butter Battle Book</u>, Dr. Seuss

Secondary

The Yearling, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Jane Goodall, Paula Bryant Pratt Life In The Fat Lane, Cherie Bennett Out Of The Dust, Karen Hesse

Website

My Hero - www.myhero.com/home.asp

HONESTY - FEBRUARY

Elementary

A Big Fat Enormous Lie, Marjorie Weinman Sharmat Lincoln: A Photobiography, Russell Freedman

Secondary

<u>Liars</u>, P.J. Petersen
<u>The Skull Of Truth</u>, Bruce Coville
<u>No Easy Answers: Short Stories About Teenagers</u>
<u>Making Tough Choices</u>, Donald Gallo

Websites

Kids Can Do It – www.kidscandoit.com University of Manitoba, Canada/Student Advocacy – www.umanitoba.ca/student/advocacy

SELF-CONTROL - MARCH

Elementary

The Berenstain Bears and the Bad Habit, Stan and Jan Berenstain Nothing But Trouble, Trouble, Trouble, Patricia Hermes

Secondary

<u>Diary Of A Young Girl</u>, Anne Frank <u>Iron Ring</u>, Lloyd Alexander <u>Emily Post's Teen Etiquette</u>, Elizabeth L. Post <u>The Ironman</u>, Chris Crutcher

Websites

Good Character – www.goodcharacter.com CyberSmart – www.cybersmartcurriculum.org

TOLERANCE - APRIL/MAY/JUNE

Elementary

All The Colors Of The Earth, Sheila Hamanaka The Christmas Menorahs: How A Town Fought Hate, Janice Cohn

Secondary

Gandhi, Great Soul, John B. Severance Daniel's Story, Carol Matas To Kill A Mockingbird, Harper Lee The Devil's Arithmetic, Jane Yolen

Websites

Anne Frank – www.annefrank.com Southern Poverty Law Center – www.splcenter.org

PATRIOTISM

Elementary

Our National Holidays, Patricia J. Murphy The United States Constitution, (Let Freedom Ring) Kristal Leebrick

Secondary

Soldier's Heart, Gary Paulsen
Nothing But The Truth: A Documentary
Novel, Avi
The Man Without A Country,
Edward Everrett Hale
African American Military Heroes, James Haskins

Websites

Constitution Facts – www.constitutionfacts.com Kids Voting USA – www.kidsvotingusa.org

FOR MORE RESOURCES ON HEALTH AND NUTRITION:

Websites

www.choosemyplate.gov www.kidsheartfelthealth.com www.kidshealth.com www.shapingamericasyouth.com www.publix.com www.floridajuice.com www.letsmove.gov www.epa.gov/students

Books

Honest Pretzels and 64 Other Amazing recipes for Cooks Ages 8 and Up.
Good Enough to Eat: A Kid's Guide to Food and Nutrition.
The Children's Kitchen Garden.
Cooking with Children.
Physical Fitness

Of Special Interest!

(My Health Series).

OPERATION RESPECT: Don't Laugh at Me

The Don't Laugh at Me Project (DLAM) is a curriculum-based program designed to establish a climate that reduces the emotional and physical cruelty some children inflict upon each other by behaviors such as ridicule, bullying and sometimes even violence.

Keep Bright

Founded by Peter Yarrow of the folk group Peter, Paul & Mary, DLAM utilizes inspiring music and video to support special curricula and lessons created for your classroom. DLAM is a gateway program designed to provide all educators with an entry point for year-round social and emotional learning. The program is designed to inspire children, along with their teachers and other educators, to transform their classrooms and schools into "Ridicule Free Zones." For FREE materials and information

go to www.operationrespect.org

Photo Credit: Debbie Rahamim

Once upon a time...

there was a group of kids who were honest, compassionate, disciplined, and kind.



These kids changed the world.

And everyone lived happily ever after.

Publix.

Congratulations to all the 2014/2015 Kids of Character from your friends and fans at Publix.®