



AROUND THE CIRCLE

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE CIRCLE OF GRANDPARENTS -
A PROGRAM OF PARTNERS FOR CITIZENSHIP AND CHARACTER
A JOURNEY OF CHARACTER - 10TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Volume 4 Issue 6 Debra R. Stephen, Coordinator (614-436-4799) January, 2011

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Character
Trait for
February



Mark Your Calendar

Monthly Meeting

Thursday, February 3
1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Worthington Education Center
200 E. Wilson Bridge Road
Room 112

Join us for a round-table discussion with Superintendent Dr. Melissa Conrath

No School

February 21

A Journey of Character

Feb. 17 – 10 a.m.
Planning Meeting

Monthly Meeting

Thursday, March 3



After a delicious potluck and an energetic performance from Thomas Worthington's PCC Characters in Action, Member **Mary McRury** talked about the importance of addressing bullying. See page 3 for more potluck pictures.

THANK YOU!



Thanks to everyone who braved the frigid temperatures and a snow storm to eat at Max & Erma's on January 20 and 21!

Despite the terrible weather, we earned \$176.17!

(All monies will go toward our Journey of Character Celebration in May!)

And a special shout-out to **Brookside Elementary** who took their staff to Max & Erma's to support our program! A heart-felt thank you from all of us!
(I heard from M&E's that another school also participated, but as of "press time" that school's identity was unknown. Thank you, whoever you are!)

Notice to Grandparents

Check your newsletter email for additional attachments to add to your Handbook. These attachments, for Honesty, are from the materials purchased in memory of Charlotte I. Spohn.

COG IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

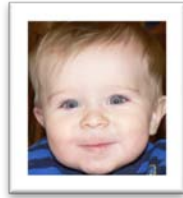


2,225 Students
91 Classrooms
69 Grandparents
11 Schools
1 Intergenerational
Circle of
Character

www.circleofgrandparents.com



FROM DEBRA'S DESK



Dear Circle of Friends,

♥ ♥ ♥
 "Roses are Red,
 Violets are Blue,
 Sugar is Sweet,
 And So are You!" ♥

That was the first Valentine saying that I remember. I love Valentine's Day! Valentine's Day evokes so many warm memories. I remember making my Valentine Box for school with foil and red hearts and writing out my valentines for classmates. As I got older there were the Valentine dances in high school and that exciting first Valentine's Day with my husband-to-be (though he didn't know it yet). I remember the Valentine's Day when I was pregnant with my first child and of course, the many wonderful Valentine's Days with my husband who spoils me with sparkles, flowers, & chocolates. And Valentine's Day seemed to go full circle as I helped my children decorate their Valentine's Day boxes for school. This will be my first Valentine's Day with a little 18 pound, blue-eyed grandson who is love personified.

As I remembered Valentine's Days past, I realized that everyone probably has special Valentine memories because it is a basic need to love and to be loved. The beauty of love is that it doesn't have to be the romantic, over-the-moon kind of love. It can be felt in the hug of a friend, the wag of a dog's tail or the sight of a glorious sunset. No matter the form, we all need love in our lives.

In my opinion, love is one of the biggest assets to being in the Circle of Grandparents, which is aptly named, because we are immediately welcomed into a new circle. From the students, teachers, and fellow "Grandparents" we find ourselves smack dab in the middle of people who both deserve, need, and appreciate us just as much as we deserve, need and appreciate them.

So take time this month to tell the people who are important to you how much you love them! And from my heart to yours - I love you! Thanks for making my life richer, brighter, and more meaningful!

♥ Love, Debra



A Journey of Character –

Planning Committee Meeting
Thursday, February 17, 2011

10:00 A.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM
GRISWOLD CENTER

Please join us as we work out the final details of our Journey of Character Celebration scheduled for May 5, 2011!

Partners for Citizenship and Character & Leadership Worthington

Invite you to their first
"Breakfast to Celebrate Character"

Guest Speaker, Monty Lobb
of Kenosis Limited.

The topic will be
"Can Character Ethics Really Change
My Culture?"

February 17, 2011
8 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

At the McConnell Arts Center
777 Evening Street

\$10.00 (includes continental breakfast)

Make reservations at
<http://citizenshipandcharacter.org>
or call Holly Richard (614)885-6646

2011 New Year's Potluck





Braxton Tewart submitted the following. It just goes to show that while you might not know the impact that you are making, it could mean the world to a child.

Dear Abby: I am writing to thank the teachers, librarians and counselors who were kind to me when I was an at-risk child.

My mother was mentally ill, my father was absent and the school was my haven. I often wish I could tell some of those adults who helped me along the way that I'm so grateful for the ways they intervened in my life.

To all who serve children: Please know that even very small kindnesses give hope and strength to the child who doesn't receive them elsewhere.

— **Turned Out OK,**
Thanks to You

Dear Turned Out OK: Your beautiful letter could have been written by many students to the educators and other adults who made a positive difference in their lives.

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES



Only **two** more months are left to submit the adorable, cute, silly, and wise things that your "grandchildren" say to you or classroom stories that you find yourself telling your friends!

- **Debra**

ROSTER CORRECTION

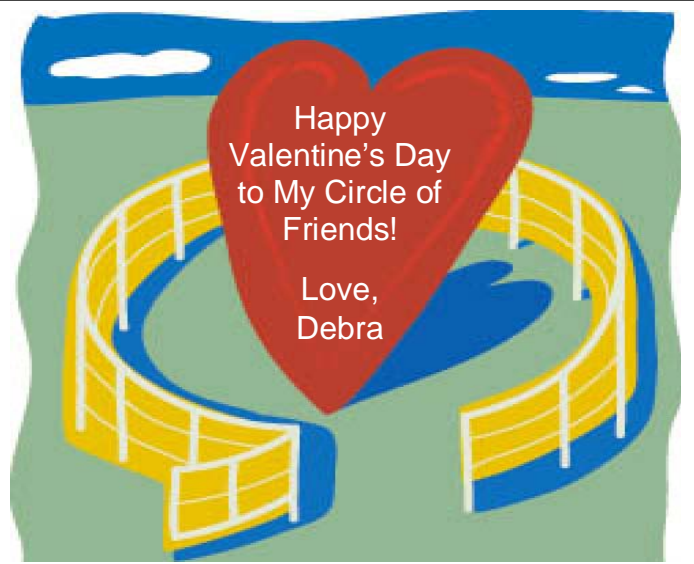
Oops, **Ann DiMarco's** address was incorrect in last month's "Around the Circle". Her correct address for your roster is:

Ann DiMarco, 7163 Bluffstream Court, Columbus, OH 43235 (phone 848-5843). **Ann** is at Slate Hill with **Wendy Hale's** 2nd grade.

GOT CHARACTER (TREE)?

The eagle eyes of **Dorie Eisenman** and **Ann DiMarco** found our character tree on page 9 above and to the right of **Barbara Boucher** in last month's newsletter. Well done, ladies!

I've *really* hidden this month's! Bet you can't find it!
-**Debra**





MEETING REPORT
New Year's Potluck
January 6, 2011
Town Hall of the Griswold Center
12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

After the blessing by **Herb Pierce**, approximately 40 members and guests enjoyed a delicious potluck lunch. Following lunch, **Debra Stephen** introduced the PCC Characters in Action (CIA) advisor **Pat Kelso**. **Pat** explained that the CIA are Juniors and Seniors from both Worthington high schools who travel to the elementary 3rd and 4th grades to perform anti-bullying, cheating, and other skits. After the skits they break into small groups to discuss the skits and any specific problems that the students are having and possible solutions. The students in CIA are self-motivated and invested in helping younger students.

Pat introduced the CIA members from Thomas Worthington - Gracie Bachmann, Anna Marie Subler, Lea Vander Molen, Eric Lawell, and Eli Rousculp. They performed skits that they would do in the elementary schools so that the **Grandparents** could see the kind of program that they provide. Their skits showed cheating, bullying, tattling, intolerance, and rude behavior. The students said that they were surprised at how open the younger students were when they talked to them in small groups. The CIA institutes new skits when they see new problems, i.e., last year they added a skit about "silly bandz" (bracelets that kids were wearing and collecting in elementary school) and cliques. They will add skits about cyber bullying. Elementary students look up to CIA and see them as role models.

After thanking the CIA, **Debra** announced that Kroger's donated 7 dozen roses and a \$25.00 gift card to the potluck. The roses were offered to members who came early to help with set-up. Cards were circulated for various **Circle** members who were ill or having surgery. Flyers were available for the Max & Erma's fundraiser which will be held Thursday and Friday, Jan. 20 & 21.

Second year Grandparent member **Mary McRury** was introduced. **Mary** is the adopted **Grandparent** for **Nancy Hellickson's** 5th grade class at **Liberty**. **Mary** is also an organizational development consultant and works at the medical center at Ohio State where she did a study on bullying in the workplace. **Mary** shared the following information:

- If **Grandparents** can help prevent bullying in their classrooms it will help to keep bullying out of the workplace.
- Ohio schools have been required to teach about bullying since 2007.
- The Ohio Department of Education website states that 50% of students experience bullying.
- Bullies often have a group that follows them around, their "henchmen" so to speak. The group feels power by being with the bully.
- Bullying is defined as destructive behavior or behavior that is negative and usually aimed at a target and is repeated. A negative behavior is not bullying. It is the repetition of that negative behavior which is bullying.



- The most powerfully and effective intervention for kids to do is to support kids who are being bullied. A California researcher found when a kid is being bullied, if the other kids just come up and stand behind the kid that is being bullied, then 98% of the time the bully will back down. Peer support is vital.
- Usual targets of bullying are kids who are quieter or don't have many friends.
- Bullying is not just physical. It can also be more covert such as playing pranks, practical jokes, undermine them, gossip, talking when someone is speaking or other subtle acts.
- There are three parts to an intervention. They are: what the school sets as an example, what the teacher and parents set as a standard and the individual skill ability.
- It is important that disruptive behavior gets addressed. *Do not ignore it.*
- A Scandinavian study showed that bullies are kids who are neglected, lack parental involvement, and have a standard for violence.

Mary encouraged **Grandparents** to have a heightened awareness of bullying when they are in the classroom.

Mary was thanked for taking the time to speak to us. The next meeting will be Feb. 3 at the Worthington Education Center at 1:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra R. Stephen