



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 7 Debra R. Stephen, Coordinator (614-436-4799) February, 2011

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Character
Trait for
March

Mark Your Calendar

Monthly Meeting

Thursday, March 3
10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

**Griswold Center
Thompson Room**

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

No School

March 4

A Journey of Character Planning Committee Meeting

March 17 – 10 a.m.

Monthly Meeting

Thursday, April 7th



Snow, ice, and cold temperatures cancelled our February meeting! Fortunately, we were able to reschedule **Dr. Conrath** (see below).

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others. — Mahatma Gandhi

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION - PART II

I really hated to cancel our February meeting, but I was concerned about the ice and felt that it was just too great a hazard and not worth the risk.

However, neither snow, nor ice, or cold can keep the Circle of Grandparents from their appointed round-table discussion with **Superintendent Dr. Melissa Conrath!** Fortunately for us, she was able to reschedule and will join us March 3rd!

The weather has to improve sometime!

Notice to Grandparents

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

COG IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS



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

www.circleofgrandparents.com



FROM DEBRA'S DESK



Dear Circle of Friends,

Sports can play an important part of building character. Clair Bee, a Long Island University basketball coach from 1931 to 1951 who won 95 percent of his games, said *“Good coaching may be defined as the development of character, personality and habits of players, plus the teaching of fundamentals and team play.”* Many of today’s students, thanks to ESPN, eat, breathe and live sports and we are lucky to have many fine coaches In Worthington that still ascribe to the above philosophy.

My son was born a “sports nut.” In fact, his first word was “ball”. I remember when he was about 3 he was lying on the couch and watching a car race while recovering from chickenpox. When it came time for Mommy’s soap opera, he did not want me to change channels. I remember trying to convince him to give up the TV by telling him that the cars were just going around in circles, to which he emphatically responded, “NO THEY’RE NOT – THEY’RE RACING!”

His infatuation with sports continued and was actually a great way for us to help control his strong willed nature. Just threatening to bar him from participating in a team practice or game usually resulted in his good behavior. As he grew, our family supported him through the ups and downs of many sporting moments. You cannot play select baseball, basketball, and soccer without experiencing the agony of defeat as well as the euphoria of winning. Many lessons about character were discussed on the long drives home.

My son has come full circle. He is now a tennis professional and coaches both Thomas Worthington’s boys and girls tennis teams. He has also helps out occasionally with Worthington Kilbourne’s basketball program. He has never lost his passion for sports and competition, but has always maintained his character – win or lose. As a coach, these traits now “serve” him well.

(continued next column)

John Wooden said, “Sports do not build character. They reveal it.” Maybe. But a talented coach will work with their athletes to help them achieve success through good character. Worthington is blessed to have many great coaches who not only produce successful teams but also successful people. For instance, in last week’s SNP, Worthington Kilbourne’s boys basketball coach Tom Sauder is quoted as saying “As coaches, we try to teach more than basketball. Sometimes, we’re teaching basketball, sometimes we’re teaching life lessons.” Isn’t that just what we want from our coaches?

Young people in Worthington, are hearing, learning, and experiencing the importance of good character from parents, real and “classroom” grandparents, teachers and coaches.

I hope you will join me in supporting our Worthington athletes by attending their games and their annual Pancake Day (details below). *Remember, you can attend any non-tournament event free with your Golden Buckeye card!*
- Love, Debra

Worthington Kilbourne & Thomas Worthington Unite in Fundraiser!

Time Saturday, March 5, 2011
8:00am - 3:00pm

Location Thomas Worthington High School
300 W. Dublin-Grandville Rd.
Worthington, OH

\$5 Pancake Breakfast

(pancakes, sausage, beverage)

More Info You can get your tickets from your favorite Worthington Athlete. Tickets are also available at the door.

Each ticket is also good for \$5 off a \$30 purchase at The Andersons. Use it on your next purchase and your breakfast is FREE!



TIME IS TICKING ...

LAST CALL! If you would like to share any stories or gems from your classroom for inclusion in the program for our Journey of Character, *this is the last month!* Also, please call me to arrange for pictures to be taken in your class for the slide show. I can only take submissions and pictures through the end of March. Please don't wait until the last minute! - Debra

GOT CHARACTER (TREE)?

Did you find last month's tree? It was hiding in the window between **Linda Mrukowski** and **Carol Giessler** in the photo collage on page 3 halfway down. Have fun finding this one!

WORTHINGTON WOMEN'S CLUB DONATES TO COG

The **Worthington Women's Club** (WWC) has announced that it will donate **\$200** to the **PCC Circle of Grandparents!** The monies will be presented at the WWC meeting on March 22nd. This generous donation will help defray the costs of materials for new members. This is the *second* time that the WWC has donated money to the Circle of Grandparents



A Journey of Character –

Planning Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 17, 2011

10:00 A.M.

**CONFERENCE ROOM
GRISWOLD CENTER**

BILL CROWLEY HAVING SURGERY

Long time Grandparent **Bill Crowley** has been keeping the medical staff in Columbus on their toes. While being treated for cellulitis doctors found two aneurysm's in his legs! He will undergo surgery on Monday, Feb. 28th.

Fortunately, Bill is keeping up his usual jovial spirit and is looking forward to a complete recovery. He promises he'll be at the Journey of Character May, even if he is in a wheelchair!

Having a nurse for a daughter has been a real blessing! Please keep Bill in your thoughts and prayers.

BROOKSIDE PTA OFFERS SUPPORT TO THE CIRCLE

The **Brookside PTA** donated \$50 to the Circle of Grandparents to help defray program costs! Their support is *greatly* appreciated!

[This information came through my email box and I thought it was worth passing along. – Debra]

**Wellness Awareness:
Top Preventable Diseases**

**Thursday, March 3, 2011
Arthritis of the Shoulder, Hip & Knee:
Extending Joint Life**

Learn about treatment trends and ways arthritis sufferers can extend joint life from

Dr. Jason Hurst of [Joint Implant Surgeons, Inc.](#)

7:00 pm, Old Worthington Library Meeting Room
820 High St. Worthington



MARY MCRURY TO ASSUME DUTIES AS PCC REP

Mary McRury has agreed to serve as the Circle of Grandparents' representative to the Partners for Citizenship and Character (PCC) Board. Mary will replace **Chandran (B. C.) Nair**, who served with distinction for the past two years.

Mary is in her second year of "Grandparent" duties with the Circle. She is currently working with **Nancy Hellickson's** fifth grade class at **Liberty**. She is also the proud "Gramma" of 9 grandchildren.

You may recall that she was our featured speaker at the January potluck when she spoke about a cause that she is very interested in -bullying. Mary worked as an Organizational Development consultant at the Ohio State University Medical Center where she did a study on workplace bullying. Since retiring last year, Mary is enjoying the flexibility of her schedule.

Mary is a trained mediator and volunteers her services with the Community Mediation Services. She also is on the board of the Mid-Ohio Food Bank and has maintained several Board positions at OSUMC where her experience as a nurse and mediator are put to good use.

Mary's positive "can do" attitude will be an asset to the PCC Board!

MARY WINTER SCORES A SUPREME SPEAKER FOR OUR JOURNEY OF CHARACTER!

Mary Winter gamely stepped up last year when asked to find a speaker for our Journey of Character event. **Diligence** paid off! She has informed the committee that **Ohio Supreme Court Justice Yvette McGee Brown** will be our keynote speaker! Needless to say, WE ARE THRILLED!

You will want to make sure to block off the evening of Thursday, May 5th from 5 – 7 p.m. Invitations will be mailed in April. You will need to RSVP as soon as possible *after* receiving the invitation, as seating is limited.

A REQUEST FROM DEBRA FOR A "CRAFTY" GRANDPARENT (Would it help if I added a "Please"?)

I have been told by people who actually know how to crochet afghans and such that I am asking too late; but I figured I'd ask anyway (nothing ventured – nothing gained)...

Is there anyone in the Circle who could make an afghan, quilt, or blanket for our speaker at the upcoming Journey of Character? I would be forever in your debt and will be happy to award you with an extra service pin as well as allow you to present it to our speaker yourself. I will gladly reimburse the cost of materials, too. It doesn't have to be any special color or anything, in fact it could be one that you've already made and haven't given away yet. Useful, handmade throws warm the heart (as well as the body) and would serve as a lasting reminder of our unique group to our speaker.

Please call if you are able to help out!

Debra R. Stephen

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