



AROUND THE CIRCLE

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE CIRCLE OF GRANDPARENTS -
A PROGRAM OF PARTNERS FOR COMMUNITY AND CHARACTER

Volume 5 Issue 2 Debra R. Stephen, Coordinator (614-450-6062) September, 2011

RESPONSIBILITY

Character
Trait for
October

Mark Your Calendar

Monthly Meeting

Thursday, October 6
10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
Worthington Education
Center

Ellie Neinast from the Worthington Public Library will be guest speaker. Ellie has experience as a children's and young adult librarian

No School

Oct. 14

Max & Erma's

Fundraiser

Oct. 20 & 21

Monthly Meeting

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



At the September meeting, Grandparents separated into grade levels and brainstormed ideas for their September classes on Respect.

If you want children to keep their feet on the ground, put some responsibility on their shoulders.

-Abigail Van Buren



The PCC Circle of Grandparents has a new home in the Worthington Education Center!

Please note our new contact information:

200 E. WILSON BRIDGE ROAD

WORTHINGTON, OH 43085

PHONE: 614-450-6062

EMAIL: PCCCOG@WORTHINGTON.K12.OH.US

www.circleofgrandparents.com

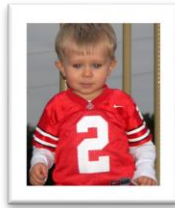
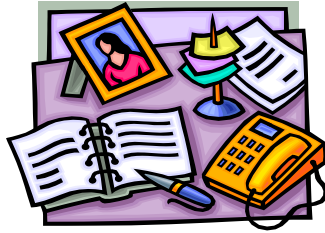
COG IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS



2,275 Students
91 Classrooms
80 Grandparents
11 Schools
1 Compass of
Character



FROM DEBRA'S DESK



Dear Circle of Friends,

What a great start to our 11th year of character education! Thanks to help from Holly Richard, we have placed a record number of Grandparents up for adoption in elementary classrooms throughout the district! I've already heard about some of the creative and amazing things that Grandparents are doing to help their students learn about Respect. I am pleased with the energy that I see within our group of Grandparents. Your passion for the program helps make the Circle so successful.

The Partners for Citizenship and Character(PCC) held a day-long retreat last month and it was likewise filled with passion and energy for making our community a better place. One of the changes coming from the retreat is a name change for the PCC as we celebrate its 15th anniversary in February, 2012. The word Citizenship will be replaced with Community. The change will be gradual with a complete transition made by next summer.

A more immediate change came with the move of PCC Circle of Grandparents from my dining room to the halls of the Worthington Education Center (WEC). Moving more than 3 carloads of COG "stuff" to our new office at the WEC has allowed me to regain a balance between my home life and my "job". As my life has become more balanced, I have regained my energy and passion – so look out world!

Love, Debra

P.S. Please plan to join me as I support the Circle of Grandparents by dining at Max & Erma's located at Hard and Sawmill Road on October 20th and/or 21st! **Remember to take your flyer. We get 20% of your bill.** (Note: We are not allowed to pass out flyers on the premises – since we represent character education, we have to abide by the rules!) All proceeds will go toward Circle of Grandparents expenses.



GOT CHARACTER (TREE) ?

Since I didn't hear from anyone, I am assuming that the Character Tree won last month! If you go back and look at the quilt on page 5 you will see it hiding right above the word "house". Have fun looking for character this month!

GOT CALENDAR ?



The new 2011-2012 school calendars are now available. To get yours either pick one up in the lobby of the Worthington Education Center, 200 E. Wilson Bridge Road or Debra will have them available at the October 6th meeting.



GOT TIME ?

Evening Street has two full-day Kindergarten's housed in the McConnell Art Center. They are in need of parents and/or grandparents to oversee the reception desk at the McConnell Art Center in the mornings from 8:30-10:00 a.m. Duties would include sitting at the front desk and monitoring the door. Most often, visitors are parents who want to drop off lunch money, or a forgotten book bag or snack to their little one. If you are able to help on any day Tuesday through Friday, please call the school office at 450-4400. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Debbie Pound at 450-4400 or email her at dpound@worthington.k12.oh.us



GOT SHOW & TELL STUFF ?

The format of our monthly meetings will now include 15 minutes at the end of each meeting for Grandparents to gather for brainstorming ideas for teaching the Word of the Month. Bring materials that you are planning to use and be prepared to "Show and Tell".



This picture of Joan Ottolenghi and her 1st grade class from Colonial Hills, along with the following email from teacher Samantha Fell, captures the essence of our program.

Debra-

Hi! Thought you might enjoy seeing a picture of the kids from 1st Grade Colonial Hills (Mrs. Fell's class) at Joan Ottolenghi's house at the end of last year. The 1st graders chose to go and visit Mrs. O as a prize for filling up their marble jar last year and Mrs. O graciously welcomed us into her home. We had a great time visiting with her and she even had a story ready for us.

Not only do the 1st graders really enjoy having Mrs. O come each month, but I do as well and I have loved getting to know Joan over the years. These monthly words are really helping build character and truly help teach kids how to be good people. – Samantha Fell

WELCOME BABY AVERY

Congratulations to Wilson Hill's Principal **Jamie Lusher** and family on the birth of Avery Connor Lusher! Avery weighed 7.7 pounds and is beautiful!

VOLUNTEER BADGES AVAILABLE

You are invited to get your official volunteer badge after our monthly meeting. Details available at meeting.

PARADE PEOPLE

PCC would like to have an entry in the Worthington Memorial Day Parade. But Holly and I haven't a clue as to where to begin. If you have knowledge, expertise, etc. and can give us guidance, please contact Debra or Holly!

RESPONSIBILITY



The Circle of Grandparents is just one of several community programs offered by the Partners for Citizenship (*soon to be Community*) and Character (PCC)! Please pass the following information about their Active Parenting Now Program on to any parents that you know who take their parenting role seriously. This program will make good parents – GREAT!



Active Parenting Now

The parenting handbook you've always wanted!

- *Do you look for other ways to handle daily parenting issues?
- *Is homework or bedtime a daily battle?
- *Are you nervous about your child's up-coming teen years?

Parenting is the most important job in the world, yet it is the one with the least amount of training!

Active Parenting Now will provide you with simple and effective skills which will empower you to parent with confidence, patience and understanding.

You will learn to:

- ❖ Defuse power struggles
- ❖ Stimulate your child's independence
- ❖ Improve communication with your child
- ❖ Cope with difficult topics such as bullying, drugs and violence

This program is brought to you by:

- Partners for Citizenship and Character
- Worthington Schools
- Worthington Libraries
- Lord of Life Church

Session Dates

Parenting 101, Intro to Active Parenting

(90 minute "mini-session")

Worthington's Northwest Library
2280 Hard Rd., Columbus

September 17, 2011

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

For a free "sneak peak" of our full Active Parenting program, meet other parents and build your foundation for becoming an Active Parent!

Winter Session (3 week program)

Worthington Parks and Rec. Center
345 E. Wilson Bridge Rd, Worthington
January 7, 14, 21, 2012 (Sat. mornings)
Complimentary breakfast at 8:30 a.m.
Session presentations 9 - 11 a.m.
Cost: \$25 per family (includes meal, parent guide, presentations and childcare (ages 3 and up))

Late Winter Session (6 week program)

Lord of Life Lutheran Church
2480 W. Dublin-Granville Rd. Columbus
(located near Linworth Rd. and St. Rt. 161)
Feb. 8, 22, 29, Mar 7, 14, 2012 (Wed. evenings)
Complimentary dinner at 5:30
Session presentations 6-8 p.m.
Cost: \$25 per family (includes meal, parent guide, presentations and childcare (ages 3 and up))

**Registration is required for the Winter and Late Winter Session.

Please register by visiting our website:

www.citizenshipandcharacter.com

If your organization or church would like to host an Active Parenting 3 or 6 week session, please contact program coordinator Amy Ambrozich at activeparenting1@yahoo.com.



MEET THE NEW GRANDPARENTS



Gwen Isaly

My name is Gwen Isaly. During the process of moving from my home in Marion, Ohio, a flyer was placed in front of me by my daughter. And so began my new adventure with the Circle of Grandparents. I am moving into my daughter's home in Worthington Hills. She and her husband have 2 sons, one in Worthington Hills and the other in Phoenix Middle School – my grandsons. I am a retired RN of more than 50 years' experience in various areas of nursing. I was widowed earlier this year by the death of my husband of 49-1/2 years. We raised three children, a daughter in Columbus (a teacher at Beechcroft), a son in Tecumseh, Michigan (a manager of Tractor Supply Store), and a son in Marion, (an assistant manager of Rural King Store). I enjoy sewing, crocheting, knitting and other crafts. Crocheting afghans are a passion and I usually 2 or 3 projects going at once. Yes, I do complete them and pass them on! My grandsons enjoy the wild boxers they receive at Christmas time that I sew. I am looking forward to joining the Circle of Grandparents and being involved with the children. I recently spent 2 weeks in Michigan and a week of that was Bible School with the Michigan grandsons.



Sheila Dickson

My name is Sheila Dickson and I am Grandma to a third grade student in Mrs. Thomas's class at Brookside Elementary School. "Grandma" is my favorite word and sound as I hear Maya announce her visits to our home. Before I found my favorite role, I was a high school English teacher for Columbus City Schools for 31 years. I was blessed to have retired a year before Maya was born, so I became her caregiver for four years, as her mom, my daughter, is also an English teacher for Columbus. I currently teach English at Columbus State Community College and DeVry University. I also work as a Career Facilitator at Columbus State helping dislocated workers reinvent themselves to enter the workforce in a different field. I love what I do, and as many have said, "If you love what you do, you will never work a day in your life." I have been blessed to have found my special calling early in life, and I will continue "working" for many years. I look forward to being in Mrs. Thomas's classroom and talking with the students, most of whom I know because I have volunteered in Maya's classroom during her first and second grade years.



John Schuster

John Schuster is a 31 year Worthington resident. He and his wife Sandie have two children, Sara and Matthew who attended Wilson Hill Elementary. Sara graduated from Thomas Worthington and Matthew is a graduate of St. Charles High School. Sandie is a teacher at Weaver Middle School. Mr. Schuster has held several management positions including Vice President, Membership Development at The Ohio Chamber of Commerce; Senior Vice President, Corporate Development, Goodwill Industries of Central Ohio; and Deputy Director, Ohio Office of Workforce Development. He has experience in the classroom in the Junior Achievement program at Columbus West and Independence High Schools and the Worthington Methodist Children's Home. Mr. Schuster holds a BS, Journalism, from The Ohio State University.



Jan Hoffman

Jan grew up in Toledo, Ohio. Her husband Bill also grew up in Toledo and they were high school sweethearts. Jan graduated from Flower Hospital School of Nursing and Mary Manse College. She and her family have lived in Worthington for 38 years. One of their daughters now lives near Leesburg, Virginia and has eight children ages 3-14. Their other daughter lives in Grandview Heights and has two boys ages 12 and 9. For the past 5 years she has volunteered in her grandson's classrooms at Stevenson Elementary in Grandview Heights. She has worked as a nurse in hospitals, a doctor's office, as a Director of Nursing in Long Term Care, and most recently as an Instructor of Nursing 101 at Columbus State Community College. At one time she owned a clothing shop in Dublin, Ohio. She loves to garden, read historical novels, knit and bake cookies.



Carole Shaffer

Carole is a wife, mother of 2 daughters, and a grandmother of 4 wonderful grandchildren ages 9, 7, 5, and 2. She has lived in Columbus most of her life. Her interests are family history, traveling, and reading. She belongs to the Corinthian Chapter #393 (Eastern Stars), North High Womens group, Polar Bear Alumni Association, and The Maple Grove United Methodists Church. She still meets socially with the Ohio Child Conservation League. She is currently looking forward to traveling with her husband to the Scandinavian countries of Berlin and St. Petersburg Russia. They have traveled on six of the seven continents. (They still need to go to Antarctica. Both of her parents are living (Mother will be 92 and her Dad 93) in Clintonville. Carole is looking forward to working in her granddaughter's Kindergarten class at Evening Street.



Debbie Curtis

Debbie and her husband Bill reside in Pataskala. Her two daughters attended Worthington schools starting with Evening Street elementary and graduating from Thomas Worthington High School. She is the proud grandparent of a kindergartner who attends Worthington Estates School where she will be volunteering with the Circle of Grandparents. She recently became an Accredited Staging Professional and looks forward to working in the field of Home Staging. While she enjoys travel, camping, reading and gardening, her favorite pastime is spending time with her family, especially her grandson. She is looking forward to this new chapter in her life and bringing a little "character" education to her adopted classroom.



A BIG HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO KRIS COURTNEY!

Kris Courtney generously gave the Circle the gift of time...almost 3 and a half hours...to the Circle of Grandparents yesterday. Thanks to her generosity this Coordinator has extra time to spare. I'm pretty sure that extra time will be spent chasing my adorable toddling grandson! Thank you Kris for all you do to support the Circle and Me! - Debra





MEETING RECORD GRISWOLD CENTER SEPTEMBER 1, 2011 - 10:00 - 11:30 A.M.

In attendance: **Beth Ault, Tammy Baker, Terry Bare, Carol Bogaards, Judy Chosy, Audrey Clumm, Elizabeth Collins, Kris Courtney, Bill Crowley, Sarry Dylan, Mary Haddix, Elizabeth Hague, Jan Hoffman, Gwen Isaly, Mary Jane Kibby, Paul Krause, Walt Kobalka, Sue Lair, Marilee Lowery Bush, Vicki McConnell, Therese McLean, Betty Menear, Bill Mrukowski, Linda Mrukowski, Lyna Norris, Ginger Price, Walli Putz, Kathy Shaffer, Debra Stephen, Penny Truitt, Helga Waldrop, Roy Wielonski, Marilyn Wollett**

The meeting began with Debra asking members to look at their name tags and to make corrections if needed. Corrected nametags will be ready by the next meeting.

Members signed sympathy cards for the family of Helen Davis, and for Mary McRury whose lost her father. Congratulatory cards were signed for Jeff Maddox on his new job as Director of Innovation and School Support (and most importantly as liaison between the Circle and Schools) and for Wilson Hill Principal Jamie Lusher on her new baby.

Letters were available for members to send home with the students on their first classroom visit. The letters briefly explain to the parents that their child will have a classroom Grandparent working with them throughout the year with the PCC Circle of Grandparents program.

Debra offered to visit classrooms to take pictures. If your class has not been visited in the past two years, please call if you would like her to visit. (The visit is unobtrusive as Debra sits in the back of the room and the camera makes no flash or sound.)

Debra apologized for the cramped and hot conditions in the room at the Griswold. Due to the group's increased size, it will be necessary to move our meetings to the Worthington Education Center at 200 E. Wilson Bridge Road. Their meeting rooms are larger and more comfortable.

The next meeting is October 6th and will feature a librarian from the Worthington Public Library who will share tips and information with you to make your trips to the Library and classrooms better.

Members celebrated Paul Krause's 85th birthday with cupcakes and song!

After a rousing cheer of PCC with an echo of COG, members were energized for the coming school year! Members then played *Getting to Know You B-I-N-G-O*, and it was revealed that several of our senior character educators had more than their share of run-ins with the principal's office! Thank goodness they've seen the light! (You'll have to ask Judy Chosy about the time she and her friend dyed their bangs green for St. Paddy's Day!)



The following were awarded "Seeking Success with Character" pins for enlarging the Circle by bringing in new members. The new members are in ().

Roy Wielonski - (John Schuster)
Kathy Shaffer - (Sarry Dylan)
Phil Giessler - (Penny Truitt)
Cheryl Leis - (Sheila Dickson)
Elizabeth Hague - (Walt Kobalka)
Elizabeth Hague - (Ginger Price)
Elizabeth Hague and Kathy Shaffer - (Vicki McConnell)

The meeting schedule for the year is being assembled and will be available at the next meeting and in the next newsletter. A committee was formed to look at the agendas for the upcoming meetings. Meetings will continue to be the first Thursday of the month (September through May) with both morning and afternoon times.

Posters for Respect and Character Coloring Books were available to members.

Debra thanked the Grandparents who did not get the classes that they'd hoped for. Their flexibility in taking another class was appreciated and spoke to the character of the group. Several schools had multiple grandparents vying for the same classrooms and all were worked out amicably. As the Circle continues to grow, the flexibility of the membership will be more important than ever.

The following subjects were discussed.

- **NAMETAGS**

The following ideas were shared: Ask your teacher for a list of the first names of your students and make nametags. Debra strongly encouraged the use of nametags to better build the relationship between Grandparent and students. Some Grandparents call up students to get their nametags which reinforced the face and name, some grandparents laid them out on a desk for the students to pick up as they came in from recess, and in other rooms the teacher prepared the nametags for the students to use when they have a guest in the classroom.

- **SNACKS**

Snacks for the students were discussed. Debra stressed that it was important to ask your teacher about bringing in snacks! Some students have allergies. The policy on snacks varies school to school: Some schools will not allow them, some want healthy snacks, while others don't mind the cookies and sweets. Please ask your teacher first. Kathy Shaffer suggested bringing in snacks for the staff as well.

- **CLASS VISITATION TIME**

We recommend a 30 to 50 minute classroom visit each month. Please respect the teacher's time, by arriving on time and leaving on time. Some Grandparents are given permission to visit more often. Every school, every teacher, is different and it is at your teacher's discretion how often and how long your visit will be. The benefit of the PCC Circle of Grandparents is its total flexibility, which works well for teachers and grandparents alike. Grandparents creating their own lessons help keep the Words of the Month fresh and unique year after year.



- **SMILE!**

Make sure to take your beautiful smile with you when you go into your school and classroom! A smile has lots of benefits, it crosses all language barriers, changes the tone of your voice to a more receptive tone, and makes you more approachable. *Let's face it, when you get older, life is not kind to your face but when you smile you erase years.* Remember, the program is fun and rewarding - SMILE.


- **QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR TEACHER**

How many students are in the classroom? How many boys? How many girls?
How do I arrange to make copies to send home with the students?
Could you have a list of the student's first names for nametags or will they already have name tags? How much time will you be allowed? (As you communicate with your teacher, you will get to know your teacher better.)

Volunteers then broke out into grade levels to discuss what was being done in their classes for Respect and to answer questions of new grandparents.

The meeting ended at 11:25

Respectfully submitted,
Debra R. Stephen



Max & Erma's

Presents

FUNdraiser to support PCC
Circle of Grandparents!!!

Thursday, Oct. 20 & Friday, Oct. 21

20% of your lunch, dinner, and
carryout sales will support
PCC Circle of Grandparents!

Flyer distribution on Max & Erma's property is prohibited and will result in the forfeiture of your organization's entire donation.

Present this ticket to your server and

20% of your sales will benefit
PCC Circle of Grandparents!!



Max & Erma's

Dublin
7480 Sawmill Road, 614-760-8585

Visit maxandermas.com
to view our menu & learn about our
Good Neighbor Rewards program.

Proceed donation does not include
gift certificate sales.