



AROUND THE CIRCLE

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

Volume 5 Issue 6 Debra R. Stephen, Coordinator /Editor (614-450-6062) January, 2012

H
O
N
E
S
T
Y

Character
Quality for
February

Mark Your Calendar Monthly Meeting

Thursday, February 2
1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.
Worthington Education Center
Room 106

George Joseph, will lead what promises to be a fun and lively discussion on Thomas Friedman's book "*That Used to Be Us: How America Fell behind in the World it Created and How We Can Come Back*" and "*The World is Flat*"
Don't worry – you do not have to have read the book to enjoy!

No School
Feb. 20

Looking Ahead –
Monthly Meeting
Thursday, March 1
10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.



Attendees of the annual Circle of Grandparent's New Year's Potluck were treated to two excellent speakers. Colleen Light, Manager of the Griswold Senior Center told members about the opportunities awaiting them at the Griswold. And Dr. Jim McElligott talked about the history of Partners for Community and Character which led to discussions about character qualities. Pictures from the event are on page 7.

"Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom"

-Thomas Jefferson



COG IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS



2,350 Students
94 Classrooms
82 Grandparents
11 Schools
1 Compass of Character



FROM DEBRA'S DESK



Dear Circle of Friends,
Remember the saying, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it"? If you live in Worthington you can "fuggedaboutit"!

A few weeks ago I was privileged to attend a meeting to discuss how the Griswold Senior Center could better meet the needs of its members and related groups. I left the meeting feeling lucky to be part of such a caring, warm and compassionate community. (See bottom right, page 3) Living with big box stores, automated answering systems, computers and the internet often makes it feel like a cold and impersonal world. So it was a real lift to my spirit to see that in Worthington we are listening to one another and working to re-invent ourselves for the betterment of all. Even if a program is working, like the Griswold, the Worthington community will still devote the time, energy and effort to take its pulse to make sure it is performing its best for its citizenry.

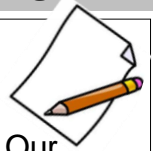
This same energy is being felt in our schools with the arrival of our new superintendent. Dr. Tucker put it best last month when he spoke about assessing the students more and testing them less, likening it to a physical versus an autopsy (ATC, v5, i5, pg. 8, ¶4). This philosophy will help assure that students needs will be met sooner rather than later, which is often the difference between success and failure. This attitude also shows that Worthington is not simply enjoying the status quo, but is continually improving as changing times, population, needs and other demands require.

I'm proud that this same philosophy also exists within the Circle. We constantly tweak and mold our program to best fit the needs of our senior citizens and the students we love. I get *really* excited when I see senior citizens not only willing to change with the times, but *embracing it!* In fact, one of my fondest memories of this past Christmas was seeing the delight of my 82 year-old mother when she received an iPad and watching her quickly and diligently set about learning to master it. (Which begs the question, *where in the world did that saying about teaching an old dog new tricks ever come from?*) Seniors are definitely not set in their ways anymore – at least not the ones that I have the pleasure of calling friends and colleagues.

I thought Braxton Tewart hit the nail on the head when talking about the Circle of Grandparents program at last year's PCC's Person of the Year award meeting. He said "What is good for us is best for me." Well put, Braxton, well put.

I hope you enjoy your class and students as you talk to them about Honesty this month. I look forward to working with all of you as we continue to update our program, and thus our lives, while maintaining the age-old foundation of character and respect. Love, Debra

SCHEDULE CHANGE



Your meeting schedule needs revised! Our April meeting falls on the Worthington Spring Vacation week, so we'll need to reschedule.

Please change your meeting schedule to reflect the following changes:

Delete April 5th as the date for our April meeting. Add March 29th, 10-11:15 a.m. as new date.



A STEP BACK

A mere 2 days after addressing the Circle of Grandparents New Year's Potluck, Dr. Jim McElligott seriously re-injured his Achilles' tendon. Dr. McElligott had surgery on the tendon in October and was progressing with rehab when the injury occurred. His injury resulted in *another* surgery to reattach the tendon and to repair additional damage. The second surgery was longer and more painful than the first. Please keep him and his family in your thoughts and prayers as they adjust to this setback. If you would like to send a card, his address is: 7177 Bluffstream Court, Columbus, OH 43235. I'm sure he would welcome any and all cards, thoughts and prayers sent his way.

CHARACTER BUNNY POSTER*

Thanks to the response from the article in December's Around The Circle, I now have all but three of the Character Bunny Words of the Month posters. Still missing are Responsibility, Compassion, and Trustworthiness. **Please check your closets, etc. to see if these elusive bunnies are hiding in plain sight.**

*The 17 x 22 inch poster features a bunny and the Word of the Month. In the lower right corner is a square logo of hands reaching out to one another.





YOUR NEW FAVORITE RECIPE

First year Wilson Hill Grandparent Tom Smith brought a sweet potato casserole to our potluck that had people talking! Tom has generously agreed to share the recipe that has been handed down through his wife's family for years. Enjoy being the hit of your next covered-dish event!

BRANDIED SWEET POTATO SOUFFLE

- 3 pounds sweet potatoes*
- 1 cup firmly packed brown sugar*
- 8 tablespoons (1 stick) unsalted butter, at room temperature*
- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, at room temperature*
- 6 large eggs, separated*
- ¼ teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg*
- ¼ teaspoon ground allspice*
- ¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon*
- 1 cup heavy or whipping cream*
- ¼ cup brandy*
- Salt to taste*
- Confectioners' sugar, for garnish*

1. Preheat the oven to 375° F.
2. Scrub the sweet potatoes and bake in the oven until tender when pierced with a knife, about 1 hour (or you may boil the potatoes until tender). Cool, peel, and purée the potatoes in a food processor or food mill.
3. Transfer the puréed potatoes to a mixing bowl, and add the brown sugar, butter, cream cheese, egg yolks, spices, cream, and brandy. Mix well. Taste, and add salt as desired. (The soufflé base can be made several hours in advance; keep covered and refrigerated. Bring it to room temperature before baking.)
4. When you are ready to bake the soufflé, preheat the oven to 375° F.
5. Beat the egg whites until stiff, and fold them into the potato mixture.
6. Pour the mixture into a buttered 13 x 9-inch baking pan or an oval gratin dish of similar size. Bake until hot and slightly puffed, 35 to 40 minutes. Remove from the oven and let cool 5 minutes. Sprinkle with confectioners' sugar. (You do not need to serve this soufflé immediately, as you would a regular soufflé. The egg whites make it light and airy and give it the texture of a soufflé, but do not cause it to rise above the rim of the baking dish.)

Serves 8 to 10



GOT CHARACTER (TREE) ?

The Character Tree thought it was pretty tricky last month, when it changed color and hid itself on the placemat of the center child on the floor of the picture at the bottom of page 3. In fact, only two diligent readers (Penny & Dorie) found it! Sorry, Barb, suspicions don't count. ☺

Have fun looking for character this month: Remember, you can find character in the most unexpected places!



KROGER'S KINDNESS

Thanks go out to Kroger's at the Shops of Worthington Place for their donation of a \$25.00 gift card for our New Year's Potluck. The money was applied toward our meat and cheese trays and was most appreciated by the Circle of Grandparents! Thanks, Kroger!

COG REPRESENTED AT GRISWOLD 2012 KICK-OFF EVENT

The Griswold Center invited the Circle of Grandparents to their 2012 Kick-Off Event. Coordinator Debra Stephen attended on behalf of the COG, as the Griswold staff re-energized for 2012, re-viewed 2011 highlights, re-introduced staff and volunteers, and re-acquainted all with resources and policies.

Debra's views of the meeting are best expressed by the following email sent to the Center following the meeting...

Hi Colleen and Ryan,

Thank you for inviting me to be part of your Kickoff Event today. I left feeling inspired and encouraged to know that so many dedicated and caring people came out on a cold dreary Saturday afternoon to support the Griswold Center and its staff through their time and ideas.

Looking over the room, I saw a wonderfully diverse and talented community reflected in the faces of the invitees. This was the best meeting that I've been to in ages. I felt that a lot was accomplished and more importantly I felt that all ideas were heard and considered. Unfortunately, it is rare to find leaders of a community willing to listen and flexible enough to be willing to challenge the status quo for the better of the community. Well done! I credit all the good things I saw today to the smiling and caring atmosphere that you have created over the past 4 years.

Thank you again for your contributions to the community. Debra



[The following article appeared in the Columbus Dispatch Jan. 15, 2012 and I thought you would find it interesting. Although it is a depressing article, it was encouraging that the Worthington Schools Assistant Superintendent Trent Bowers thought of the Circle of Grandparents in his quote when talking about ways our system is helping its the students. Thanks to Dorothy Kraus for pointing out the article out and to Trent Bowers and the Worthington Schools for valuing our contribution. – Debra]

Lunch assistance up

The number of Ohio students who qualify for free or reduced-price school lunches continues to climb. A record 45 percent of students now are enrolled in the program for poor families. Enrollment jumped 52 percent in the past decade.

DISTRICT	2011-12		2001-02	
	ENROLLMENT	STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE/REDUCED LUNCH	PERCENT RECEIVING FREE/REDUCED LUNCH	PERCENT RECEIVING FREE/REDUCED LUNCH
Bexley	2,120	258	12.2%	3.7%
Canal Winchester	3,559	1,076	30.2%	14.7%
Columbus	50,820	37,728	74.2%	57.6%
Dublin	13,785	2,057	14.9%	4.4%
Gahanna-Jefferson	7,032	1,852	26.3%	9.4%
Grandview Heights	1,154	218	18.9%	6.8%
Groveport Madison	5,684	3,919	69.0%	24.3%
Hamilton	3,138	2,046	65.2%	24.2%
Hilliard	14,636	3,463	23.7%	6.4%
New Albany-Plain	4,062	365	9.0%	2.8%
Olentangy	16,754	1,063	6.3%	4.5%
Pickerington	9,696	1,859	19.2%	5.2%
Reynoldsburg	5,501	2,395	43.5%	21.9%
South-Western	20,008	11,082	55.4%	33.6%
Upper Arlington	2,577	93	3.6%	1.2%
Westerville	13,851	4,290	31.0%	9.7%
Whitehall	2,855	2,320	81.3%	39.8%
Worthington	8,910	2,374	26.6%	5.0%
Statewide	1,856,178	840,782	45.3%	28.8%

Source: Ohio Department of Education

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

More Ohio kids living in poverty, lunch program shows

A record 840,000-plus students are in the subsidized school-lunch program. Many suburbs have logged big increases.

By Catherine Candisky

The Columbus Dispatch Sunday January 15, 2012 12:19 PM

Nearly half of Ohio's schoolchildren qualify for free or reduced-price school lunches this year as the economy continues to batter families struggling to get back on their feet.

A record of more than 840,000 students — 52 percent more than a decade ago — are receiving subsidized meals this school year, according to new data from the Ohio Department of Education.

The federal lunch program serves students considered economically disadvantaged, based on their family income. Since it's based on actual numbers instead of estimates, the figure is considered one of the best available measures of the economic well-being of families with school-aged children.

– Continued Page 5



Continued from Page 4

In Franklin County, much of the growth in recent years has been in suburban districts where many long-stable middle-class families have slid into poverty because of job loss or reduced earnings.

In eight suburban districts, the percentage of students in the program has at least tripled since 2001. While Columbus schools have the highest number of students in the lunch program, the growth has been more modest. In Pickerington, the share of children receiving free or reduced-price lunches this year has more than quadrupled to nearly 20 percent. Ten years ago it was 5.2 percent.

The most dramatic increase has been in Worthington, where more than 1 in 4 students are enrolled in the program. A decade ago, it was 1 in 20.

“Worthington has changed quite a bit. It’s becoming a much more diverse community both socioeconomically and ethnically,” said Assistant Superintendent Trent Bowers.

In recent years, more lower-income families have moved into the North Side suburb, while some middle-class families have lost jobs or seen their earnings dwindle because of the recession.

But any strains on children and hurdles associated with poverty have had little impact on students in the classroom, Bowers said, pointing to Worthington’s high marks on state report cards. The district has ranked “excellent” for the past four years.

Bowers noted that the district has tried to meet the needs of its students by shifting resources to assist students who speak English as a second language and enlisting volunteers to help the youngest learners. More than 100 grandparents work individually with students every week through the district’s popular Circle of Grandparents program. Project More draws several hundred parents and business and community volunteers into the classroom for one-on-one reading help.

“Diversity is a strength in our community,” Bowers said.

The growth in students receiving free and reduced-price lunches does not surprise Debra Grey Boyd, executive director of the Worthington Food Pantry & Resource Center.

The pantry opened two years ago and now serves more than 300 families a month, many seeking help for the first time.

“We see people who never ever thought they would be coming to a pantry other than to be generous with their time or to write a check,” Boyd said. **“Those people who did have professional careers and salaries, when you had \$150,000 income and you had the lifestyle to go with it, you go underwater really, really, really fast, and you cannot eat your car.”**

To qualify for free school lunches, students must live in households with incomes less than 130 percent of the federal poverty level, or \$29,055 a year for a family of four. Reduced-price lunches of no more than 40 cents are available to children in families earning up to 185 percent of poverty, or \$41,348 a year for a family of four.

Westerville schools also have seen a spike in enrollment.

- Continued Page 6



- Continued from Page 5

Like many area districts, Westerville responded to growing enrollment in the free lunch program by expanding its nutritional offerings to include breakfast, said Assistant Superintendent Mark Hershiser. Students in the lunch program get free or reduced-price breakfasts while other students can purchase the meal.

The district also has partnered with a local pantry to provide low-income students with meals during summer vacation.

ccandisky@dispatch.com

FIRST COME – FIRST SERVED

When Herb and Connie Pierce “retired” from the Circle last year, they donated three books for members to use:

I’m Telling the Truth by Pat Thomas (early elementary) “Kindergarten-Grade 3—Thomas introduces the concepts of honesty and politeness and explains why they are important and how to implement them. The texts are simple and short, with one or two sentences per spread. The watercolor-and-ink illustrations support the text. Information is provided about how to use the book. A good choice for updating social-skills sections and as a jumping-off point for discussions.—Linda Staskus, Parma Regional Library, OH”

Have You Filled a Bucket Today? By Carol McCloud (early elementary) “Through simple prose and vivid illustrations, this heartwarming book encourages positive behavior as children see how rewarding it is to express daily kindness, appreciation, and love. Bucket filling and dipping are effective metaphors for understanding the effects of our actions and words on the well being of others and ourselves.—Amazon.com”

Four Feet, Two Sandals by Karen Lynn Williams & Khadra Mohammed (higher elementary) “When relief workers bring used clothing to a refugee camp in Pakistan, ten-year-old Lina is thrilled when she finds a sandal that fits her foot perfectly - until she sees that another girl has the matching shoe. But soon Lina and Feroza meet and decide that it is better to share the sandals than for each to wear only one. As they go about their routines - washing clothes in the river, waiting in line for water, and watching for their names to appear on the list to go to America - the girls discover the true meaning of friendship and sacrifice. This book honors the experiences of refugee children around the world, whose daily existence is marked by uncertainty and fear. Warm colors and bold brush strokes are the perfect complement to this story of courage and hope.—Amazon.com”

If you are interested in borrowing any of the books for your class, please contact Debra.

In consideration of others, please return books promptly.



2012 NEW YEAR'S POTLUCK



MEETING RECORD

WORTHINGTON EDUCATION CENTER - ROOM xxx

JANUARY 5, 2012 - 12:30 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

In attendance: **Kay Basile, Barbara Boucher, Marilee Lowery Bush, Elizabeth Collins, Kris Courtney, Debbie Curtis, Jenny Dawes, Sarry Dylan, Dorie Eisenman, Denver Hague, Elizabeth Hague, Jan Hoffman, Dorothy Kraus, Paul Kraus, Colleen Light, Jim McElligott, Jeff Maddox, Mary McRury, Abramo Ottolenghi, Joan Ottolenghi, Jeanne Prest, Heinz Putz, Wallie Putz, Georgia Reinbold, Kathy Rowe, Tom Smith, Debra Stephen, Braxton Tewart, Penny Truitt, Joan Van De Weghe, Roy Wielonski, Dave Wilt, Paula Wilt, Marilyn Winters, Leslie Wachalec, Marilyn Wollett**

The 2012 New Year's Potluck began promptly at 12:30 with a delicious potluck lunch which was served buffet style.

Coordinator Debra Stephen introduced Colleen Light, Manager of the Griswold Senior Center since September 2007. Colleen was a sports management major and began working in the customer service at the Worthington Community Center. She enjoyed her job but felt that something was missing. When the Manager spot at the Griswold Center opened up, she jumped at the opportunity. She loves working with the public and seniors as well as giving something back to the community.

As the mother of two, Colleen thanked the Circle for their work in teaching character education. She finds herself wondering what the "Grandparents" would say to her own children (a 2nd grader and a preschooler). She wished that the program was everywhere because it is such a value to the kids and the community. Colleen misses having the Circle at the Griswold, but applauded the program for growing so big that the Center could no longer house it.

The Griswold Senior Center is part of the Parks and Recreation Department for the City of Worthington. They offer programs, services, trips and events for those 55 years of age and over. Their quarterly brochure is included with the Community Center's brochure. It is made available through the newspaper or can be picked up at the Community Center or the Griswold. The Center is about getting people involved and active in all stages of life.

If you are member of the Community Center then you are member of the Griswold Center for 10 or 15 dollars a year. You do not have to live in Worthington to join. You have access to both facilities and their fitness rooms. Being a member of the Griswold allows you to register ahead of time for programs.

The Griswold Center has 60 - 70 volunteers who work the front desk, phones, registration, setting up programs, cookie baking, making crafts and many other things. The volunteers are invaluable to the staff.

Examples of some of the Griswold programs are:

- A special presentation with an Abraham Lincoln reenactment on Feb. 22
- A tour of the Josephinum, which includes an organ concert
- Blankets for the Linus Project
- Teddy bears for Children's Nationwide Hospital (Also bunnies in the spring & snowmen in the winter)



- Support groups for low vision, widowhood, stroke and early-onset Alzheimer's
- Fitness room which has recently been upgraded
- Personal training and fitness assessments by Jeff Fickel, the full time fitness staff.
- Table tennis. Grandparent Heinz Putz encouraged everyone to join table tennis (He needs someone he can beat.)
- Free groups include the Presidential study group, table tennis and the Harmonaires choral group.
- The Griswold Gazette, a monthly newsletter. (Dorothy Kraus, a member of the Circle of Grandparents, is also on the staff of the Griswold and the Editor of the Griswold Gazette.) Colleen distributed copies of the latest Gazette to the attendees.
- A new program recently began as an initiative with the police department called S.A.L.T. (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together). The program engages seniors and law enforcement to keep the seniors safe and up to date on safety topics. The program is run by the seniors. S.A.L.T. meets once a month every third Thursday at the Senior Center from 9 to 10 a.m. All are welcome to come and check it out.
- The Winter Farmer's Market is at the Center and is a great time to see the facility.

Everyone's interests can be served at the Griswold. Plus there is the flexibility of being able to arrange new programs as the need arises.

Colleen wants people to get in the door. Circle of Grandparent members are encouraged to come take a tour or just say hi. The City of Worthington subsidizes programs that are offered and half of their programs are free to members.

Colleen was thanked for the passion that she brought to her job and for speaking with the Circle.

Dr. Jim McElligott was then introduced. Dr. McElligott began by musing about why Debra would want him to talk to the Circle in early January 2012. He surmised that Debra saw it as a rite of passage for him because he is going from working full-time into retirement and that he is now part of the brotherhood or sisterhood that the Circle members were now experiencing. He is thrilled to be retired. He is recovering from Achilles tendon surgery and had 6 weeks to sit in bed and to think about the next chapter in his life.

Dr. McElligott wanted to make the connection between how PCC got started to what we are doing today. That connection all comes down to giving back to others. At the end of your life no one talks about how many meetings you went to or how many vacations you went on or how many cars you had or how big your boat was, they talk about your character and what your contributions were. Dr. McElligott's knows that his path will continue to take him into the public service in this community, but first he is going to take time to focus on the needs of his family.

PCC started similarly to how S.A.L.T. got started. In 1995 there was a group of students who were highly trained in student mediation. Dr. McElligott was their advisor at Thomas Worthington High school. The students wanted to raise money to receive additional training. They needed \$800 and they asked to have a meeting where they could ask for funding. They met at a local restaurant and they blew everyone away and they got the \$800. The attendees were really inspired by the students. They asked the kids why there was a need for mediations at the high school. They wondered what the conflict was and if it was a character issue. These thoughtful people decided that they wanted to put together some committees to study the issue. The first thing they did was a book study. Then they went to the community and asked 1,000 people what are the qualities of character that you want to see emphasized in the greater Worthington area. Through those dialogues and surveys they came up with



the Qualities of the Month. They also put a task force together in the schools to see what the schools could do to emphasize character development.

Dr. McElligott asked each table of attendees to discuss which three of the twelve qualities their table thought were the most important of the Qualities to discuss in our community if you could only have 3, instead of 12. The results were

- Table 1 - Respect, Responsibility and Compassion
- Table 2 - Responsibility, Respect and Honesty
- Table 3 - Honesty, Moral Courage and Self-Discipline
- Table 4 - Self-Discipline, Honesty and Spirituality
- Table 5 - Tolerance, Honesty and Commitment
- Table 6 - Honesty, Self-Discipline and Compassion
- Table 7 - Respect, Responsibility and Compassion

“In thinking over the conversation at each table you can begin to imagine what the conversations were like in the community at that time. There were no right answers, the point is that the conversations happened and they were rich” said Dr. McElligott.

When PCC was founded fifteen years ago (February of 1997), those conversations were taking place in schools, the businesses, the community, government officials and congregations. PCC has now been able to move these conversations into the community through programs.

The Circle of Grandparents are having these rich conversations with kids who *have* to have these traits to be successful. Over their lunch, Braxton Tewart and he were talking about whether people were matching their behaviors with what they say. They thought that everyone would agree that it is not happening. The Circle of Grandparents are talking about these traits in the elementary schools and the students are going home and talking about it with their parents. Dr. McElligott thanked the COG for the work that they've done.

PCC has never been an organization that did anything but be a spark for other people to take passion and move something forward. Over the past 15 years, PCC has been involved in:

- PCC Mascot
- Concert on the Green with Arnett Howard
- Collaboration with the City for the PCC Sign on the Green
- Signs at the Recreation Center
- Funding from Worthington to help with PCC programs
- Cards for Kids/Wolves for Cubs
- The 40 assets programs
- Awareness Sessions
- Assemblies of multiple generations at the Griswold Center
- Food for Thought
- High school scholarship program
- Coaching for Character
- Foot Calendar
- Classroom Posters
- PCC Community Meetings
- PCC Newsletter
- Junior Jamboree (preschool)



- Everyday Heroes Program
- PCC Coloring Books
- Circle of Grandparents
- The Smart and Good Video that was created and shared with the community
- The Worthington Youth Service Council
- Student Action Board
- The Bi-Centennial Remembrance Project
- The Family Reunions Booklet
- Pre-School Video Project
- PCC Character in Action Troupe
- Active Parenting Program
- Ethical Thinking Program
- Ethical Living Program
- Project M.O.R.E. Tutors

Dr. McElligott stated that the program that has continued to grow is the Circle of Grandparents. It is the flagship program because of the volunteers passion. By being involved in the schools Grandparents are loving the kids and they are loving you back.

Dr. McElligott then asked the tables to discuss, “Why in that long list of programs has the *Circle of Grandparents* program been so successful? Why has it won the hearts and minds of so many people? Why has it received so many prestigious awards and presentations? Why is it working?”

The answers from various tables were:

- ‘We end up in the World of Love. We open that door to these kids and they see it as a brightness they’ve never seen before. It is beautiful to these children respond to our love as Grandparents.’
- ‘We don’t judge them like their parents.’
- ‘It comes down to any human to human interaction that forms relationships. There is the fact that everyone loves a relationship with a Grandparent. There is the relationship between the Grandparent and the schools – which is an unusual relationship. It is unusual to have a school district willing and welcoming to have people come in and interact with the kids. Instead of taking these relationships for granted, we celebrate them. Also, Debra Stephen. She puts a lot of time and effort to make the program very successful.’
- ‘Children love to hear the stories of when the Grandparents were kids.’
- ‘The commitment of people. The fact that no one is telling you what to do in your class, you come up with your ideas from your peers and on your own. Braxton talked about the Learning Model. That is what it is about. You are learning along with your peers and you are providing that for the kids and they are loving you back.’
- ‘This is a very talented group of people.’
- ‘The Worthington Public Library as a resource.’
- ‘The Grandparents take their individuality into the classroom which makes it unique.’
- ‘Because most of the Grandparents are retired they can provide the time.’
- ‘Grandparents appreciate the children giving back through words, cards, etc.’

Dr. McElligott thanked the Circle of Grandparents again and looks forward to maintaining a relationship with the program. Debra thanked Dr. McElligott for the conversations that took place, which mirrored exactly what PCC is all about. Dr. McElligott was thanked and Debra looks forward to including him in the ranks of the Circle in the future.



Members were reminded to get their Circle of Grandparents ID badge if they haven't done so yet. Tolerance posters were available to members.

The April 5th meeting has been moved to March 29 as the schools will be closed for Spring break.

Circle of Grandparent mugs were still available for purchase.

Joan Ottolenghi made a plea for help in the Columbus Schools. She would love for people to join her in meeting with Dr. Harris to try to get the Circle of Grandparents program started in just one school in Columbus. She knows that it would make a difference.

The meeting adjourned at 2 p.m. The next meeting will be Thursday, March 1, 2012 at 10 – 11:15.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Stephen

From http://www.ehow.com/list_6454312_fun-activities-kids-telling-truth.html

A suggestion on how to teach children Honesty

Consequences Game



Create a fun game with paper, pencil, and imagination.

"Pictionary" is a game that children love to play and it's easy to come up with a version that applies to whatever an adult is trying to teach. In this instance, adults can create many cards that show instances where a child will need to make a decision about whether he will tell the truth or a lie. For instance, write on cards situations like "broken mug," "puddle on kitchen floor," "dent on car," or "hole in jeans." Break into two teams and one side is the drawing team and the other is the guessing team. Set a timer for 30 seconds to see if they can guess the picture in that amount of time.

Once the team guesses the picture, it's simple to have a short little discussion about the image. Questions like "What do you think happened to the mug?" and "What should the child who broke it do about it?" will allow kids to reflect on honesty.

Adults can also discuss what the possible consequences might be for certain actions. For instance, if the mug broke by accident and he told the truth, there is no consequence. If he lied about breaking the mug, even though it was an accident, there would be a consequence. Reinforce the fact that consequences will be more severe if children are not honest.

Read more: [Fun Activities for Kids on Telling the Truth | eHow.com](http://www.ehow.com/list_6454312_fun-activities-kids-telling-truth.html)

http://www.ehow.com/list_6454312_fun-activities-kids-telling-truth.html#ixzz1kXHqtvAp