

# Character Education Resource Center News You Can Use

June 2017

*What Facebook has revealed about human nature—and this is not a minor revelation---is that a connection is not the same thing as a bond, and that instant and total connection is no salvation, no ticket to a happier, better world or a more liberated version of humanity.*

---From *The Atlantic* (in the *SD Union-Tribune*), April 27, 2017, B24

## 6 Traits of a Life-Changing Teacher

Thinking back over your personal education experiences, what made certain teachers stand out? What makes a teacher unforgettable?

- Help Students Feel Safe
- Possess a Contagious Passion
- Model Patience
- Know When to be Tough
- Believe in Their Students
- Love Their Students

<https://www.edutopia.org/article/6-traits-life-changing-teachers-betty-ray>

## California Schools Innovating How to Measure Social-Emotional Learning

[Adolfo Guzman-Lopez](#) April 10, 2017

*A group of California school districts have opened a competition this month to come up with a good way to measure whether students are picking up soft skills like perseverance and integrity. Those skills are known among educators as "social emotional learning" and they're among the fastest growing areas of interest in public education.*

*The focus on testing social emotional learning comes as California schools are spending time and money to ramp up their training of teachers on these skills. The training is leading many school districts to integrate the lessons into academic classes. Schools are finding out that it's not easy to measure this kind of learning so they're coming up with more ways to get data to know if the lessons are having a positive effect on students. "It's a work in progress," Mai Xi Lee said of the social emotional learning assessment at Sacramento Unified.*

*[The competition for a model social-emotional learning assessment](#) is run by the CORE Districts, a group of eight California school districts are all adopting social emotional learning to some extent in their schools. The group is offering a \$5,000 award for a model way to measure social emotional learning and the possibility to pilot the assessment in one of the CORE school districts.*



## “How To Support Wiggly Students”

[http://smartbrief.com/original/2017/04/how-support-wiggly-students - main-content](http://smartbrief.com/original/2017/04/how-support-wiggly-students-main-content)

This blog was written by Serena Pariser, an assistant in CERC. She served as a middle- and high-school English language arts teacher for 10 years, where she earned Teacher of the Year and facilitates online continuing education courses in character education. <http://www.serenapariser.com/>

## An Important Parable

A teacher was writing the table of 5's on the board:

$5 \times 1 = 3$	$5 \times 2 = 10$	$5 \times 3 = 15$	$5 \times 4 = 20$	$5 \times 5 = 25$
$5 \times 6 = 30$	$5 \times 7 = 35$	$5 \times 8 = 40$	$5 \times 9 = 45$	$5 \times 10 = 50$

After writing she turned back towards the students and found that everybody was laughing at her. On asking the reason for laugh, couple of students got up and told her “Ma’am, the first line of the table is wrong. It should be 5.”

Hearing this the teacher (smiling) explained “I wrote the first line wrong on purpose, because I wanted you to learn something important. This was for you to learn how the real world will treat you. I wrote nine correct lines but nobody congratulated me, but one mistake and everybody pointed at it.”

**Moral:** The world will never appreciate a billion right things you do but will criticize you for one wrong-doing. Therefore, never ever get disheartened if somebody criticizes you. Take it positively and rise above all criticisms.

Neville Billimora, *Soul Food Friday Newsletter*, 4-7-17  
<https://soulfoodfriday.wordpress.com/>

## High School Student Portfolios: Measuring Academic Progress

Portfolios are what educators refer to as “performance-based assessments.” In some high schools, a portfolio is a graduation requirement. Across California, 34 high schools including Oakland International have formed a network to promote performance-based assessments. Called the [California Performance Assessment Collaborative](https://californiaassessmentcollaborative.org/), it brings the schools and 12 districts together.

<https://edsources.org/2017/high-schools-turning-to-student-portfolios-to-assess-academic-progress/580147>

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**June 22 & 23, 2017**

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### **Outstanding Presenters:**

**Maurice J. Elias**, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology, Rutgers University

**Mary Hurley**, Coordinator for Social Emotional Learning and Leadership, Oakland Unified School District

**Thomas Lickona**, Ph.D., Director, Center for the 4th & 5th Rs (Respect/Responsibility), State University of New York – Cortland

**Michelle M. Herczog**, Ed.D., Los Angeles County Office of Education & Former President of the National Council for Social Studies

**Matthew Hayes**, History-Social Science Coordinator, San Diego County Office of Education

**Jason Ohler**, Ph.D. is a professor emeritus, speaker, writer, teacher and cyber culture researcher.

<https://www.sandiego.edu/soles/character-education-resource-center/summer-conference.php>