

# Character Education Resource Center News You Can Use

July 2017

*Freedom is something that money can't buy. Most honorable of all are the ones that defend it. So on this Fourth of July, let's salute those who stand in service to America!*

## Did You Know About:

### THE CIVILITY CENTER

**Mission:** Is to be the catalyst for conversation about civility in society and to provide leadership, resources, and tools that empower and enable individuals and organizations to be civility champions in their communities.

<http://civilitycenter.org>

### RHO KAPPA NATIONAL SOCIAL STUDIES HONOR SOCIETY

This is the only national organization for high school juniors and seniors that recognizes excellence in social studies. Start a chapter in your school for this new school year.

<https://www.socialstudies.org/rhokappa>

### C2: CHARACTER CHALLENGE

Best practices for Character Development:

<https://www.listongroup.org/>

## Will Marre on Entitlement: Six Lessons

RESEARCH SAYS: It's a constant battle to remind children and ourselves that we aren't owed anything, that life is a gift and it needs to be appreciated. Here are some lessons to teach children to counteract the sense of entitlement and expect more:

1. Money doesn't come easily.
2. People work hard to earn money; it's a part of life.
3. If you want something, you need to work to earn it.
4. You are not entitled to things you haven't earned.
5. Compassion for others (show them third world problems, so they have perspective on their first world ones).
6. Responsibility for actions; there are consequences and rewards for our behavior and choices.

TRY THIS: Choose one of the lessons from above to work on this week.

<http://www.thoughtrocket.com>

## A QUOTE TO NOTE

"How was school?" is a question parents typically ask their teenagers daily, even though the answer is often the same - "fine," "OK," or the non-verbal shoulder shrug. And there the conversation ends. Gallup recently asked U.S. teenagers (aged 13 to 17) to select three words from a list of adjectives that describe how they usually feel in school, and found that "bored" is the word chosen most often, selected by fully half of teens. That was followed by another negative word, "tired," chosen by 42%. Only 31% selected any one of the positive feelings provided, such as happy and challenged.

Most Teens Associate School With Boredom, Fatigue,  
Linda Lyons, Education and Youth Editor, Gallop

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/11893/most-teens-associate-school-boredom-fatigue.aspx>



## THREE CHARACTER BOOKS TO READ DURING JULY AND AUGUST

David Brooks (2015), *The Road to Character*, NY: Random House.

Brooks challenges us to rebalance the scale between our "resume virtues" - fame/wealth/status and our "eulogy virtues" - kindness/bravery/honesty/relationships.

Fred Kiel, (2015), *Return On Character: The Real Reason Leaders and Their Companies Win*, Harvard Business Review Press.

Kiel and his partners at KRW International spent seven years researching CEOs and their employees and reports on "solid data that demonstrates the connection between character, leadership excellence, and organizational results." Kiel reminds the reader that a CEO's character and the character of his/her executive team plays an important role in a company's culture and success.

Tom Hill, (2010), *Making Character First: Building a Culture of Character in Any Organization*. Edmond, OK: Character First Publishers.

Hill's book describes a company's "turnaround" story. As the 20-year CEO of Kimray, Inc., Hill documents how a "values-based management system" changed the culture and production of his company. His success in establishing a culture of "character," led Hill to create a "character-first program" that others could and should use. He says that "character is a leadership issue that begins at the top." His program and experiences suggests that a "culture of character" is about "relationships, trust, loyalty, and about recognizing good behavior and praising it." ([www.characterfirst.com](http://www.characterfirst.com)).

## THIS MONTH'S THREE "PDF" RECOMMENDATIONS

1. What Kids Are Reading and How They Grow

[http://info.renaissance.com/What-Kids-Are-Reading-Learnalytics-Download\\_02.html?alid=105648511](http://info.renaissance.com/What-Kids-Are-Reading-Learnalytics-Download_02.html?alid=105648511)

2. Now That's a Good Question: How to Promote Cognitive Rigor through Classroom Questioning

<http://www.ascd.org/Publications/Books/Overview/Now-Thats-a-Good-Question-How-to-Promote-Cognitive-Rigor-Through-Classroom-Questioning.aspx>

3. Ready for Work: How Afterschool Programs Can Support Employability Through Social and Emotional Learning

<http://www.air.org/sites/default/files/downloads/report/Afterschool-Programs-Support-Employability-Brief-Dec-2015.pdf>

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Comment/Critique/Unsubscribe

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