Character Education Resource Center
News You Can Use
December 2017

"Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened."   -Dr. Seuss

Character in the Classroom
Programs for your Classroom, School, and Community

CASEL: Educating Hearts-Inspiring Minds: The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning is the "world's leading organization, promoting ASEL for all children in preschool through high school. Students exposed to SEL in school continue to do better than their peers on a number of indicators: positive social behaviors and attitudes, skills such as empathy and teamwork, and academics. And they have fewer conduct problems, less emotional distress, and lower drug use, among many other benefits."   http://www.casel.org

WINGS: "Helping Kids Soar" promotes social-emotional learning in afterschool programs. They are expanding their partnership model to all schools in Pomona Unified School District by training and coaching providers and staff to integrate SEL into the district's long-standing and award-winning afterschool program, The Learning Connection. As a result, more than 1,700 kids in Pomona will be able to develop social-emotional skills to prepare them for success in school and in life.
                                                   http://www.wingsforkids.org

SECOND STEP: The Second Step Program is one of several educational programs developed by Committee for Children. The program is used in over 25,000 classrooms in the United States, Canada, and 26 other countries. For example, in the Anaheim Elementary School District, the program was the catalyst for a district-wide cultural shift around social-emotional health. Staff recognized the huge role it plays in classroom readiness and the positive impact it can have on academic success.
                                                   http://www.secondstep.org/

PEACEBUILDERS is a science-based, research-validated violence prevention curriculum and professional development program for grades pre-K to 12. Its essence is a common language; six principles, taught, modeled and practiced. These same principles set behavioral expectations, reduce aggression, and transform the climate and culture of any environment to one which is cooperative, productive, and academically successful.   http://www.peacebuilders.com/

PROJECT WISDOM is one of the oldest and most respected character education programs in the nation. The program is used in over 17,000 schools nationwide. Project Wisdom encourages students to reflect upon the meaning of civic and personal values and the application of those values in their daily lives. Assessment data indicates reductions in discipline referrals, improvements in teacher morale, school climate, and social-emotional competencies.   http://www.projectwisdom.com

FAKE NEWS

The CRAAP Test "Arming Students Against BAD Information," Maribeth Smith, Kappan, V39, N3, November 2017
The author's test is a list of questions student can use to evaluate information.
http://www.kappanonline.org/smith-arming-students-against-bad-information/

Bigger Than Fake News: Civic Reasoning in a Social Media Environment," *American Educator*, Sarah McGrew, et. al. V41, N3/Fall 2017. http://www.aft.org/AE

"**Real Teaching** in an Era of Fake News." Will Colglazier, *American Educator*, V41, N3/Fall 2017. http://www.aft.org/AE

A recent study at Stanford University found that young people's abilities to reason about information found on the internet can be summed up on one word: <u>bleak.</u>

The Question: How to Raise Thankful Kids

Professor Thomas Lickona, who many of you know from his two presentations at our annual Character Matters Conference, offers these ten tips to raising "thankful kids."
http://www.mothermag.com/how-to-raise-thankful-kids/

1. Teach Your Kids What Gratitude Is and Why It Matters
2. Make Thankfulness Part of Your Family Culture
3. Cultivate the Virtues That Support Thankfulness
4. Teach That Your Attitude is Always a Choice
5. Become a Thankful Person by Practicing Thankfulness
6. Write Appreciation Notes
7. Count Your Blessings
8. Keep a Gratitude Journal
9. Cut the Complaining
10. Give Back

See his forthcoming book *How to Raise Kind Kids: And Get Respect, Gratitude, and a Happier Family in the Bargain* (Penguin Books, April 2018).

Project Based Learning (PBL)
Links to Understand the Teaching Method PBL

What is Project Based Learning?
http://www.bie.org/about/what_pbl
https://www.edutopia.org/project-based-learning
Why Utilize PGL?
http://www.bie.org/
How to Use PBL?
https://y4y.ed.gov/learn/pbl
http://pblchecklist.4teachers.org/index.shtml
https://www.edutopia.org/blogs/tag/pbl-planning
"A Schoolwide Investment in Problem-based Learning." Sutton & Knuth.
A comprehensive high school embraces PBL to improve student achievement. *Kappan,* V99 N2 October 2017, pp65-70.
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/320029876_A_schoolwide_investment_in_problem-based_learning