

CHARACTER EDUCATION

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

DECEMBER 2010



KINDNESS

CHARACTER — THE CORE OF OUR LIVES

KINDNESS: Being helpful, thoughtful, caring, compassionate and considerate.

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“If you judge people, you have no time to love them.”
- Mother Teresa

“Constant kindness can accomplish much. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstandings, mistrust, and hostility to evaporate.”
- Albert Schweitzer

“Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking creates profoundness. Kindness in giving creates love.”
- Lao-Tzu

“Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a harder battle.”
- Plato

“If you can't return a favor, pass it on.”
- Louise Brown

“I've learned that there are no unimportant acts of kindness.”
- H. Jackson Browne

“If we remain non-violent, hatred will die as everything does, from disuse.”
- Mahatma Gandhi

“What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal.”
- Albert Pine

“The greatest happiness in life is that achieved by giving to another.”
- Jewish proverb



READ / WRITE / DISCUSS



- Read The 12 Days of Christmas aloud to the class. Have the students create their own The 12 Days of Kindness using writing and illustrations. **

ELEMENTARY: LA.K.1.6.1, LA.1.1.6.1, LA.2.1.6.1, LA.3.1.6.1, LA.4.1.6.1, LA.5.1.6.1

MIDDLE: LA.6-8.4.1.2

HIGH: LA.1112.3.1.1

- For an act of kindness, have students read a book to a younger person – possibly a brother, sister or relative. Ask the students to write about how she or he felt about doing this. **

ELEMENTARY: LA.K.1.6.1, LA.1.1.6.1, LA.2.1.6.1, LA.3.1.6.1, LA.4.1.6.1, LA.5.1.6.1, SS.B.2.4.2

MIDDLE: LA.6-8.2.1.10

HIGH: LA.1112.3.1.1, LA.910.1.1, LA.1112.1.1

- On the school's morning announcements, have a representative define "gossip" and explain how harmful gossip can be. Organize a "gossip-free day" at your school. All participants should wear a ribbon or sticker promoting the concept.

ELEMENTARY: LA.K.1.6.1, LA.1.1.6.1, LA.2.1.6.1, LA.3.1.6.1, LA.4.1.6.1, LA.5.1.6.1, SS.B.2.4.5

MIDDLE: LA.6-8.1.6.5, LA.6-8.6.2.2, SS.C.2.3.6

HIGH: LA.1112.4.2.3

- Ask students to make holiday greeting cards for people in their community. The cards may be given to a community agency to distribute to their clients. **

ELEMENTARY: LA.K.1.6.1, LA.1.1.6.1, LA.2.1.6.1, LA.3.1.6.1, LA.4.1.6.1, SS.C.2.3.6, LA.5.1.6.1

MIDDLE: SS.C.2.3.6

HIGH: LA.1112.4.1.1

- Have students make posters showing acts of kindness and display these throughout the school. **

ELEMENTARY: LA.K. 1.6.1, LA.1.1.6.1, LA.2.1.6.1, LA.3.1.6.1, LA.4.1.6.1, LA.5.1.6.1

MIDDLE: SS.C.2.3.6

HIGH: LA.1112.4.1.1, LA.1112.4.1.2

- Have students select one "gift" they would like to give to the world. Students should create a wrapped present symbolizing their gift. Students may give an oral presentation about their special "gift." **

ELEMENTARY: LA.K.1.6.1, LA.1.1.6.1, LA.2.1.6.1, LA.3.1.6.1, LA.4.1.6.1, LA.5.1.6.1
SS.B.2.4.5

MIDDLE: SS.C.2.3.6

HIGH: LA.1112.5.2.4

SHARE YOUR GREAT IDEAS & BEST PRACTICES

If you have feedback regarding any of these activities or have successfully implemented an activity which is not listed that you would like to add, e-mail a one- to two-paragraph overview of the activity to Renee Brown @ CAB or renee.m.brown@browardschools.com.



- Discuss how students can show kindness to a new student who just immigrated to this country.

ELEMENTARY: LA.K.5.2.5, LA.1.5.2.5, LA.2.5.2.1, LA.3.5.2.1, LA.4.5.2.1, LA.5.5.2.1, MA.4.A.1.1, MA.4.A.2.4, MA.4.G.3.1, MA.5.A.1.3, SS.K.C.2.2, SS.1.C.2.2, SS.2.C.2.2, SS.C.3.2.1, SS.4.C.2.2, SS.5.C.2.5

MIDDLE: LA.6.5.2.1; LA.7.5.2.1; LA.8.5.2.1

HIGH: LA.910.5.2.1; LA.1112.5.2.1, SS.912.A.3.7, SS.912.A.7.16

- Ask students to visit the American Humane Association's webpage at www.americanhumane.org. Locate and read information about helping abused and neglected pets. Assign students to write about what they would do to be kind to a pet. **

ELEMENTARY: LA.K.4.2.1, LA.1.4.2.2, LA.2.4.2.2, LA.3.4.2.2, LA.4.4.2.2, LA.5.4.2.2, SS.K.C.2.2, SS.1.C.2.2, SS.2.C.2.2, SS.C.3.2.1, SS.4.C.2.2, SS.5.C.2.5

MIDDLE: LA.6.5.2.1, LA.7.5.2.1, LA.8.5.2.1, LA.6.4.2.1, LA.7.4.2.1, LA.8.4.2.1

HIGH: SC.912.N.4.2, LA.910.5.2.1, LA.910.5.2.1; LA.1112.5.2.1; LA.910.4.2.1, LA.1112.4.2.1, SS.912.A.1.5, SS.912.C.2.5

- Discuss the connection between being kind to animals and being kind to people. Conversely, discuss the connection between cruelty to animals and how that can translate into violence towards humans.

ELEMENTARY: LA.K.5.2.5, LA.1.5.2.5, LA.2.5.2.1, LA.3.5.2.1, LA.4.5.2.1, LA.5.5.2.1, SS.K.C.2.2, SS.1.C.2.2, SS.2.C.2.2, SS.C.3.2.1, SS.4.C.2.2, SS.5.C.2.5

MIDDLE: LA.6.5.2.1; LA.7.5.2.1; LA.8.5.2.1

HIGH: SC.912.N.4.2, LA.910.5.2.1; LA.1112.5.2.1

- Have students write a poem, song/rap, or skit about kindness and then perform it for the class, school and/or community. **

ELEMENTARY: LA.K.4.1.2, LA.1.4.1.2, LA.2.4.1.2, LA.3.4.1.2, LA.4.4.1.2, LA.5.4.1.2, SS.K.C.2.2, SS.1.C.2.2, SS.2.C.2.2, SS.C.3.2.1, SS.4.C.2.2, SS.5.C.2.5

MIDDLE: LA.6.4.2.1, LA.7.4.2.1, LA.8.4.2.1, LA.6.5.2.1; LA.7.5.2.1; LA.8.5.2.1

HIGH: LA.910.5.2.1; LA.1112.5.2.1; LA.910.4.2.1, LA.1112.4.2.1

SHARE YOUR GREAT IDEAS & BEST PRACTICES

If you have feedback regarding any of these activities or have successfully implemented an activity which is not listed that you would like to add, e-mail a one- to two-paragraph overview of the activity to Renee Brown @ CAB or renee.m.brown@browardschools.com.



HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES & PROJECTS



- Collect teddy bears and distribute them to sick and needy children in hospitals or shelters. A student group such as Student Council can deliver these items to the local hospital emergency room for children who are admitted for care. Students should attach a few words of kindness. Take digital pictures and display on the school's web site. **

ELEMENTARY: LA.K.4.2.2, LA.1.4.2.2, LA.2.4.2.2, LA.3.4.2.2, LA.4.4.2.2, LA.5.4.2.2, SS.K.C.2.2, SS.1.C.2.2, SS.2.C.2.2, SS.C.3.2.1, SS.4.C.2.2, SS.5.C.2.5

MIDDLE: LA.6.4.2.1, LA.7.4.2.1, LA.8.4.2.1, LA.6.5.2.1; LA.7.5.2.1; LA.8.5.2.1

HIGH: LA.910.5.2.1; LA.1112.5.2.1; LA.910.4.2.1, LA.1112.4.2.1, SS.912.A.1.5, SS.912.C.2.12

- Have mentoring days where students in an upper class become a buddy with students from a younger class to work on a project. Upper class students can also be mentors for younger students throughout the year.

ELEMENTARY: SS.K.C.2.2, SS.1.C.2.2, SS.2.C.2.2, SS.C.3.2.1, SS.4.C.2.2, SS.5.C.2.5

MIDDLE: LA.6.5.2.1; LA.7.5.2.1; LA.8.5.2.1

HIGH: LA.910.5.2.1; LA.1112.5.2.1, SS.912.C.2.2, SS.912.C.2.8

- Using an Internet search engine such as www.ask.com, have your class search for volunteer opportunities for students in Broward County. Create a database of these with the class. Include the name, address, phone number, and needs of the organization. **

ELEMENTARY: LA.K.6.3.1, LA.1.6.3.1, LA.2.6.3.2, LA.3.6.4.1, LA.4.6.4.1, LA.5.6.4.1, MA.3.S.7.1, MA.5.A.4.2, MA.5.S.7.2, SS.K.C.2.2, SS.1.C.2.2, SS.2.C.2.2, SS.C.3.2.1, SS.4.C.2.2, SS.5.C.2.5

HIGH: SS.912.A.1.5, SS.912.C.2.12

- Ask students to find a story about kindness from the bibliography on the last page or from the Media Center's online catalog. After reading the story, have students select a character whose actions illustrate kindness. Assign students to compose a character trait poem that uses several poetic devices (e.g., simile, metaphor, personification, or hyperbole). **

ELEMENTARY: LA.K.4.1.2, LA.1.4.1.2, LA.2.4.1.2, LA.3.4.1.2, LA.4.4.1.2, LA.5.4.1.2, SS.K.C.2.2, SS.1.C.2.2, SS.2.C.2.2, SS.C.3.2.1, SS.4.C.2.2, SS.5.C.2.5

MIDDLE: LA.6.6.2.2, LA.7.6.2.2, LA.8.6.2.2, LA.6.5.2.1; LA.7.5.2.1; LA.8.5.2.1

HIGH: LA.910.5.2.1; LA.1112.5.2.1; LA.910.6.2.2, LA.1112.6.2.2, SS.912.A.1.5, SS.912.C.2.10

- Before forming students into a group to work on a project, brainstorm "Rules of Kindness" that all members will follow while working together (e.g., always use "please" and "thank you," allow everyone to express his opinion without put-downs, etc.).

ELEMENTARY: LA.K.3.1.1, LA.1.3.1.1, LA.2.3.1.1, LA.3.3.1.1, LA.4.3.1.1, LA.5.3.1.1, MA.4.A.1.1, MA.4.A.2.4, MA.4.G.3.1, MA.5.A.1.3, SS.K.C.2.2, SS.1.C.2.2, SS.2.C.2.2, SS.C.3.2.1, SS.4.C.2.2, SS.5.C.2.5

MIDDLE: LA.6.5.2.1; LA.7.5.2.1; LA.8.5.2.1

HIGH: LA.910.5.2.1; LA.1112.5.2.1



KIDS OF CHARACTER Award

Cooperation • Responsibility • Citizenship • Kindness • Respect • Honesty • Self-control • Tolerance



CHARACTER EDUCATION ACTIVITY SHEET UPDATE



Access to all monthly activity sheets with curriculum and Sunshine State Standards will now be available in **electronic version only via BEEP** (through Learning Village).



EDCO'S FREE CERTIFICATES & PLAQUES



Here is the process for how to receive **free** certificates and plaques:
(*website correction for EDCO is below*)

- Each month, each teacher may choose one "Kid of Character" from his/her classroom. (Middle and high schools may decide if they want to do this by teams, departments or other methods.) Those students should receive a certificate at the end of the month at an awards assembly or on your school's morning/afternoon announcements.
- From the group of students who receive the certificates, schools may choose ONE of these students to receive a FREE plaque from EDCO. You may order your plaque from EDCO Awards and Specialties by logging onto www.edcoawards.com/kidsofcharacter. ALL CERTIFICATES AND PLAQUES ARE FREE. ONLY ONE PLAQUE PER SCHOOL PER MONTH IS PROVIDED FREE. Schools may order additional plaques at a reduced rate from EDCO.
- Certificates may be ordered through the Character Education Department, courtesy of the Sun-Sentinel, or through EDCO. The ones from the Sun-Sentinel must be filled in at the school site. The certificates from EDCO may be entered on-line and will be printed by them. This takes an advance time of 1-2 weeks. Please call Renee Brown at 754-321-2568 ext.2750 or email via CAB or at Renee.M.Brown@Browardschools.com if you have any additional questions about this process.

****ATTENTION TEACHERS... KIDS OF CHARACTER STORY SUBMISSION PROCESS****

- John Chace is working to collect **on-going** KOC stories from teachers. You may send these directly to him along with any questions to jchace@communitycc.com. He will then evaluate these stories and let you know if that student has been selected.
- Stories should be those from students who are **EXCEPTIONAL** in demonstrating **any** of the character traits. He is not concerned about the order of a particular month's trait.
- Be very specific and clear providing key details about the act or continued deeds. Two to three quotes are needed from the person making the nomination for an actual article. The suggested format for submission should be in WORD, not Adobe, please.
- Remember, this is **not** based on academic performance; those students will be rewarded through honor roll or other academic honors. These are **EXCEPTIONAL** students in other unique areas.



CHARACTER: THE CORE OF OUR LIVES PATRIOTISM: THE CORE OF OUR NATION'S STRENGTH



Patriotism

To weave Patriotism throughout our Character Education Program, this month's suggested activities that can be integrated into the kindness trait are related to compassion - philanthropy, responsibility to assist our fellow Americans and citizens of the world.

Patriotic Quotes

"In the field of world policy I would dedicate this nation to the policy of a good neighbor."
- Franklin D. Roosevelt, 32nd President of the United States of America

"Peace and friendship with all mankind is our wisest policy, and I wish we may be permitted to pursue it."
- Thomas Jefferson, 3rd President of the United States of America

Patriotic Activities

- Have each student in the class choose a letter of the alphabet. Using a verb or noun that starts with the chosen letter, ask the students to write a sentence of a random act of kindness that they will perform within the family or community. Have each student share his/her sentence with the class. **
- Ask students to send a letter or holiday card to a military service person away from home. **
- Have students choose a person to whom they would like to send a "Kindness Card." The objective here is for the students to be kind to someone else through this card. The students should then create the card but should not sign it as it should be anonymous. They should find a way to deliver the card to the person without the person knowing it is from them. If possible, the students should try to observe the person's reaction when the card is read. The students should journal a reflection of the experience of creating a card for someone and his/her reaction. **
- As a class, have students identify individuals in the local community who have demonstrated compassion for fellow citizens. For example, there may be a park named in honor of a community member or your school may be named for someone who made great contributions. Ask the students to identify the unique contributions of the individual and highlight those that represent compassion and kindness. Have them prepare their findings on a poster(s) for display in the school. **
- Ask students to investigate all agencies, programs, clubs, etc. that provide aid to needy Americans and/or foreign countries. Compile a list for the school, providing as much information as possible, including names, addresses, phone numbers, and any other pertinent information. Try to include organizations that need community service. Distribute this list to the school. **
- Have students create a "Kindness Collage." Groups of two to four students can cut pictures and words from magazines and newspapers that relate to kindness. Student groups can then present their collage to the class explaining how the pictures relate to the kindness theme. **
- Showing appreciation and respect are admirable examples of kindness. Have students find out the names of some of our service people currently stationed in the Middle East and have students write to them, expressing appreciation for their sacrifices on our behalf.
- Have students research Alexis de Tocqueville. What did he find about America that was so unique? Why is the proliferation of democracy, especially through the strengthening of the electoral process, so important to the continuation of philanthropy? **
- Working in groups of two to four, direct students to create a role-play that is to include an act of kindness. During the role-play, the characters should describe their feelings for providing an act of kindness and having an act of kindness performed for them. Student groups should then perform their role-play in front of the class.

KINDNESS

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Primary



Dewey: There's a Cat in the Library!

Myron, Vicki. Little, Brown, 2009. 40p.
9780316068741 Primary

Librarian Vicki Myron finds an abandoned kitten in the book return slot and brings him into the library. The community - young and old alike - come to love the cat. (*Children's Book Award* nominee)



Ish

Reynolds, Peter H. Candlewick, 2004. unpag.
9780763623449 Primary

Ramon loses confidence in his ability to draw, but his sister gives him a new perspective on things.



Where Teddy Bears Come From

Burgess, Mark. Peachtree Publishers, 2009. 32p.
9781561454877 Primary

When a little wolf can't fall asleep, he goes in search of a teddy bear to cuddle. He helps a chubby, white-bearded, kind man in a red suit, who rewards him in the morning. (*Children's Book Award* nominee)

Intermediate



How to Steal a Dog

O'Connor, Barbara. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2007. 176p.
9780374334970 Intermediate/Middle

Living in the family car in their small North Carolina town after their father leaves them virtually penniless, Georgina, desperate to improve their situation and unwilling to accept her overworked mother's calls for patience, persuades her younger brother to help her in an elaborate scheme to get money. She shows sympathy for a poor dog owner as well as learns from a kindhearted wanderer.



Kenny and the Dragon

DiTerlizzi, Tony. Simon & Schuster, 2008. 160p.
9781416939771 Intermediate/Middle

Kenny Rabbit tries to save his friend, the dragon, after he is labeled a community nuisance by the simple people of Roundbrook village, who arrange for the creature to be fought by St. George. (*Sunshine State Young Readers Award* nominee)



Surviving Brick Johnson

Myers, Laurie. Clarion, 2000. 80p.
9780395980316 Intermediate

Afraid of getting maimed for making fun of Brick, the husky new kid in his fifth-grade class, Nick decides that even his baseball collection will not protect him so he signs up for karate class, despite his little brother's reassurances that Brick is not a bully.

Middle



As Long As There Are Mountains

Kinsey-Warnock, Natalie. Cobblehill, 1997. 139p.
9781439515624 Intermediate/Middle

Thirteen-year-old Iris dreams of one day running the family farm in northern Vermont, but the summer of 1956 holds many shocking changes that threaten the life Iris loves.



Do Not Pass Go

Hill, Kirkpatrick. Margaret K. McElderry, 2007. 240p.
9781416914006 Middle

When Deet's father is jailed for using drugs, Deet learns that prison is not what he expected, nor are other people necessarily the way he thought they were. (*Sunshine State Young Readers Award* nominee)



Mailbox, The

Shafer, Audrey. Delacorte, 2006. 192p.
9780385903615 Middle

When twelve-year-old Gabe tries to hide his uncle's death from the local authorities, he is not prepared for what happens when this secret is discovered. (*Sunshine State Young Readers Award* nominee)

High



Last Chance Texaco, The

Hartinger, Brent. Harper, 2004. 240p.
9780060509132 High

Troubled teen Lucy Pitt struggles to fit in as a new tenant at a last-chance foster home, which she finds quite different from others -- the counselors care and she fits in with the other kids.



Shiver

Stiefvater, Maggie. Scholastic, 2009. 400p.
9780545123266 High

In all the years she has watched the wolves in the woods behind her house, Grace has been particularly drawn to an unusual yellow-eyed wolf who, in his turn, has been watching her with increasing intensity. (*Florida Teens Read* nominee)



Strays

Koertge, Ron. Candlewick Press, 2007. 176p.
9780763627058 High

Sixteen-year-old Ted, orphaned when his parents are killed in a car crash, identifies more with animals than people--especially strays whose situation Ted equates with his own--but as he starts to settle in to his new foster home and school, he forms bonds with his two foster brothers and gradually comes back in touch with the human race.

Sophie's Masterpiece

<http://www.storylineonline.net>

Primary/Intermediate (accessed 11/19/2010)

Sophie the spider makes wondrous webs, but the residents of Beekman's Boarding House do not appreciate her until at last, old and tired, she weaves her final masterpiece. After listening to the story, click on "Related Activities" and "More Activities."

Kindness Ambassador Program

<http://www.kindnessusa.org/kindnessambassadorprogram.htm>

All levels (accessed 11/19/2010)

Spread kindness throughout your school and community with some of the resources available at this site, which also complements the "Random Acts of Kindness" movement.

For additional resources, please see your school media specialist.
Broward County Public Schools