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**To:** <CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK@EMAIL.RUTGERS.EDU>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 21, 2006 12:35 PM  
**Attach:** Rebecca Sapora-Day.vcf  
**Subject:** [Character\_education\_network] CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORKOnline-2006 Vol. #15

## **CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK Online Mail List December 2006 Vol. #15**

Welcome to the **CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK** online mail list. Your name has been added to this list as a result of your completing the New Jersey Department of Education Character Education Network Online Listserv Form or because you have indicated an interest in receiving updates on character education efforts in New Jersey.

The purpose of **The Network** is to encourage the adoption of character education programs and strategies by providing a forum for sharing information, research and promising practices. Through the New Jersey Center for Character Education (NJCCE), **The Network** will offer educators access to national and state character education experts and programs through conferences, workshops, and e-mails.

**The Network** will be bringing you **news** from the national, state and local levels; **best practices**, including updates from our New Jersey Local Education Area (LEA) Partner demonstration sites; announcements of **events, conferences, workshops**; and **professional development opportunities** throughout the state and at the national level; grant and **funding opportunities**; **program and assessment resources** and links to other character education **websites**.

A link to the NJ Center for Character Education website ([www.nj-charactered.net](http://www.nj-charactered.net)) will lead you to current **articles** and **research** from the field as well as materials and large documents which you can download for use in your classroom.

### **In this issue of The Network:**

- *Caring Schools Inclusion Project* Seeks Applicants
- Second round of funding for Youth Organized for Disaster (YODA) Action Grant
- Cyber-Safety: Web-based Professional Development Sessions Offered
- 2007 Promising Practices Awards – New Online Application
- Taking Action: Stakeholders as Catalysts for Change in Schools and Communities

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### **FROM THE NJCCE DIRECTOR**

Middle school principals have recently received an invitation from the New Jersey Department of Education and NJCCE to apply to participate in the *Caring Schools Inclusion Project* (CSIP), a new initiative designed to increase the quality and success of your school's inclusion of students with disabilities in the general education program. The CSIP initiative will examine the effectiveness of implementing an evidence-based character education school-wide intervention, Community of Caring, to create a school culture that provides opportunities for growth and development for all children and to improve engagement, social participation, and a perceived sense of autonomy of children with disabilities. This new four-year project, which will be implemented in twelve selected middle schools, is a central part of our work with the NJDOE on the Partnerships in Character Education grant that the state received in July.

The CSIP application is also available on our website at: [www.nj-charactered.net](http://www.nj-charactered.net). Involvement in this project will provide professional development and technical support for participating schools, as well as opportunities to network with other schools adopting Community of Caring nationally, and the status of being involved with a national research project in character education. As you will see from the application information, there is a technical assistance meeting on January 19, 2007 at the NJDOE in Trenton for those schools considering applying. We welcome your interest; please feel free to contact NJCCE if you have questions about the *Caring Schools Inclusion Project*.

Philip M. Brown, PhD  
Director

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## CHARACTER EDUCATION NEWS

- *Caring Schools Inclusion Project* Application Now Available  
January 19, 2007 - Technical Assistance Meeting  
NJ Department of Education, Trenton NJ  
February 9, 2007 – Application Deadline

The Caring Schools Inclusion Project (CSIP) offers schools an opportunity to participate in a new initiative designed to increase the quality and success of their inclusion of students with disabilities in the general education program. Selected schools will implement a national, evidenced-based character education intervention program, Community of Caring. Schools selected to participate in the CSIP will benefit from:

- Significant professional development and on-going support at no cost to the school;
- Participation in two annual conferences paid for by the CSIP;
- Opportunities to network with other participating middle schools;
- Sustained support for inclusion practices;
- Participation honorarium of \$1,000 annually for evaluation administration; and
- Recognition for participation in a national school improvement research project.

The CSIP is being implemented by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) in collaboration with the New Jersey Center for Character Education (NJCCE), located in the Center for Applied Psychology at Rutgers University. It is funded through a new award the Department has received from the United States Department of Education under the Partnerships in Character Education grant, a program of the No Child Left Behind Act. This initiative is open to all middle schools regardless of their level of current inclusion and/or character education efforts. The NJDOE will select and support the participation of twelve middle schools in CSIP over a period of four years.

To download an application, or for more detailed project information, visit the New Jersey Center for Character Education website at: <http://www.nj-charactered.net/>.

A technical assistance meeting will be held on *January 19, 2007*. An orientation to the project and answers to questions will be provided to those considering participation in CSIP. To register to attend, please visit: <http://education.state.nj.us/events/>.

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**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- *Social Networking Today and Tomorrow*  
One hour Web-Based Interactive Presentation  
Tuesday January 9, 2007  
3:30pm to: 4:30pm  
Presented by the Southern Regional Institute and Educational Technology Training Center (SRI/ETTC)

Mention the word MySpace and parents quake in their shoes, administrators bar the doors, teachers scratch their heads, and kids just smile. MySpace and social networking has taken the adult world by surprise and put us in a reactionary mode. As disruptive as the current social networking sites are, they may only be the tip of the iceberg that is floating right into the path of the educational Titanic. Get a better understanding of social networking facts and fears.

The SRI/ETTC has created the Cyber Safety and Information Literacy Certificate Series to help teachers understand the connection between the online world and the real world. Presented in real time through web-based interactive presentations, these workshops will help participants understand the value as well as the dangers associated with today's "online" communities. This one hour web-based interactive presentation in Real Time counts towards the Cyber Safety and Information Literacy Certificate Series. The Cyber Safety and Information Literacy Certificate Series includes 12 one-hour workshops that are hands-on guided professional development sessions offered at your desktop. Material presented is aligned to the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards, including the newly adopted Technology Literacy Standards, and to the Cumulative Progress Indicators specific to each set of grade levels.

Participants may register for each session individually and after completing nine of the workshops will be issued a certificate signed by the Southern Regional ETTC and WiredSafety.org. To register, visit <http://www.etc.net/> or call (609) 626-6040.

- *Philosophy for Children: An Introductory Workshop*  
Friday, January 12, 2007  
9:00am to 3:30pm  
Montclair State University's Children's Center  
Upper Montclair, NJ  
The Institute for the Advancement of Philosophy for Children (IAPC) announces a workshop designed for school teachers, graduate students and college/university professors interested in educational philosophy and classroom inquiry. The registration fee for the workshop is \$225 and will include:
  - Workshop fee & materials
  - Lunch & morning coffee/tea
  - IAPC Curriculum Set (novel & manual)
  - Philosophy in the Classroom
  - Issue of *Thinking: The Journal of Philosophy for Children*

The workshop will provide 6 hours of professional development credit. To register, contact Joanne Matkowski at [matkowskij@mail.montclair.edu](mailto:matkowskij@mail.montclair.edu) or call 973.655.4278.

Recognized by the American Philosophical Association for excellence and innovation, the Institute for the Advancement of Philosophy for Children provides curriculum materials for engaging young people (pre-school through high school) in philosophical inquiry and provides teacher preparation in the pedagogy of the classroom community of inquiry. The IAPC also conducts philosophical and empirical research in teaching pre-college philosophy and the uses of philosophy for educational objectives including critical and creative thinking, social democracy and ethical judgment. For more information, visit <http://cehs.montclair.edu/academic/iapc/>.

- *It's All About Character*<sup>®</sup>  
*Instilling Character In Young People*  
Dr. Mike Thomson, Presenter  
Thursday, February 8, 2007  
8:00am – 3:00pm  
Crystal Point Yacht Club  
Point Pleasant, NJ  
Hosted by Prevention First and the Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Council of Ocean, Inc. (ADACO), this workshop will give participants opportunities to look at how the skills of good character can be instilled into the classroom, locker room and throughout multiple environments. For more information, contact Donna Greene (732) 367-5515 x15 or e-mail her at [donnag@adaco.org](mailto:donnag@adaco.org).
  
- *Responsive Classroom*<sup>®</sup> One-Day Workshops  
Northeast Foundation for Children, Inc.  
March 14, 2007- Embassy Suites Hotel - Piscataway, NJ  
March 30, 2007 – Sheraton Crossroads - Mahwah, NJ  
Workshops will provide an overview of the *Responsive Classroom* approach; how *Responsive Classroom* practices can help to foster trust and respect in the classroom; integrate the teaching of academic and social skills; and set clear, meaningful boundaries for student behavior. Tuition is \$179. Workshop participants will gain General principles of the *Responsive Classroom* approach and an awareness of two components:  
Morning Meeting – This daily whole-class gathering is a powerful way to build trust and respect among students, increase their investment in learning, improve social and academic skills, and give them daily practice in effective communication.  
You will be introduced to:
  - The goals and purposes of Morning Meeting
  - The four components of Morning Meeting
  - Leading Morning Meeting in the classroomRules and Logical Consequences – This positive approach to discipline respects children and helps them take responsibility for their actions, recognize and learn from their mistakes, and develop self-control.  
You will be introduced to:
  - The goals and purposes of rules and logical consequences
  - Generating and supporting rules with children
  - The power of teacher language

To register, or for more information about Responsive Classroom, visit <http://www.responsiveclassroom.org/> or call their registration hotline at 800-360-6332 x130.

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## NATIONAL CHARACTER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

- **Promising Practices Awards**  
**Applications due March 15, 2007**  
 The Character Education Partnership (CEP) gives Promising Practices Awards to schools and districts for implementing unique and specific strategies in character education that others may learn from and even replicate. Selected practices are showcased in the annual [NSOC book/CD](#) which appears in both published form and online at [www.character.org](http://www.character.org). All applications are to be completed online in 2007. To [learn how to apply](#), visit the CEP website. If you have questions regarding the Promising Practices program, please contact Lara Maupin at (202) 296-7743, ext. 28 or [lmaupin@character.org](mailto:lmaupin@character.org).

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## GRANTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- **The Disney Minnie Grant (OVERSEAS AND US APPLICANTS)**  
**Receipt deadline: January 24, 2007**  
 Disney and Youth Service America (YSA) have announced grants of up to \$500 to support youth-led service projects. These grants support youth (ages 5-14) in planning and implementing service projects in their community. Teachers, older youth (15-25), youth-leaders, and youth-serving organizations are also eligible to apply, provided that they that engage younger youth (5-14) in planning and implementing the service event.

A significant component of the project must take place on National & Global Youth Service Day, April 20-22, 2007. Projects can address themes such as the environment, disaster relief, public health and awareness, community education, hunger, literacy, or any issue that youth identify as a community need. Application materials are available at [www.YSA.org/awards](http://www.YSA.org/awards): Be sure to download the US application.

There will be another round of Disney Minnie Grants in the summer of 2007. Applicants selected for awards in this cycle will also be eligible to apply for the summer grants. Please check [www.YSA.org/awards](http://www.YSA.org/awards) in June 2007 for details on how to apply for the second grant cycle. Questions? Email [MinnieGrant@ysa.org](mailto:MinnieGrant@ysa.org). **Receipt deadline: January 24, 2007 (5:00pm Eastern Standard Time).**

- **Apply for a Learn and Serve America: Youth Organized for Disaster (YODA) Action Grant**  
**Application Deadline: Wednesday, January 31, 2007 by 4pm**

The Institute for Global Education and Service Learning and the National Dropout Prevention Center are pleased to announce a second round of funding for Youth Organized for Disaster Action. The YODA Grant is open to all Alabama, Delaware, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina school districts (including Charter Schools).

The goal of the Youth Organized for Disaster Action (YODA) program is to address disaster preparedness and community safety concerns by engaging students in service-learning activities in their schools and communities. In addition to the physical damage to homes and property, disasters also affect young people's sense of security, their relationships with their schools, communities, and in some cases even their families. Y.O.D.A. also aims to cultivate resilience and developmental assets in youth while enhancing academic achievement, developing workplace-readiness skills, and demonstrating active citizenship.

Eligible applicants may apply for a maximum award of \$5,000 during year one and \$10,000 during years two and three. The grant period extends from March 15, 2007 to August 31, 2009. Visit <http://www.igesl.org/> to download the RFP. The application is due no later than 4pm on Wednesday January 31, 2007.

**EVERY applicant MUST participate in one Technical Assistance call.** Technical assistance (TA) conference calls will be conducted on the following dates:

January 8, 2007 from 10am to 11am (EST)  
 January 9, 2007 from 12pm to 1pm (EST)  
 January 10, 2007 from 3pm to 4pm (EST)  
 January 11, 2007 from 4pm to 5 pm (EST)  
 January 16, 2007 from 3:30pm to 4:30pm (EST)  
 January 17, 2007 from 10am to 11am (EST)  
 January 18, 2007 from 2pm to 3pm (EST)  
 January 24, 2007 from 12pm to 1pm (EST)  
 January 25, 2007 from 1pm to 2pm (EST)

You may register for the call by sending an email to [yoda@igesl.org](mailto:yoda@igesl.org).

- **GrantsAlert.com**

<http://www.grantsalert.com/>

The GrantsAlert website is designed to help teachers and schools find information on education funding opportunities. It provides teachers, schools and related organizations with free access to up-to-date announcements of corporate, foundation, state and federal education funding opportunities. The site lists education grants by types of funding sources, provides short descriptions of available grants, along with deadlines, and links to funders' websites. Additional features include fast funding ideas; a search function to find funding by categories such as at-risk, and safe schools; and a Grant Writers' Directory for schools that have neither the staff nor the experience required to write successful proposals.

- **Safe Schools Grant from SchoolSpan  
Anonymous Alert Tip Line Service Free Of Charge**

<http://www.schoolspan.com/>

In response to increased concern about school safety, SchoolSpan is offering a Safe Schools Grant that provides its Anonymous Alert tip line service free of charge to school districts in the U.S. and Canada, effective immediately. As a public service to help improve school safety, SchoolSpan will provide this service to schools at no cost.

SchoolSpan Anonymous Alert is a web-based module that enables anyone in the school community to send an anonymous message to school officials, warning them of drugs, guns, violence, unusual student behavior, unauthorized visitors or any potential student crisis that

warrants immediate attention. Information is immediately relayed via email directly to the school principal or district administrator for proper action. The system tracks IP addresses of tipsters and schools can set an optional password to limit access to those that may provide the tip to school officials.

For more details on how to take part in the program, visit the SchoolSpan website at: <http://www.schoolspan.com/>. Applications will be accepted until January 15, 2007.

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## WEBSITE NEWS, RESOURCES AND RESEARCH

- ***Take Action - Resources on Emotional Intelligence***  
**From Edutopia, The George Lucas Educational Foundation**  
 Visit the George Lucas Educational Foundation website Edutopia at <http://edutopia.org/> to access strategies and resources on how the stakeholders listed below can become catalysts for change in your schools and communities:  
[What Administrators Can Do](#)  
[What Business Can Do](#)  
[What Coaches Can Do](#)  
[What Parents Can Do](#)  
[What Policy Makers Can Do](#)  
[What Counselors Can Do](#)  
[What Teachers Can Do](#)
  
- **Social and Academic Learning Study on the Responsive Classroom® Approach**  
**Summary of Findings**  
**Sara E. Rimm-Kaufman**  
**University of Virginia**  
 From 2001 to 2004, researchers at the University of Virginia's Curry School of Education conducted a three-year longitudinal, quasi-experimental study on how the Responsive Classroom approach affects children's academic and social skills. They compared children at six schools in an urban district in the Northeast – three schools that implemented the Responsive Classroom approach and three that did not. The study, led by associate professor of education Sara E. Rimm-Kaufman and funded by the DuBarry Foundation, found that the Responsive Classroom approach is associated with better academic and social outcomes for elementary school children. The study yielded six key findings about children and teachers at schools using the Responsive Classroom approach. For a full report of this study, see "Social and Academic Learning Study on the Contribution of the Responsive Classroom Approach" by Sara E. Rimm-Kaufman, October 2006, available at <http://www.responsiveclassroom.org/about/research.html>

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The New Jersey Center for Character Education operates in cooperation with the New Jersey Department of Education under a contract with Rutgers, The State University, Center for Applied Psychology.

The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the positions or policies of the New Jersey Department of Education. No official endorsement by the New Jersey Department of Education of any product, commodity, service, or enterprise mentioned herein is intended or should be inferred.

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