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**From:** "Becky Sapora-Day" <rsapora@rci.rutgers.edu>  
**To:** <CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK@EMAIL.RUTGERS.EDU>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 08, 2007 6:45 PM  
**Subject:** CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK Online - 2007 Vol. #7

## CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK Online Mail List October 2007 - Vol. #7

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.

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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. This project is funded under Title V, Part D, Subpart 3, Sec. 5431 of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. 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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### In this issue:

- **New Jersey schools capture national awards**
- **Woodbridge educators receive Community of Caring recognition**
- **PD opportunities focus on prevention, service-learning, and diversity**
- **Resources address civic values, special needs, moral issues in the classroom**

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## FROM THE NJCCE DIRECTOR

This issue of The Network contains a feast of professional development opportunities, resources and news that we invite you to review. Please take what you need and want to support your individual classroom work with students and help your school programs grow and flourish this year, and share it with your colleagues, who are all invited to sign-up to receive The Network.

We are very proud of our National and New Jersey Schools of Character (Character Education News). New Jersey schools, **Radix Elementary School** and **Memorial Middle School**, received two of only ten national awards, and we have also been notified that we have 23 New Jersey schools that will be receiving a total of 30 Promising Practice awards at the Character Education Partnership's (CEP) annual Forum on November 1 – 3 (see the National Character Education Opportunities section). We hope to see many of you there.

Your school is also invited to submit an application to become a School of Character. Visit the CEP website for information and to download an application or [CLICK HERE](#). Please note that the **applications are due to us on December 3, 2007**. When you go to our application on the CEP website, you will notice that our name is changing to the Center for Social and Character Development at Rutgers University – more on that in a special issue of *The Network* later this month which will announce the launch of our new website.

An item in Professional Development that I want to highlight is our offering of three regional workshops on The Code of Student Conduct: Creating Positive School Climates which we are doing with our colleagues at the Violence Institute at UMDNJ. Our part of these workshops will feature the stories of how the Cherry Hill, Highland Park and Montvale School Districts have addressed the administrative code requirements to adopt codes of student conduct based upon core ethical values agreed upon by the school community.

I want to thank more than 100 of you who participated in our recent survey to explore options for courses leading to a possible credential for the field. The winner of the iPod shuffle is James Sullivan, principal of Woodbridge Middle School. We are reviewing

your responses and will be reporting the results to our partners at the New Jersey Department of Education later this month.

Philip M. Brown, Ph.D.  
Director  
New Jersey Center for Character Education

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## CHARACTER EDUCATION NEWS

- **Two New Jersey Schools Capture Prestigious National Schools of Character Award: Memorial Middle School, Fair Lawn and Radix Elementary School, Williamstown**

The Character Education Partnership (CEP) has named nine schools and one school district as 2007 National Schools of Character in its prestigious annual awards program. “We are very proud to announce this diverse group of exemplary schools,” said CEP Executive Director, Joe Mazzola. “While their character education initiatives and student populations are very different, these schools are all places where students learn the meaning of core virtues, the importance of service, and acceptance of others.”

### Memorial Middle School (grades 6–8), Fair Lawn, NJ

Thirty miles from New York City, students in this middle school acclaimed for its character education programs learn compassion and acceptance of others. In the process, they learn to feel good about themselves as they are reminded each day of their potential to have a positive impact.

Contact: Laurianne Brunetti, [lbrunetti@fairlawnschools.org](mailto:lbrunetti@fairlawnschools.org), (201) 794-5479

### Radix Elementary School (grades PreK–4), Williamstown, NJ

Students at Radix used to be extrinsically rewarded for exhibiting good character until teacher focus groups found that “extrinsic rewards just don’t work.” Their new philosophy stresses the positive feeling, the intrinsic reward that comes from exhibiting good character.

Contact: Christine Gehringer, [cgehringer@monroetwp.k12.nj.us](mailto:cgehringer@monroetwp.k12.nj.us), (856) 728-1094

Each winner will receive an award, national recognition, and a \$20,000 grant at CEP’s 14th National Forum on Character Education to be held November 1–3, 2007, in Arlington, Virginia, just outside Washington, D.C. (see National Opportunities section below). Having demonstrated the success of their initiatives through the rigorous application and screening process, our New Jersey winners will use their grants to serve as national leaders and models for other schools and districts seeking to improve their character education efforts. [Read Press Release.](#)

- **Two NJ Educators Receive Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Center for Community of Caring Honors**  
*Patricia Fitzgerald*, vice-principal at Colonia High School, in Woodbridge, NJ was named the *2007 Community of Caring Outstanding Lead Teacher of the Year*.  
*Geradine Rinaldo*, principal at Mawbey St. School # 1, also in Woodbridge, NJ was recognized as the *2007 Community of Caring Outstanding Elementary School Administrator*. The awards were bestowed on these outstanding Woodbridge educators at the National Community of Caring Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada last July. Congratulations Tricia and Geri!
- **NJ Schools Lead Nation in “PROMISING PRACTICES” Awards in Character Education**  
Over 100 schools and districts from around the United States as well as from Canada, Mexico, and Singapore will receive 130 awards for “Promising Practices” in character education – 30 of which will be awarded to 23 NJ schools.

The Character Education Partnership (CEP) gives the annual awards for unique and specific exemplary practices that encourage the ethical, social, and academic growth of K–12 students through character education. By publicizing these awards, CEP hopes to recognize educators for their efforts and to encourage others to learn from and even replicate these successful initiatives.

This year, CEP received 206 applications from 140 public and private schools and districts. **Schools in New Jersey submitted the most applications (42) and will receive the most awards (30)**, followed by Missouri, Michigan, and New York. Winning practices included creative ways to encourage positive relationships, recognize students for good behavior, and offer students opportunities to give back to their school and community. “These schools have found creative new ways to encourage their students to be better citizens who care about others,” stated Lara Maupin, program coordinator. Winning schools will receive their awards at [CEP’s 14th National Forum on Character Education](#). [Read Press Release.](#)

New Jersey Recipients: CEP’s 2007 Promising Practices Award		
Alexander D. Sullivan Elementary P.S. # 30	Relaxation Meditation Initiative	Jersey City
Audubon Jr./Sr. High School	Project Memorial	Audubon
Brigantine Elementary School	A Multicultural Approach to Arts Education	Brigantine
Brigantine Elementary School	Kindness is Contagious	Brigantine

Carl W. Goetz Middle School	African Library Project	Jackson
Carl W. Goetz Middle School	Get In the Know About CO	Jackson
Christa McAuliffe School P.S. #28	Ballroom Dancing	Jersey City
Cranford High School	Building Character by Sharing Knowledge	Cranford
Emerson High School	Peer Group Connection	Union City
Forest Avenue School	World Well Being Week	Glen Ridge
Hamilton Township Public Schools	Admit One: FISH, Film & Follow Up	Hamilton
Hoboken Charter School	ACE (Art & Character Education)	Hoboken
Hoboken Charter School	Character Building Through the Application of a Social Justice Lens to History Studies	Hoboken
Joseph H. Brensinger Public School 17	REBEL (Reaching Everyone By Exposing Lies)	Jersey City
Liberty Corner School	One Book, Book Club	Liberty Corner
Liberty Corner School	The Seeing Eye 'Jethro' Project	Liberty Corner
Lincoln High School	Watch Your Mouth	Jersey City
Marlboro Memorial Middle School	Integrating Analysis, Technology, and Character Education: Blogging in the Social Studies Classroom	Morganville
Meadowbrook Elementary School	Meadowbrook Multicultural Festival	Hillsdale
Memorial Middle School	Decades of Discovery: Our Grandparents Remember	Fair Lawn
Memorial Middle School	Common Ground	Fair Lawn
Ollie E. Culbreth, Jr. School PS #14	A.C.E. TEAM MENTORS Advisor-Confidant-Exemplar	Jersey City
Radix Elementary School	Radix Family Bookclub	Williamstown
Robert R. Lazar Middle School	8th Grade Advisory-Making Service Learning Matter	Montville
Robert R. Lazar Middle School	The Ambassador's Program: Girl to Girl, Man to Man, The Balancing Act, Changing Families, Loss of a Loved One, Project Purple Heart	Montville
Salt Brook Elementary School	Salt Brook School.... Pass It On'	New Providence
Thomas B. Conley School	Team Up for Technology	Asbury
Viola L. Sickles School	Character Cafe	Fair Haven
Woodcrest Elementary School	First Day Celebration	Cherry Hill
Woodcrest Elementary School	Moving Day	Cherry Hill

[Click here](#) to learn more about applying to become a [National School or District of Character](#), or about [applying for a Promising Practices Award in 2008](#), visit CEP's Web site. Applications for Promising Practices awards must be submitted online by **March 15, 2008**.

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## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Free Teasing and Bullying Trainings**  
New Jersey State Bar Foundation

October 10, November 29, 2007  
New Jersey Law Center  
New Brunswick, NJ  
8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Participants will explore strategies for creating a peaceful classroom and examine ways to develop a school-wide approach to prevent bullying. The Foundation's training focuses not only on helping the targets of bullying, but also the students who bully as well. For more information, visit: [http://www.njsbf.org/release.cfm?press\\_id=417](http://www.njsbf.org/release.cfm?press_id=417).  
Call 1-800 FREE LAW to request a registration form, specifying which training you would like to attend.

- **Bullying – More Than Meets the Eye**  
Prevention First

Wednesday, October 10, 2007  
8:30 am – 3:00 pm  
The Sheraton Eatontown Hotel  
Route 35 North, Eatontown, NJ

The conference will focus on bullying in today's society and its impact on all children and provide opportunities to learn about different types of bullying, the legal implications, and how to be a change agent in your sphere of influence.

For more information, contact Prevention First at 732.663.1800, or visit their website at: <http://www.preventionfirst.net/>.

- **Rutgers Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Project**  
Effective Strategies for Implementing Prevention Programs  
October 12, October 16 and October 19 (See locations below)

This workshop will provide information that will enhance the implementation of prevention programs. Topics such as common obstacles to program implementation and strategies to mitigate or eliminate them will be presented. Participants will also be given the opportunity to work on the implementation of a program or programs within their schools or districts.

Friday, October 12, 2007 - Southern Region (Cherry Hill)  
Holiday Inn  
9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
(Check-in at 8:30 a.m.)

Tues, October 16, 2007 - Northern Region (Parsippany)  
Parsippany/Troy Hills Library  
9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
(Check-in at 9:00 a.m.)

Friday, October 19, 2007 - Central Region (Piscataway)  
Center for Applied Psychology, Rutgers University  
9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
(Check-in 8:30 a.m.)

Register online for all events at the NJDOE Professional Development and Technical Assistance website: <http://education.state.nj.us/events/>. For more information, please contact the Rutgers Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities (SDFSC) Project at 732-445-6173.

- ***Strategies for Success with Literacy: A Learning Curriculum that Serves***  
Presenter: Cathryn Berger Kaye  
Tuesday, November 6, 2007  
Pace University Amphitheatre  
New York City Downtown Campus  
1 Pace Plaza, New York City, NY  
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Experience effective teaching methods that lead toward student success for all students. With an emphasis on developing concrete literacy skills, and using service learning as a pedagogy, this interactive workshop engages students in strategies that integrate analytical, creative, and practical thinking. Take back ideas you can use immediately, and propel students toward their potential.

There is no charge for this event. To register, contact Maureen Connolly by October 31st by e-mail at [mconnolly@molloy.edu](mailto:mconnolly@molloy.edu). For directions, visit [www.pace.edu](http://www.pace.edu).

- **4th Annual International Bullying Prevention Association (IBPA) Conference**  
"Best Practices on Bullying and School Violence Prevention"  
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida  
November 5-8, 2007

The purpose of the IBPA is to support research-based bullying prevention programs worldwide. This Best Practices conference will benefit school administrators, teachers, counselors, parents, law enforcement personnel, attorneys, physicians, trainers, social workers, school nurses, school board members, policy makers, and school psychologists. For more information, visit: <http://www.stopbullyingworld.com/registration.cfm> or <http://www.stopbullyingworld.com/4-pageREGform/pdf>.

- **The American Conference on Diversity**  
*2007-2008 Educators' Institute Series:*  
Series #1 – Navigating Race in Schools  
Series #2 – Navigating Sexual Orientation in Schools  
Series #3 – Factors Impacting Immigrant Students  
Series #4 – Navigating Religion in Schools  
8:30am – 3:00pm at the locations noted below:

Open to teachers, administrators, counselors, and other individuals interested in building more inclusive and affirming classrooms, the Educators' Institute will afford participants the opportunity to explore and develop strategies to effectively navigate diversity issues in schools. Educators receive 12 CEU hours for participation in each Educators' Institute series.

Each two-day series will focus on a different area of diversity, providing interested educators with a variety of theoretical and practical applications for learning. Participants must attend both class sessions in a course series for credit. The tentative schedule for the 2007-2008 Educators' Institute course series dates are:

<b>Series #1:</b>	<b>Series #2:</b>
"NAVIGATING RACE IN SCHOOLS"	"NAVIGATING SEXUAL ORIENTATION IN SCHOOLS"
<u>Session I:</u> October 19, 2007	<u>Session I:</u> December 10, 2007
<u>Session II:</u> December 7, 2007	<u>Session II:</u> February 4, 2008
Fairleigh Dickinson University College at Florham, Madison, NJ	Central NJ Location TBD
<b>Series #3:</b>	<b>Series #4:</b>
"FACTORS IMPACTING IMMIGRANT STUDENTS"	"NAVIGATING RELIGION IN SCHOOLS"
<u>Session I:</u> May 2, 2008	<u>Session I:</u> May 5, 2008
<u>Session II:</u> May 16, 2008	<u>Session II:</u> May 19, 2008
Central NJ Location TBD	Fairleigh Dickinson University, Metropolitan Campus, Teaneck, NJ

Space is limited to 25 students per series, so register early! Limited scholarships are available. For more information, contact the American Conference on Diversity at (732) 745-9330.

- *Bringing Life to Learning: Connecting the Classroom to the Community*  
Friday, November 30, 2007  
Montclair State University Conference Center  
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The conference will consist of workshops for Faculty (K-16), community-based organizations and students. (CEU's will be available). Hosted by the National Council of Jewish Women Volunteer Network (NCJW-Essex County) and The MSU Center for Career Services and Community-Based Learning, Montclair State University. Sponsored by State Farm. For more information, call The NCJW Volunteer Network: 973-740-0588.

- **The Code of Student Conduct: Creating Positive School Climates**  
11/29/07 – Morris Plains, NJ  
12/03/07 – Piscataway, NJ  
12/05/07 – Sewell, NJ  
9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. (for all 3 programs)

A one-day program, based on projects done with six NJ school districts, for school district central office and building administrators, guidance and student support services staff, and staff responsible for student social development and school climate improvements related to student conduct.

<b>DATE</b>	<b>11/29/07</b>	<b>12/3/07</b>	<b>12/5/07</b>
<b>TIME</b>	All Sessions: 9:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.		
<b>PLACE</b>	Morris County Firefighters & Police Training Academy W. Hanover Ave. Morris Plains, NJ <a href="#">Directions</a>	UMDNJ-University Behavioral HealthCare 151 Centennial Ave. Piscataway, NJ <a href="#">Directions</a>	Gloucester County Office of Education Ruh Center 1492 Tanyard Rd. Sewell, NJ <a href="#">Directions</a>

**FEATURED SPEAKERS:**

Gerald Isaacson, Ed.D., Project Director-Violence Institute of NJ at UMDNJ

New Jersey Positive Student Discipline Reform Demonstration Project

Philip M. Brown, Ph.D., Director-The Center for Social and Character Development at Rutgers University, Code of Student Conduct Pilot Project

To register online or download a registration form, visit: <http://vinst.umdj.edu/csc/>.

- **Institute for the Advancement of Philosophy for Children Announces New Online Course**  
(For date, see calendar below)

Recognized by the **American Philosophical Association** for excellence and innovation, the **Institute for the Advancement of Philosophy for Children (IAPC)** 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. In this new innovative online course, participants will learn how to facilitate philosophical dialogue with children and adolescents, in classroom settings and elsewhere. The course is suitable for both beginners and those who wish to build on their current practice and extend their knowledge. It is a practical course with assessment based on classroom experiences.

The course consists of 15 units, organized under five modules:

- Module 1: Introduction to Philosophy in Schools
- Module 2: Building a Community of Inquiry
- Module 3: The Basic Toolkit
- Module 4: What is Good Thinking?
- Module 5: Putting it All Together

#### Calendar:

- Fall Semester 2007: September 5 – December 20 (15 weeks)
- Spring Semester 2008: January 22 – May 13; Instructor: TBA (15 weeks)
- Summer Session 2008: June 16 – August 7; Instructor: TBA (8 weeks)

#### Course Requirements:

- Participants must have regular access to the internet.
- Participants must have regular access to a class of children or adolescents.

#### Course Registration:

Space for each course is limited to 20 participants. To register for Professional Development Credit contact IAPC Assistant Director Joanne Matkowski at [matkowskij@mail.montclair.edu](mailto:matkowskij@mail.montclair.edu) or call: 973.655.4278.

For more information about IAPC, visit their website at: <http://cehs.montclair.edu:80/academic/iapc/>.

## NATIONAL CHARACTER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

- **Character Education Partnership (CEP) 14<sup>th</sup> National Forum**  
"Investing in America's Future"  
November 1-3, 2007  
Hyatt Regency Crystal City Hotel  
Arlington, Virginia  
Contact [rsipos@character.org](mailto:rsipos@character.org) for more information.
- **The National Conference on Safe Schools and Communities 2007**  
Presented by **The Hamilton Fish Institute on School and Community Violence** and the **Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention**  
Monday, October 29, - Wednesday October 31, 2007  
Hotel Washington  
15th & Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20004

The conference is intended to be an informed and creative conversation and forum for debate about youth development and making schools safer, while encouraging partnerships among public, private, and not-for-profit enterprises. In addition, the conference is intended to elevate awareness among policy-makers and the general public concerning violence in schools.

**Featured Tracks:** This year the conference program will emphasize Bullying Prevention, Mentoring, Program Evaluation, and Community Programs.

For more information, visit: <http://gwired.gwu.edu/hamfish/AnnualConference/2007/>.

- **2008 American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting**  
**Program Theme: Research on Schools, Neighborhoods, and Communities: Toward Civic Responsibility**  
Monday, March 24 - Friday, March 28, 2008  
New York, NY

This year's Annual Meeting theme provides an intellectual space for scholarship focused on schools, neighborhoods, and communities. Examples of relevant research topics include, but are not limited to (1) higher education and community development, (2) education and social service partnerships, (3) community-based teacher education, (4) project-based learning in metropolitan settings, (5) juvenile justice and opportunity to learn, (6) fiscal policy and planning, and (7) educational role of the professions (e.g., health, law, and engineering).

For more information, visit the AERA website at: <http://www.aera.net/>

## CHARACTER IN ACTION

- **Rahway River Association Seeks Student Intern Support**

The Rahway River Association recognizes the Rahway River and its biological communities are an important link between the environment, communities, and the quality of life of the people of the Rahway River Watershed. Currently, the Association has opportunities for 2-4 post-secondary students to join in their initiative in the following areas:

- Graphic Artist/Journalism/Marketing major student to develop brochures, newsletter and artwork for t-shirts. The ideal candidate can work about 20 hours per month for the fall and/or spring semester of the 2007/2008 season.
- Journalism/ Media student to assist in the development of a quarterly newsletter for the RRA beginning with the fall, 2007 season. The ideal candidate could also assist in the development of program literature such as brochures, website articles and press releases. An estimated 10 hours per week is probably needed.
- Political Science, Business Management student, and or other leadership type education to assist in the implementation of the Celebrate the Rahway River agenda for the duration of the fall, 2007 and spring, 2008 seasons.
- Language Arts or effectively bilingual student with a strong command of Spanish with better than average writing and reading skills to convert the RRA Website into Spanish. The hours needed here are unknown.

For more information about the RRA, please visit [rahwayriver.org](http://rahwayriver.org). Contact Dennis O. Miranda, Executive Director with any questions or concerns at: (973) 209-6321 or (570) 228-1404.

## GRANTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- **\$5 Million in Service-Learning Grants Now Available**

**State Farm Youth Advisory Board sets October 12 Deadline**

Grants ranging from \$25,000 to \$100,000 are being offered by the State Farm Youth Advisory Board. Applicants may request any amount within this range based on a required budget which outlines project expenses. The Youth Advisory Board will grant funds for student-led service-learning projects in the United States and in the Alberta, New Brunswick and Ontario provinces of Canada. Service-learning is a teaching method which supplements classroom studies with hands-on projects that address pressing community issues and problems.

Grant requests much focus on one of the following issues:

- Disaster preparedness
- Driver safety
- Accessing higher education/closing the achievement gap
- Financial education

The number of grants awarded will depend on the number and quality of requests received. Grant amounts will vary according to the nature of the proposal and availability of funds. At least one service-learning project will be funded in each of the thirteen State Farm zones.

To be eligible to receive a grant from the State Farm Youth Advisory Board, applicants should be either an educator who currently teaches in a public K-12, charter, or higher education institution, or a school-based service-learning coordinator whose primary role is to coordinate service-learning projects in a public, charter, or higher education institution. Non-profit organizations are also eligible if they are able to demonstrate how they plan to actively engage students in public K-12 schools in meaningful service-learning programs.

Request for Proposals (RFP) must be submitted online by Oct. 12. Complete details and contact information is available at [www.statefarmyab.com](http://www.statefarmyab.com).

- **“Arts Connect All” Grant Opportunity**  
**Inclusive Arts Education Programs**  
 Application Deadline: December 7, 2007

Anticipated number of awards: 10  
Award Ceiling \$15,000

Involving and including students with disabilities demands more than separate, specialized programs. Having students with and without disabilities interacting in activities together creates awareness, understanding, and respect—which is inclusion. To create inclusive learning environments, accessible education programs engage students with and without disabilities by incorporating multi-modal approaches and accommodating a range of abilities, learning styles, and skills. VSA arts and MetLife Foundation invite proposals from arts organizations creating or enhancing inclusive educational programs that address all of the following:

- Incorporate inclusive teaching practices;
- Provide access to students with all types of disabilities;
- Develop social, cognitive, and artistic skills;
- Involve people with disabilities in planning and implementation;
- Build staff, teacher, and/or artist knowledge and skill of inclusive practices;
- Collaborate with public schools, actively engaging students, parents, and school administrators.

For more information, visit the VSA arts website at: <http://www.vsarts.org/x273.xml> or call 800-933-8721.

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## WEBSITE NEWS, RESOURCES AND RESEARCH

- ***How To: Approach Moral Issues in the Classroom***

Edutopia.org

The George Lucas Education Foundation

Published 4/3/2006

Fran Smith examines for Edutopia, what Margot Stern Strom and Peter Nelson, of *Facing History and Ourselves*, have to say about how educators can incorporate moral inquiry into the curriculum.

Most educators are trained to teach facts and skills, not engage students in discussions of right and wrong, fairness and justice, values and moral responsibility. Teachers often feel anxiety about touching sensitive nerves: Will the classroom erupt in conflict? Will a child (or parent) take offense? Yet Strom believes that every subject worth learning -- history, science, literature, art, even math -- has moral and ethical dimensions. Exploring these disciplines honestly can invigorate a classroom and help students grow, think, and speak out.

To read more on this topic, visit: <http://www.edutopia.org/how-approach-moral-issues-classroom>.

- ***Recognition Without Rewards***

Caren Cameron, Betty Tate, Daphne MacNaughton, Colleen Politano

Northeast Foundation for Children, Inc. (NEFC)

Stickers, trophies, prizes, points, tokens – all are forms of rewards used every day in schools. But do they work? Written by a group of educators who have all used rewards in the past, this book explores the differences between rewards and recognition and offers a wealth of practical ideas for moving away from rewards and replacing them with recognition.

NEFC also offers free resources on their website ([www.responsiveclassroom.org](http://www.responsiveclassroom.org)) such as downloadable articles, current and back issues of their newsletter, research supporting the Responsive Classroom approach, and announcements of upcoming trainings. They can also be reached at: 800.360.6332.

- ***Citizenship & Character: Understanding America's Civic Values***

The Bill of Rights Institute

A 10-unit teacher's guide and CD-ROM, this resource is tied to the latest national standards and provides interactive exercises in which students link civic values to their own lives. Each unit focuses on a different civic value and, through primary source analysis and historical narratives, demonstrates how great Americans have embodied the value. The 10 lesson plans include focus questions, primary sources, and historical narratives with discussion suggestions.

Online resources for students include a student website: DoYouHaveTheRight.org, student essay contest, and student study guide. The website engages middle and high school students through interactive, multimedia and content-rich pages, plus contest and honors seminar program opportunities. For more information, visit: [www.billofrightsinstitute.org](http://www.billofrightsinstitute.org).

- ***Special Needs Acceptance Book*** - New resource helps create classrooms of inclusion and acceptance

*Special Needs Acceptance Book* teaches children about a range of special needs; provides an opportunity to explore how it feels to be different; and invites them on a journey toward appreciating and respecting people's differences. It is an informative and valuable book that helps children better understand their peers who have special needs. Using engaging exercises and educational information, it covers a range of disabilities and conditions including autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, cystic fibrosis,

learning disabilities like dyslexia, ADHD, blindness and deafness. This book provides insight to help kids understand their friends' challenges, while also showing them that we are all more alike than we are different. Added value comes in the form of a free Teacher's Guide that links this book to lesson plans that fill national and state content standards- including character education ones. Schools/teachers may order discounted bulk orders by contacting the publisher directly at [info@wateringcanpress.com](mailto:info@wateringcanpress.com) or calling 212-243-3727. For more information, contact Ellen Sabin directly at [ellen@wateringcanpress.com](mailto:ellen@wateringcanpress.com).