

# C.A.T.S.

## October 2008



### Character Activities for Teachers and Students

### Duval County Public Schools Jacksonville, Florida

*“To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a  
menace to society.”*

*Theodore Roosevelt*

*\*\*The Florida state legislature mandates the character traits that are covered each year. The order is consistent from year to year for ease of planning.*

## October:

**\*\*Fairness: the state of things being equal, honest, impartial, decent, honorable.**

**A child demonstrates that he/she is fair by:**

- 1. treating others equally.**
- 2. being willing to listen to others.**
- 3. taking turns without complaint.**
- 4. not blaming others.**
- 5. thinking about how their actions will affect others.**
- 6. not playing favorites.**
- 7. not taking advantage of others.**

### **Fairness Quote of the Month:**

*“Fairness requires that we do not make judgments until we know all the facts. –Anonymous”*



# Building Kids of Character



## Teacher Tips

**1. Use a well-known fairy tale or fable you have on hand or can easily obtain from your media center:**

**\*\*Read it to your students.**

**\*\*Discuss the moral or message of the story.**

**\*\*Ask your students to re-write the story from the perspective of one of the minor characters. For example, if you were using “Humpty Dumpty,” a student could tell the story from the perspective of a character who had to clean up the mess.**

**\*\*Have several volunteers read their stories to the class. Which perspective is the “most fair”? How do we decide what is fair and what isn’t? Are there universal rules for fairness?**

**2. Role playing a story or scenario is an effective way for students to see an event from another person’s perspective. You can choose an incident that creates difficulty for your students, such as stealing or bullying, and have students play different roles each time. Process the exercise by asking students how they felt in various roles.**

## Parent Tips



Some great websites that offer free or low-cost materials and information for parents and families:

[www.charactercounts.org](http://www.charactercounts.org)

[www.character.org](http://www.character.org)

<http://www.duvalschools.org/static/ourschools/studentinfo/character.asp>

[www.goodcharacter.com](http://www.goodcharacter.com)

[www.projectwisdom.com](http://www.projectwisdom.com)

[www.charactered.net](http://www.charactered.net)

<http://josephsoninstitute.org/sixpillars.html>

*And one of the best ways to instill fairness and other character traits in your family is to participate in events together, including reading out loud to your children (ALL children love to hear their parents read to them, even older kids!).*

# Bully Proofing Your School



**Students who are anonymous and unnoticed are often the targets of bullies. As educators, we must create an environment of community in our classrooms as well as in the larger school setting.**

**One way of creating acceptance and inclusion in schools is to match younger students with older students. For example, grades 4, 5, and 6 students can be matched as mentors with students in grades 1, 2, and 3. The match is for the duration of the school year (as much as circumstances permit), and regular meetings and activities are planned to nurture the relationship between students.**

**This can be done with older students, also. Eighth graders could be matched with 6<sup>th</sup> graders to introduce the younger students to the world of middle school.**

**Juniors and Seniors in high school are matched with incoming freshman to ease the transition.**

*“We were born to unite with our fellow men, and to join in community with the human race.” Cicero*

## Character Resources Available

Elementary Curriculum: “*Mini-lessons for Maximum Character.*” Can be found on RiverDeep and in school media centers.

Secondary Curriculum: “*Connect with Kids,*” including “*Grab and Go*” mini-lessons. Can be found in media centers.

**Character libraries were purchased for every school. Check with your media specialist for location. Great for use with “Book of the Month.”**

**Anti-Bullying Curriculum:**

**K-8: “*Second Step.*” Coming soon!**

**High School: Call 390-2131 to schedule.**

**Trainings for faculty and staff, as well as parent programs, are available upon request!**

**Call now to schedule a 30-minute session on the new anti-bullying law that went into effect in Florida on July 1, 2008.**

## **2008-09 Character Traits by Month:**



<b>August:</b>	<b>Responsibility/Attentiveness</b>
<b>September:</b>	<b>Citizenship/Cooperation</b>
<b>October:</b>	<b>Fairness</b>
<b>November:</b>	<b>Patriotism</b>
<b>December:</b>	<b>Kindness/Caring</b>
<b>January:</b>	<b>Courage/Initiative</b>
<b>February:</b>	<b>Respect/Tolerance</b>
<b>March:</b>	<b>Honesty/Trustworthiness</b>
<b>April:</b>	<b>Self-Control</b>
<b>May:</b>	<b>Patience</b>

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**Parents Building Kids of Character**



**Fairness**