Team Building & Tolerance

Respect, tolerance, and cooperation are this newsletter’s themes. As we move into the heart of the first semester, this is a wonderful time to help our students develop team building skills that are founded in these traits.

COOPERATION USING “THE FIGHTING MYNAHS”

After reading a short story entitled “The Fighting Mynahs,” students in elementary grades can analyze how cooperation benefits themselves and their community. The Southern Poverty Law Center created this lesson plan (http://www.tolerance.org/activity/cooperation) as a resource for teachers to utilize when working on this character trait.

ACTIVITIES

Students can take part in team building activities that will allow them to work cooperatively and collaboratively. The University of Missouri has gathered myriad lesson plans and activities, primarily for middle school students, that will engage your students in honing this month’s character traits.

FINE ART

Group work, such as murals and newsletters, provide older students with opportunities to explore the character traits. Students learn to share the work load with their peers and respect the work each individual contributes to the final project. Consider having your students work in small groups throughout the year in order to develop these traits.

"Politeness is the art of choosing among one’s real thoughts."

— Adlai Stevenson II, politician, U.S. presidential candidate (1900-1965)