

Loyalty

Character... It starts with me!

MONTHLY EDUCATOR BULLETIN

OCTOBER 2010

Vs. Unfaithfulness

Remaining committed to others during difficult times

I WILL:

- serve my family and teachers
- encourage others in hard times
- not mock authorities
- point out the good in others
- honor my country

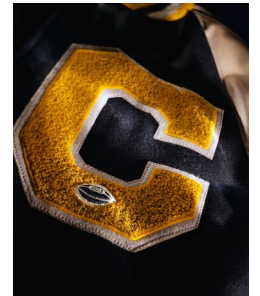
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When the Beach Boys sang about being "true to your school" they were singing about being loyal to the community of your school. But Loyalty goes beyond cheering for the football team and wearing school colors. It's about feeling

a connection to the individuals in that school community, an ownership of the institution – *My School, My Class*. One only has to look at the increase of tell-all books, the average length of a marriage and employee turnover rates to realize that loyalty is a lost

art. Use the activities in the bulletin this month, to build a loyal community in your classroom.



Lealtad vs. Infidelidad



Usar los tiempos difíciles para manifestar mi compromiso con aquellos a quienes sirvo



Go to the Root

The French word *leial* came from the Latin word *legalis* meaning 'legal' or 'faithful', and inspired the Middle English term *loyaltee* which was later replaced sometime in the 1400s with the spelling *loyalty* which we know today.

Our military veterans truly know the meaning of loyalty. While Veteran's Day isn't until November, consider toward the end of the month inviting a veteran, possibly related to a student, to come in and speak on the subject of loyalty and what it meant to them then, and what it might mean to them now.





“Confidentiality is a virtue of the loyal, as loyalty is the virtue of faithfulness.”

-Edwin Louis Cole

“I believe patriotism comes from the heart. Patriotism is voluntary. It is a feeling of loyalty and allegiance that is the result of knowledge and belief.”

-Jesse Ventura

“Talk to people in their own language.

If you do it well, they'll say, "God, he said exactly what I was thinking."

And when they begin to respect you, they'll follow you to the death.”

-Lee Iacocca

“Loyalty cannot be blueprinted. It cannot be produced on an assembly line.

In fact, it cannot be manufactured at all, for its origin is the human heart—the center of self-respect and human dignity.

It is a force which leaps into being only when conditions are exactly right for it—and it is a force very sensitive to betrayal.”

-Maurice Franks

“Do what you do so well that they will want to see it again and bring their friends.”

-Walt Disney

“You've got to give loyalty down, if you want loyalty up.”

-Donald Regan

“When you eat fruit, think of the person who planted the tree.”

-Vietnamese Saying

“Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much.”

-Helen Keller

“It is not fair to ask of others what you are not willing to do yourself.”

-Eleanor Roosevelt

Character Quotables

“Leaders are leaders only as long as they have the respect and loyalty of their followers.”

-Hans Seliye

“The greater the loyalty of a group toward the group, the greater is the motivation among the members to achieve the goals of the group, and the greater the probability that the group will achieve its goals.”

-Rensis Likert

“Repeat business or behavior can be bribed. Loyalty has to be earned.”

-Janet Robinson

“You don't earn loyalty in a day. You earn loyalty day-by-day.”

-Jeffrey Gitomer

“An ounce of loyalty is worth a pound of cleverness.”

-Elbert Hubbard

“Always laugh heartily at the jokes of your boss, it may be a loyalty test.”

-Unknown

“Loyalty demands participation, the rest is simply wishful thinking.”

-Unknown

“Loyalty is the pledge of truth to oneself and others.”

-Ada Velez-Boardley

“Loyalty means nothing unless it has at its heart the absolute principle of self-sacrifice.”

-Woodrow Wilson

“Our loyalties must transcend our race, our tribe, our class, and our nation; and this means we must develop a world perspective.”

-Martin Luther King

“Animals are reliable, many full of love, true in their affections, predictable in their actions, grateful and loyal. Difficult standards for people to live up to.”

-Alfred A Montapert

“Lack of loyalty is one of the major causes of failure in every walk of life.”

-Napoleon Hill

You can count me as an out-of-date dinosaur. I come from an era when loyalty and gratitude were regally honored. . . . In a strange way, loyalty is now seen as some kind of a character flaw.

-Jack Valenti (1921–2007),
President of the Motion Picture
Association of America, 1966–
2004

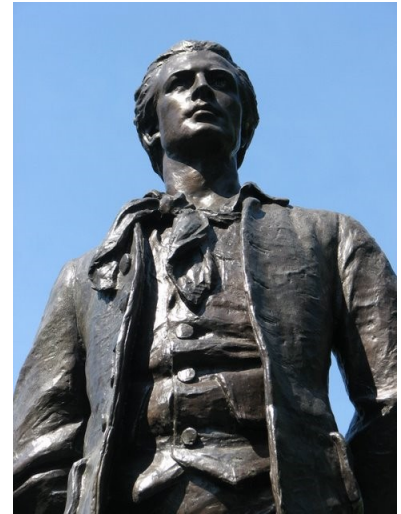
Curriculum Connection History

The name of Benedict Arnold has become synonymous with traitor - the opposite of Loyalty. Arnold committed treason in 1780 when, as a general in the Revolutionary Army he defected to the British Army. The connection between Arnold and treason still continues today. Recently, Dan Gilbert, owner of the National Basketball Association's Cleveland Cavaliers, referenced Arnold when he was angry about the way LeBron James handled leaving the team. Gilbert's company lowered the price of James' posters to \$17.41, referring to the year of Arnold's birth.

Nathan Hale-Hero of Loyalty

"I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country." This quote is attributed to Nathan Hale, when he was executed in New York City for spying on the British during the Revolutionary War. He was 21 years old. Several accounts of his hanging describe his great composure in the face of death and his eloquent speech before his

demise. Whether he said those exact words or a similar quote is not recorded. However, there is no doubt as to his Loyalty to the Independence of America. At the time, Americans were divided in their allegiances. The Patriots were fighting for freedom from Britain and the Loyalists were remaining true to the crown.



Service Learning

Service Learning Projects give students a chance to apply their classroom knowledge to solve real problems in their community. These types of projects are best suited to older students. Find an issue or a problem within the school building and enlist the aid of students in research, planning and executing a solution. Projects for younger students can more simply be community service in the school. Talk to the cafeteria staff, the librarian, the gym teacher or the janitor to locate projects within the building that students can help with. The more visible the results, the better. Students can be divided into smaller groups and each can go to a different area.

Questions for Processing:

- If the students did different projects, ask them to describe what they did.
- Who can benefit from the work that you did?
- When the work was completed, did you feel good about the results?
- Was it more fun to work with a group than to have done the project alone?

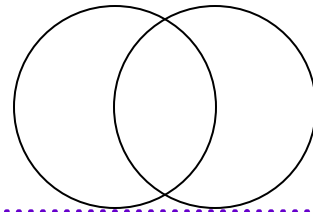
□ Check out this link for service learning grants. These grants were just recently awarded. Plan now to apply for a grant for next year.

□ http://www.learnandserve.gov/about/newsroom/releases_detail.asp?tbl_pr_id=1881



Venn Diagrams

Pair up the students. If there is an odd number, you can have three work together but they will need three circles. Each pair will draw two large overlapping circles on a piece of paper. (A Venn Diagram) The intersection of the circles needs to be large enough to write in. Each should label a circle with their name. The students will work together, identifying things about themselves such as hobbies, interests, family traditions, etc. As they take turns identifying something about themselves, they will record them in the circles. If it something that the two share, then it is written in the section where the circles overlap. If it is something that only pertains to one or the other, it is written inside of their circle but outside of the overlap. Challenge them to come up with something that doesn't apply to either of them and that should be written outside of both circles. If time allows, pair up the pairs and let them compare their diagrams



Twin Races

Pair up the students. Each pair will need a piece of paper and a pencil. In three minutes, they are to come up with as many things that they have in common as possible. Things that all students have in common such as has 2 eyes, does not count. When the time is up, have each pair count their items. Have each pair share their list.

Questions for Processing Venn Diagrams and/or Twin Race:

How did you find things that were alike?

What kinds of things did you have in common?

Did you find more in common after listening to the other pairs' answers?

Did you find out things you didn't know about some of your classmates?

How does it make you feel to know you have things in common with classmates?

When you know there are similarities, does it make accepting differences easier?

If you had nothing in common with your classmates, how would you feel?

Since you do have so many things in common with your classmates, how do you feel? (connected)

How do you treat people that you feel connected to?

Are you more loyal to individuals and groups if you feel connected to them?

What would it be like if there were no differences?

How do our differences make our classroom interesting?

“Why Loyalty Matters”



Why Loyalty Matters by
Timothy Keiningham and
Lerzan Aksoy with Luke
Williams

Visit the website for this book, <http://www.whyloyaltymatters.com/> to read the rave reviews this book has received. It is an easy to read common sense approach to understanding what loyalty is, what it isn't and how to unlock its power in your personal and professional life. For an online version of the book, visit http://www.whyloyaltymatters.com/bonus/materials/WLM_Chapter1.pdf

(There are 9 chapters - replace each in the URL to access the other chapters.)

Lean on Me



Divide the class into groups of 6 or 8 - it must be an even number. Ask each group to stand in a circle holding hands, or holding wrists to make it stronger, and count off in order, one, two, one, two. Tell the students that when you tell them to, all the ones should lean forward while the "two's" lean back. Remind them to hold on tightly so that they can support each other from falling. Then, ask them to reverse, so that the ones leaning forward will lean backward and the ones leaning backward will lean forward. For younger students, you may wish to start with one group, with the rest

other students watching. Then, organize a second circle to do the same. This way, adults and remaining students can stand around the circle to make sure nobody falls.

Questions for Processing - Did you like depending on each other? supporting each other? Did you think leaning in or leaning out was harder? Was it easier to support the other person when you were leaning or standing straight? Did you trust the people on either side of you to hold you up? Why? What would have happened if someone had dropped hands? In real life, how do we lean on each other for support? This game was easier when you were both leaning. How does that relate to supporting each other? How can we support each other at school?

E Pluribus Unum

E Pluribus Unum is the motto carried by the American Eagle depicted in the Great Seal of the United States. It is most often translated as "Out of Many, One". This Latin phrase was well known by the statesmen designing the seal. It appeared on the title page of the annual volume of the *Gentleman's Magazine or Monthly Intelligencer* – next to a drawing of a hand holding a bouquet of different flowers. America was originally likened to a bouquet, where unity and individuality coexisted – not a "melting pot" that blended everyone together.



To build on the symbolism of the bouquet, create a bouquet in the classroom that symbolizes the unity and individuality of the classroom community. Find some images of flowers online or on your computer. Enlarge each image so that it is large enough to write or draw on. Give each student their choice of flowers to use. Younger students can draw a picture of something that they like to do or a picture that in some way describes themselves. Older students can write down words or phrases that can be used to describe them. Optionally, you can have them write the motto in Latin or English on the stem. Once the flowers are complete, you can glue a beverage straw to the back so they can be placed in a vase or they can be displayed on a bulletin board or hung on the classroom door without the straw. You could also do this exercise by making tissue paper flowers. First, have the students write or draw something about themselves on the tissue paper before folding it into a flower. (Directions for making the flowers can be found at <http://crafts.kaboose.com/flower2.html>). When all the flowers are complete, you can create a ritual for adding them to a large vase (decorated with the motto) or putting them on the bulletin board. You can play patriotic music and have each student add their flower, one by one.

Questions for Processing:

What did we make today?

What do the flowers represent?

Did you notice how the more flowers we added, the prettier the (vase, board, door) became?

How does creating these flowers represent the unity and individuality of our classroom?

How will you act toward someone who is different than you?

Robin's Reading List

All Grades:

The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling
Relationships and events related in The Jungle Book are important to any human being. This book is a group of stories that revolve around noble qualities such as loyalty, honor, courage, tradition, persistence, and integrity. These stories need to be read and reread later in high school, and again later in life as the longer one lives, the broader is the frame of reference one has against which to draw the stories into perspective.

Grade Pre – 2:

Horton Hears a Who by Dr. Seuss

This story is about Horton, an elephant, who is "faithful one hundred percent". Horton hears a mysterious yelp as a speck of dust breezes by. Convinced that the noise was a cry for help coming from the speck, Horton chases the dust until it lands on the clover that he protectively holds in his trunk. He vows to protect the speck and whoever lives on it. Topics to discuss are loyalty, helping others, standing up to bullies, living up to parents' standards, and following the crowd.

The Recess Queen by Alexis O'Neill

This rhyming story would hope that all bullying problems could be solved so easily! Mean Jean is the reigning Recess Queen, pushing and smooshing, hammering and slammering the other kids whenever they cross her. And then one day a puny new girl shows up on the playground and catches Mean Jean completely off-guard. Not only is little Katie Sue not the least bit intimidated by the bully, she actually asks her to jump rope with her. In no time flat, Jean and Katie Sue are best buddies, and the playground is safe for all again.

Grades 1 – 3:

Inside Edge #5 by Michael Teitelbaum

The Backyard Sports kids are taking to the ice for hockey season. But when Tony,

their star player,

gets invited to play with his older brother's hockey team in addition to his own, Tony thinks he can do both. Soon he's missing practices and letting his friends down. When he realizes that both of his teams are playing their biggest games of the season on the same day, he has a choice to make. Will he choose his older brother or his best friends?

Trust Me: A Loyalty Story (Main Street School Set #2) by Anastasia Suen

Frog and Toad Together by Arnold Lobel
This pair of amphibian pals likes to do everything together. One day when Toad bakes cookies, they try to develop willpower together. The Frog and Toad series is great for new readers. The simple text and hued pictures combined with sensitive, funny, and original stories that show children what true friendship is all about.

Grades 1 – 6:

It's About Dogs/poems by Tony Johnston

This book presents forty-two poems--some funny, some poignant and philosophical--about dogs and their attributes, including their loyalty to people, their love of food and smells, and their varied appearances and personalities.

Grades 3 – 6:

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Carie Bryson

Charlie Bucket is a young boy who is due for a bit of good luck. He and his family, living in a tiny shack, are in great need of everything money can buy, but they are not lacking in love. Overall, the book is a unique story about children, parents, and an eccentric candy man. Especially redeeming is the endearing tale of Charlie's own loyalty to his humble family.

Grades 4 – 6:

Golden Girls #16 (Camp Confidential) by Melissa J. Morgan

During Color War, Natalie buddies up to the sixth division girls and ditches her fifth division friends, who couldn't be more immature. Then Nat inadvertently catches the attention of a sixth division boy, and without so much as a blink of an eye, she's kicked out of the sixth division circle flat on her fifth division butt. Will Nat's friends

take her back? Sure, but first she'll have to own up to a lot of immaturity on her part.

Marrying Malcolm Murgatroyd by Mame Ferrell

Hannah cherishes her standing with the so-called Popular Kids above all else, to the point where she has almost a double life. At school, she is as cool as everyone else, shunning geeky Malcolm Murgatroyd. But at home she socializes with Malcolm regularly, because his parents and her parents are the best of friends. When Hannah has to assemble a scrapbook for a class project, she realizes that all her family photos show Malcolm, too-her deep, dark secret is about to be revealed. It's easy to imagine a 12-year-old desperately concerned with fitting in, but when Hannah's otherwise sensible parents permit her to carry on her pretense, the stretch becomes impossible. Add to the equation a younger brother afflicted with muscular dystrophy (Malcolm, by the way, is his only friend), and Hannah's preoccupations seem even less earth shattering.

World's End (Phoenix Rising Trilogy #3) by Erica Verillo

Elissa used to daydream about being a princess. Now the reality of what it brings is clear: stiff, courtly manners, dresses like cages, tortuously high shoes, and betrothal to an aging duke to secure her father's kingdom! Elissa wants no part of it, and makes her escape to be with her devoted friends, who the King has no use for. But the unseen hand of the Ancient One once again guides Elissa toward a fate she does not wish to acknowledge – the culmination of the prophecy of the Phoenix.

This bright and satisfying conclusion to the Phoenix Rising Trilogy includes adventure, the testing of loyalties, and the return of two old enemies...not to mention surprising revelations for our heroine.

Grades 5 – 9:

Zach's Lie by Roland Smith

Zach Granger has to tell many lies; for one, his name is really Jack Osborne, and



Robin's Reading List (continued)

for another his parents aren't divorced rather, his father, a pilot, is in prison for transporting drugs for a ruthless cartel. When his father agrees to cooperate with the DEA, his family goes into a witness protection program, with new names and a new home in Elko, Nev. Will they be safe from the cartel? Smith (Thunder Cave; Jaguar) paints a realistic picture of Zach's complicated emotions: he misses his father and his old life, he's nervous about making a mistake and he is uncomfortable lying, especially to his new girlfriend, Catalin. He also takes to his new surroundings, especially Catalin's grandfather's sheep camp in the mountains, and the friendly hotel that's home to Sam, the warm and wise custodian of Zach's school. Smith keeps the tensions high: readers will suspect right away that the detailed journals Zach keeps are going to lead to trouble, and will understand the hero's anxiety when lines from it begin to appear on his classroom's chalkboard. Drug lord Alonzo Aznar is a stereotypical bad guy (he has a ponytail, dresses all in black and "likes getting his hands dirty from time to time") and Sam's confession that he is a former KGB spy feels too convenient.

The Ring of Five by Eoin McNamee
Here's the first book in a brilliant new trilogy by the author of The Navigator. This book's setting is a school for spies and is full of surprises, as well as fascinating questions about loyalty, destiny, and what it means to be a spy. Danny Caulfield doesn't know how he ended up at a mysterious academy called Wilsons. A few of the students are pretty scary. Someone tries to murder him. Even the ravens that haunt the school seem to be against him. Yet he also finds friends: Les, an exceptional thief; Dixie, who has an unsettling talent; and Vandra, a

physick with special powers. Danny is destined for a terrifying mission. He has all of the natural gifts of the perfect spy...the ability to betray!!!

Grades 7 and up:

There's A Girl in My Hammerlock by Jerry Spinelli

Maisie Potter isn't quite sure why she signed up for the boy's wrestling team. She's never been all that interested in boys, so it can't have anything to do with Eric Delong, in spite of the disturbing effect his smile has on her. And she's certainly not prepared for the effect her presence on the team has on the people around her. Her brother's totally disgusted with her, her best friend drops her, her classmates ridicule her, and opposing teams forfeit rather than wrestle her. BUT, Maisie's not a quitter, and she discovers that she really likes wrestling...and that while Eric might not be worth the flak she puts up with, feeling good about herself is.

Grades 9 – 12:

Friends Are Forever: A Treasury of Quotations About Laughter, Loyalty, Sharing and Trust by Criswell Freeman

This book is filled with inspiring quotes... quotes about the definition of friendship, trust in friendships, the joys of friendships, and many more topics. The quotes in this book can express all of those things you feel for your best friend(s), but can't put into words!

A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens
A Tale of Two Cities is one of Charles Dickens's most exciting novels. Set against the backdrop of the French Revolution, it tells the story of a family threatened by the terrible events of the past. Doctor Manette was wrongly imprisoned in the Bastille for eighteen years without trial by the aristocratic authorities. Finally released, he is reunited with his daughter, Lucie, who despite her French ancestry has been brought up in London. Lucie falls in love with Charles Darnay, another expatriate, who has abandoned wealth and a title in France because of his political convictions. When revolution breaks out in Paris, Darnay returns to the city to help an old family servant, but there he is arrested because

of the crimes committed by his relations. His wife, Lucie, their young daughter, and her aged father follow him across the Channel, thus putting all their lives in danger.

Knights of the Hill Country by Tim Tharp
In a small Oklahoma town, one star linebacker must decide what kind of man he wants to be—both on and off the field. This year, the Kennisaw Knights are going for their fifth straight undefeated season, and if they succeed, they'll be more than the best high school team in the eastern Oklahoma hill country—they'll be legends. But the Knights' legacy is a heavy weight to carry for Hampton, linebacker and star of the team. On the field, he's so in control you'd think he was able to stop time. But his life off the field is a different story. His father walked out on him and his mom years ago, and now his mom has a new boyfriend every week. He's drawn to a smart, quirky girl at school—the type a star athlete just isn't supposed to associate with. And meanwhile, his best friend and teammate Blaine—the true friend who first introduced Hampton to football back when he had nothing else—is becoming uncomfortably competitive, and he's demanding Hampton's loyalty even as Hampton thinks he's going too far. This unforgettable novel is the story of a boy whose choices will decide the kind of man he becomes, and raises powerful questions about sportsmanship, loyalty, and the deceptiveness of legends.

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Croskey's Corner

Corner

Lindsay Lohan taught us about teenage girls in *Mean Girls*, right? They backstab, they compete for guys - just for the sake of competing, yes? They have difficulty sustaining a relationship with another female because they're only in "it" for themselves. That all happens, I know. I saw it often in my job. But I know 2 teenagers who seem to have outgrown that mold. One young lady, Ella, has had some emotional trauma. She found a good therapist and learned to cope with life's struggles. Her friend, Liz, has listened to these ups and downs and had offered support. At one point, the traumatized Ella said to her friend, "You are the only person I can really count on." So, in order to give that support substance, Liz wrote herself a note which said, "Text Ella every night before bed." Liz stuck that note on her bathroom mirror. Every night, when she brushes her teeth, she sees the reminder to text Ella. And, that's what she does. She texts Ella and says, "I love you and care about you."

Simple acts done reliably. There is a lot of power in that. The October Character Quality of the Month is Loyalty. It is defined by *Character First!* as "Remaining committed to others during difficult times." It reminds me of another act of loyalty. I have a friend, Maragret. She is in her late 80's. Sadly, too many of her friends and loved ones have passed away. She has lost 2 husbands. Margaret is not one to sink into a depression of old age. She mourns the passing of these, but she does not fixate upon that loss. Rather, she pays tribute to them; she visits their graves. Margaret is of the generation which says that part of life is death and part of death is visiting cemeteries and leaving flowers on the graves - in short, doing your duty. This devotion to duty suggests that Loyalty is about brave commitment during hard times, but also about building reliable habits that will sustain loyal behavior through those exact hard times.

At my house, one of our mottoes was, "You gotta dance with the one who brung you." (With my poor grammar, I didn't get invited to a lot of dances to begin with!) For us, that meant that if any of us made a commitment to do something fun with a friend, or be somewhere we didn't want to go, or share a big event with a particular person, the commitment was honored. Even when a better "offer" came along later. Each of us chafed at that commitment at times, but we applied the Golden Rule: If any of us had our invitations accepted, we didn't want to end up being dumped because our friend was seeking an "upgrade." I guess I learned this from experience. In high school, a girl asked me to a Sadie Hawkins Day Dance before my real romantic interest could. I said "No" to the first invitation; you know, I had a "family obligation." (Sit at home and watch Saturday night TV.) When my true love invited me, I reluctantly declined and explained what happened. I survived. Later, in college, I invited a new friend to go out. She said "Yes" and then later called to say she had to wash her hair. No kidding! You know how long the lines for showers are in those dorms! What else could she do?

I guess I have learned as much about loyalty from disloyalty as I have from the times of commitments being reliably kept. Building loyalty in yourself requires an initial commitment to someone or some ideal but then rehearsing the loyal act must follow until it is habit. It is so much easier to act loyally if every discrete act does not require a new moral dilemma to resolve. Indeed, the 49th time of acting with Loyalty is easier than the first few times.

Teachers can help. First, teaching kids the meaning of Loyalty is a good start. Then reminding them of their commitments helps. But, mostly, it is about modeling Loyalty for them. Classroom duties, carried out reliably, are the makings of Loyalty. Parents and other significant adults don't have nearly as difficult a job encouraging Loyalty in children if they ARE Loyal.

Bill Croskey is a retired school psychologist from the Loveland City Schools

So, Dance with the one who brung you. You may even end up being glad you were brung!



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Character...It Starts With Me!

Character in the Classroom *Continuously*

There are many ways that you can teach the Character Quality of Month. Here are just a few suggestions:

- Ask students to make posters to hang in the classroom or around the school.
- Challenge students to find quotes, news stories, current (or classic) songs or movies that portray the character quality of the month. Be sure to share these with the class and “archive” these to use in future years.
- Add the character trait of the month to the spelling word list. (Even if it is posted in the classroom to copy!)
- Offer for students to make a video or write a rap that demonstrates the Character Quality of the Month.
- If you teach younger students, see if you can “borrow” some older students to lead your students in an activity or switch the roles and have the younger students “teach” a rhyme to the older students.
- If you teach older students, you can be the initiator in the previous activities.
- Invite local business leaders or small business owners to talk about the importance of a character trait. If you teach older students, aim to get a representative from a business that typically hires teens so that they can relate the importance of good character when applying for and *keeping* a job.
- Men and women in uniform usually make impressive guest speakers. Police departments, fire departments and military recruiting offices are usually willing to come into a classroom. Do not be afraid to give them specific requests or guidelines for speaking so that it is pertinent to the lessons of the month.
- Always have a generic character activity planned and ready to go that you can use as filler when you have time to kill or that a substitute teacher can use in your absence.