

Grand Area Mentoring / 435-260-9645

The Greatest Weeks of 2006

Finale

2006 is coming to a close, and we have only two weeks of school left before a seventeen-day break from mentoring and academia. Make these two weeks count by planning mentoring sessions in advance, choosing activities that will stimulate your mentee's creativity, and having fun!



Pete and Brandon



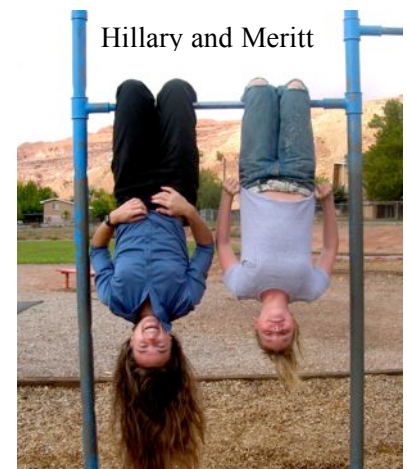
Last month's newsletter discussed what kind of assets you are providing to our youth. This month, the message is about highlighting the strengths your mentee *already* has.

Consider these questions:

- * *What is your mentee good at?*
- * *What are his or her strengths?*

Try to help your mentees use their personal assets to solve problems, think about careers, and feel good about themselves.

Special adult praise is something many of our students don't often hear. Tell them what they do well, and help them recognize how their strengths will help later in life.



Hillary and Meritt



The magic show of November rocked! Rick Boretti, our local magician, wowed students and mentors with unbelievable coin, card, and slight-of-hand tricks. He even taught us how to pull off some magic of our own.

“The question for the child is not
‘Do I want to be good?’
but
‘Whom do I want to be like?’ ”

– Bruno Bettelheim

This Month in Mentoring

- **December 11&12**, 5-5:30PM: Two informational meetings for our community at the City Offices. Want to help? Call Dan. 260-9646
- **December 14**, Noon: Brown Bag Lunch. Come to the District Office at noon to meet other mentors and discuss mentoring ideas.
- **December 15**: Last day of School before Winter Break.
- **December 16 – January 2**: Winter Holiday. NO MENTORING.

Grand Area Mentoring

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Marlene and Laylen

A Look Forward

Trainings Coming in January:

- January 28: Leadership, 4-5:30PM
- January 29: School Culture, 11AM-12:30PM
- January 29: Mentor Orientation, 5-7:30PM
- January 30: Mentor Orientation, 11AM-1:30PM

For more information about or to sign up for these trainings, please call 260-9645 or visit our website:

<http://www.grandschools.org/mentor>



Levi and Roger

The Mighty Mentor Column

If your mentoring sessions are becoming stale or redundant,

- Emphasize negotiated play, have three activities preplanned, and be flexible with the time in mentoring sessions.
- Ask and write down what your student wants to do during next session.
- Prepare for the activities before you meet with your mentee.
- Be ready to go outside of your comfort zone. Try something different that you don't know and then learn together with the student.

If you are having trouble with behavior during mentoring sessions,

- Remind your mentee about your limits. Enforce your expectations as needed, and don't let your mentee's behavior get out of control.
- Be honest, upfront, and clear about what you need.

Call Dan (260-9646) or Megan (260-9645) with questions or concerns.

Idea of the Month:

Bring in a craft to practice with your mentee. Beads and jewelry, stencils, puppets, holiday cards, collections of coins and other items, can bring a lot of fun and learning to your mentoring time. Crafts can also create a great atmosphere for discussion and sharing, an opportunity to get to know your mentee better through asking questions and offering information about yourself.

For more ideas, visit:

www.grandschools.org/mentor/toolbox.html

Believe

Your effort is making a difference. Here are some numbers:

According to a 1999 research study*, teachers felt that of young people who meet regularly with mentors at school:

- 64% of students develop more positive attitudes toward school
- 58% achieve higher grades in social studies, languages, and math
- 60% improve relationships with adults, 56% with peers
- 64% develop higher levels of self-confidence
- 62% are more likely to trust teachers

*Herrera, C. (1999) School-Based Mentoring: A First Look Into Its Potential(p.16).Philadelphia: Public/Private Ventures.

Mentoring –spending one creative hour with a student EVERY week – is what makes the difference. Great work.

Dan Cell: 260-9646