

**Subject:** SLTP Newsletter  
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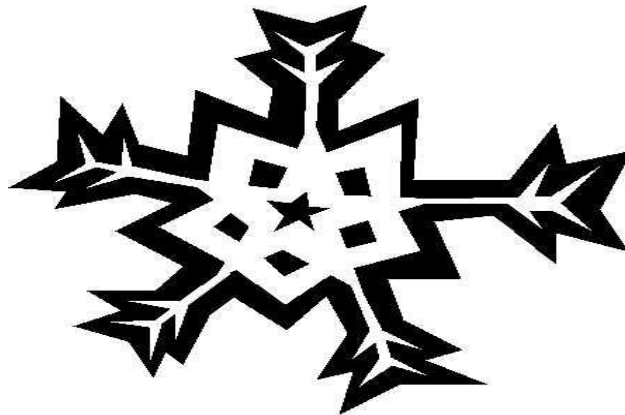
# Linkage

A Newsletter for SLTP Alumni and Staff

December, 2003

**Happy Holidays - a Greeting Card from us to you**

SLIGHTLY MORE THAN NOTHING ?





The little squirrel stared out at the first snowfall of the season watching in wonder as little by little everything became covered by a blanket of white. As all little ones do, the squirrel chased from snowflake to snowflake attempting to catch one on her tongue. She stared crossed-eyed at one that she caught. "What does it weigh?" she wondered nearly aloud.

So off she raced to find the owl. He would know the answer. She woke the old owl from a deep morning nap. "What does a snowflake weigh?" she chirped.

"Slightly more than nothing" the owl quickly replied.

All of us who have ever chased snowflakes can attest to the truth of that comment - slightly more than nothing is the entire weight of a snowflake. Yet when joined together - - huge trees can fall from the weight of the snow - - joined together these fragile snowflakes can be snowmen, snowballs, and even castles. Joined together, they can blanket a mountain, bring commerce to a halt or fill a child's eyes with wonder.

Slightly more than nothing ! What is that exactly?

As student leaders we could weigh our individual contributions, tally our projected impact, sum up all of the completed tasks and determine that our individual contribution is just that - *slightly more than nothing* ! Yet, even if our math is correct, we would be drawing the wrong conclusions. Because like snowflakes, separately we are all unique and different, and together we can and do accomplish many wonders. Together we can and do make a difference. Together we can and will make positive significant differences.

If not you, who? If not now, when?

Celebrate the spirit of each of the holidays of this season. Revel in the message of togetherness. And remember to fill your quota of hugs!!

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## **The ReEnergizer Conference**

The SLTP's seventh annual REE was a total success. Over 80 schools and over 300 delegates gathered at Nichols. And we rocked the "house."

At the conference the delegates helped to celebrate 30 Champions for Youth Award recipients. The Champions were nominated by former campers to be recognized for their selfless contributions to the youth in their community. Each received a plaque and camperships to award.

We also celebrated the Grand Slam Schools who earned an additional 5 camperships for their schools.

Most of the conference was spent learning and sharing (and being loud). The highlight of the conference for many was the Connections presentation on Proms -- asking the questions : why do we have proms? and what is the role of student leadership in proms? The presentation included some songs (*Don't laugh at me.; Seasons of love; and Reach Out*) and some too real scenes depicting issues and events relating to prom time.

In the lively discussion that followed the presentation, delegate expressed one voice indicating that the focus for prom or any major event should be to bring the ENTIRE school community together.

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## **Making a difference got harder**

Unfortunately making differences has gotten harder for students in New England. The Giving Tree at the Providence Palce Mall (formerly the Hasbro Tree) has stopped the age old ornament for toys program! They will now accept only gifts.

The Giving Tree in Springfield will still accept ornaments but they want non-perishable food as well.

SLTP delivered last summer's ornaments to Springfield.

We have written a letter to Hasbro expressing our regret that this long standing program has ended (not a complaint letter -- just simply a letter of regret). If Hasbro has a change of heart about this we will let you know!

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## **Early Bird Applications**

The final 2003 Early Bird Applications for LTC and ALC were distributed to the delegates at the REE. Anyone may take advantage of the Early Bird Application. The tuition is greatly reduced.

Early Bird Applications must be received by **January 10**.

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## **The Student Leader of the Year Award**

Each year the Student Leadership Training Program seeks to recognize the accomplishments and differencemaking of an extraordinary group of STUDENT leaders - - namely the graduates of SLTP. As a means of doing so, the Administrative Board of the SLTP created the Student Leader of the Year Award. The fundamental basis for this award is differencemaking.

We are seeking to recognize STUDENT leaders who "walk their talk."

All nominees for the SLY will be recognized at the DifferenceMaker Conference in the Spring. There the finalists will receive Award plaques and camperships in their name to be presented to students from their school. In addition to the above, the Award Winner will receive a college scholarship.

The nomination process begins very quickly. Our aim is to allow the finalists the best use of the recognition. Nomination for the award can be accomplished one of four ways:

- 1) nomination by another SLTP graduate;
- 2) nomination by your principal or adviser;
- 3) nomination by an SLTP staffer;
- or 4) self nomination.

Upon notification of nomination, we will mail the Student Leader of the Year Award Application to the nominee for completion.

Minimum Prerequisites for Nomination

SLTP graduate of LTC

Only high school juniors or seniors eligible

receipt on or before the deadlines

## **NOMINATION Deadline - January 6**

Nominations should be typed and must include the nominee's name & address (including email). There must be a brief endorsement of the nomination (one or two sentences indicating WHY the person was nominated). Finally the nomination must include the name, address & title or SLTP attendance record of the person making the nomination.

The Application Deadline is March 1, 2003

Send Nominations to: Stacey Hurd SLY Nomination, 141 Blackstone St Bellingham,

MA 02019

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**Task -- I love a Task!**

1) SLTP is seeking designs for this summer's tee shirts. Our theme is "Over the Rainbow" -- if you or someone from your school might be interested in developing a design, please do so. Designs should be "photo-ready"; clean and to size. Plan for a silk screening process with only one applied color.

All design entries will be displayed at the DifferenceMaker Showcase and the winning designer and his/her school will receive a camp scholarship.

Send designs to Helen Fitzgerald T-Design; 108 Observatory Way, Marshfield, MA 02050

2) The SLTP is seeking to expand our outreach. If you know of any teachers, advisers, coaches or any adult interested in working with kids to make differences - please have them visit the website and submit a staff application or application to the Adviser Program.

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**The New Website (s)**

The 2003 SLTP Informational website is up and running.

[www.sltp.info](http://www.sltp.info)

This new site has info on EVERY one of our 11 parts. And it should answer just about every conceivable question. Naturally there are applications and details about each facet of the SLTP.

Soon there will be a new Staff and Alumni site. It is under construction and should be up and running before the end of the year.

And we are working on establishing and creating an SLTP Bulletin Board / chat room kind of site. We hope to have that site up and running by spring.



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**Dr. JIM FITZGERALD, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION** 1.800.600.7223

**The 2003 SLTP Conference Schedule**

at

*Nichols College in Dudley, Massachusetts*

*Where leaders learn HOW to make a difference!*

*DifferenceMaker Showcase - April 7*

*Leadership in Athletics Conference - June 29 - July 1*

*Officer Training Seminar -- July 1 - 2*

*LTC's -- July 8 - 12; July 15 - 21; July 29 - Aug 2; Aug 5 - 9*

*ALC's -- July 8 - 12; July 30 - Aug 2; Aug 6 - 9*

*TLC -- July 16 - 21*

*Adviser Certification -- July 30 - Aug 2*

*The ReEnergizer Conference -- November 29*

**[www.sltp.info](http://www.sltp.info)**

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