

student leadership
The **S**tudent **L**eadership **T**raining **P**rogram

Linkage

Alumni & Staff Newsletter

April / May, 2004

National Teachers Day – May 4

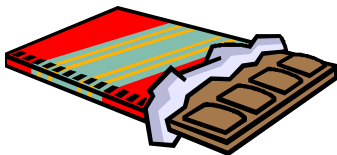


Mark your calendar. The date is May 4. Celebrate the day by making a difference. Celebrate the day by sharing an affirmation. On each and every one of personal thankful lists teachers names can be found.

Reach out to one or two of them. Send them a real thank you note. Be specific. Make their day. When you do, you know that you will also be making the day for all of the students they reach.

Food always works

By Helen Fitzgerald



Food, especially candy, works well for staff recognition. Be sure to use only commercially wrapped candy. Many are leery of student made items. Make up your own sayings for the candy and be sure to hand deliver the message, don't just leave the gift in the staff mail boxes.

- Life Saver - You're a life saver at school

- Pay Day (\$100,000 bar) - for new staff members, their first pay day
- BetYaLife - Bet Your Life you're important to us
- Mints – you're worth a mint to us – thank you for the encourage-mint
- apples - You're the apple of our eye
- donut holes - You keep the WHOLE place together
- Bonkers - We'd have gone bonkers without you
- Hershey's Special - You're extra special
- Kudos - Kudos on your great accomplishment
- Red Hots - We're red hot because of you
- A-OK Bar - You're A-Ok in our book
- Milky Way - You're a star around here
- banana - You're a top banana around here
- Big Hunks for the coaching staff
- \$100,000 Bars for fundraisers, math teachers, and store clerks
- Gummi Worms for the scientist
- Bubble Tape for the shop & sewing teachers
- PomPoms or Air Heads for the spirit advisor
- Zero Bars for the math folks
- Symphony Bars for the music majors
- Mars Bars for Science

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- Color Bubbles for art
- Jolly Rancher for the agriculture types
- Applause Bars for Drama

STAFF SURVIVAL KITS



For staff appreciation day, for new teachers, or substitutes the survival kit can be filled with a variety of little gifts or classroom necessities.

Start with a plain white lunch sized bag or a small plain white gift box. Incorporating the school logo, design labels to apply to the top and front of the box. Line with tissue paper. Attach a hand written card indicating the use of the items inside the box. Fill the box with the items (see below). Be sure to hand deliver personally to each recipient.

For the new teacher: the box might contain, among other things,

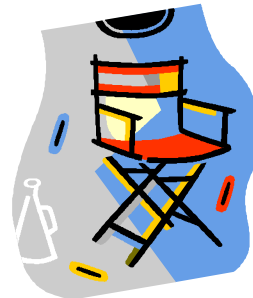
- a package of Life Savers,
- a red pen,
- school plan and map,
- a history of the school,
- a logo button to wear,
- and an engraved name tag for back to school nights.

For staff appreciation: Among other things

- Big Hunk Candy bars - We'd be missing a big hunk without you
- Hersey's Kiss & Hugs - Hugs and Kisses from the students
- Band aids - prevent infections from some of us cut ups
- Alka Seltzer - for those rare moments when the Zoo goes wild
- Pencils - to rewrite the history of the school
- box of raisins - Thanks for your help in Raisin school spirit
- ruler - with us excellence is the rule.
- Post-it note pad - Thanks for helping us stick to our goals.
- Baseball cards - with us you're in the major leagues.

From where I sit

By Jim Fitzgerald



High School students are constantly being reminded that their "job" is to get ready for *real life*, or that whatever they might be doing or enduring will help prepare them for the

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real world.

As if high school and their lives aren't REAL!

Let's see, what issues face teens in America today? Well a partial list might include ... drug abuse, violence, pregnancy, abortion, STD's, bullying, gangs ... exams, SATS, college entrance requirements ... teacher shortages, budget shortfalls, block scheduling, teacher preparation ... dating, gender issues, Prom, school rules ... smoking, eating disorders, sizism ... time management, friends, cliques ... cars, insurance, licenses ... employers, coaches, parents, siblings ... hmmm it all seems pretty real to us!

The issues that face students are in FACT very real. And while there are no answers to every issue listed above, there is another fact and that is that STUDENT leadership can and should provide students with a great deal of relief from many of the above.

School life is not a dress rehearsal for real life. It is real life. And students helping students can provide many of the answers to the tougher questions.

The word *responsibility* is often used as merely a description of one's duties, like taking out the trash. A STUDENT leader must see the word in two parts - RESPONSE and ABILITY.

Response is what the leader does to make a difference. Leadership is about doing things on purpose and with purpose.

Ability is the skill to carry out the response.

Leaders must learn what to do and how to do it.

Right now for example school violence and bullying are in the news. One school of thought says that stronger rules and metal detectors are the answer. Another argues the way to stop bullying is to teach kids to be tougher and therefore they can resist bullies. What do you think?

We believe that for any solution involving students then student leaders must be involved in creating the solution

It's time!



All across the US and especially here in New England, the realities of the budget cuts will devastate school programs for the coming year -- those are the facts. Pretending or praying that the politicians will face their responsibilities is not sensible. For most politicians it is all about talking the talk -- that is sounding good with just the right "sound bite" like "leave no child behind, or "making schools more accountable."

Whatever ...

School after school next year will be without many teachers. School after school next year will settle for "good enough." Already hundreds are planning to eliminate or cut back activities. These draconian measures are seen as the only means of solving the various budget shortfalls.

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More than ever, student leaders need SLTP. Why? Well, the positivity, the emersion in a "can do" atmosphere. the companionship and fellowship certainly come to mind as reasons. Knowing you are not alone. Knowing that others are facing the reality and NOT burying their head in the sand is vital, and these lessons can be carried back to their communities.

Let's not forget the skill training -- clubs and activities are VITAL to schools and communities - especially in negative times. Strong student leadership can provide activism and hope. We teach the skills to run meaningful programs.

The atmosphere in schools where cuts have taken place often turns very sour. In that environment vicious bullying often fills the gap. Awareness is the only answer.

But you an I know that most of the reasons that students need SLTP are for the kids themselves. SLTP provides enrichment and fulfillment in the most fun filled way possible. You know that is true, so do I.

Sure it enhances and provides a very important line on a resume. Sure it provides students with an edge for college acceptance -- less than one per cent of the student population attends a leadership program. And those points are seriously important for parents and teachers to hear -- but the most important reason is the one you can provide -- you have been a witness to the difference it makes -- you have experienced it.

Please help us to recruit. Help us to do whatever it takes to spread the word. If you can, visit neighboring high schools or write letters, or make phone calls. Call family members, call advisers, call coaches. Talk to your friends. Talk with anyone who can help, ask scout leaders, ask youth ministers, ask the town librarian. Spread the word.

With a full court press we can make a difference for a lot of kids. We can change the world. Please help us. As Farley said, "It is up to us to make a difference. It is up to us to care."

Who should attend SLTP?



So, who should attend a program like this ?

Our answer is based on just one qualification.

We believe SLTP is for *any student or adviser* who is interested in learning how to make a difference ! **Student leadership does not require a title.** Nor is it defined through membership in certain activities. Nor is it defined by popularity. To that end, we do not believe that ANY one activity is THE most important activity in a school. Each activity helps to create the fabric of belonging, and therefore

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ALL of the activities are THE most important.

The majority of students who attend SLTP are very involved in their school and in their community. All are seeking to learn how TO DO more.

The willingness to learn is vital. So is the understanding that leadership is about DOING. Leaders are defined by what they do - - not by the titles they hold or by the organizations they belong to.

The only program requirements that exist, are based on experience.

- *Delegates to the LTC's* - must be secondary students (junior high or high school).
- *Delegates to the ALC's* - must have completed the first level.
- *Delegates to the TLC* - must be graduates of both LTC & ALC.
- *Delegates to the Adviser Program* - must be practicing or aspiring coaches or advisers.
- *Delegates to the OTS* - must be officers and /or advisers and have **at least one** other team member in attendance.

What each participant should "bring"

- *a desire to make a difference*
- *a willingness to learn*
- *enthusiasm*
- *an acceptance of growth*
- *a desire to master change*
- *a dream to work on*

What SLTP will provide

- *an atmosphere of unconditional acceptance*
- *significant learnings and understandings*
- *the opportunity to practice what we teach*
- *encouragement and support*

The 2004 SLTP Conference Schedule

at

Nichols College in Dudley, MA

Where leaders learn HOW to make a difference!

- **Leadership Training Conferences (4)** July 6 - 10; July 13 - 17; July 27 - 31; Aug 3 - 7
- **Advanced Leadership Conferences (3)** July 14 - 17; July 28 - 31; Aug 4 - 7
- **The Leadership Center** - - July 7 - 10
- **Officer Training Seminar** - - July 1 - 2
- **Adviser Certification** - - July 28 - 31
- **The ReEnergizer Conference** - Saturday, November 27

visit

www.sltp.info