

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

Linkage

Alumni & Staff Newsletter

September/October, 2004

From where I sit



Welcome back to school, and to the September issue of Linkage. We are excited to begin a new year of

publication, and SLTP's 16th year serving student leaders!

As always, please send along your thoughts and experiences.

Wishing you the best, wherever you are,

Dr. Jim Fitzgerald
Founder and Director
SLTP

PS: If you received this free newsletter directly from us, you are already on our subscriber list. If a friend forwarded it to you, you can easily subscribe by sending your email address to SLTPlead@aol.com.

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Mix it Up Day November 16



Last fall, more than 200,000 students accepted the challenge to begin

bridging social boundaries in their schools. On Mix It Up at Lunch Day 2003, they stepped out of their comfort zones and sat somewhere new, with someone new. 27 of SLTP's member schools participated in this event. A few were unable to schedule their participation on the same day as the National effort, but were able to schedule and stage a "Mix it up" event at their school.

On November 16, Mix It Up at Lunch Day 2004, students like you are going to stir things up in their school cafeterias – again.

Will you accept the challenge?

How to Mix it Up

At many schools around the country, the cafeteria at lunchtime is a social map of the whole school. It's a map with many, many boundaries. These boundaries exist for many reasons — habit, friendship, status, fear, prejudice. The simple space of a cafeteria table is, for many of us, a comfort zone where we can be ourselves with those who know us best. The simple fact is that most people sit where "they always sit."

For others, the lunchroom with all its boundaries is a world with its own pressures — a world of familiar strangers and rigid expectations. And for more than a few — the cafeteria is a site where humiliation and ostracism are the norm.

But, on November 18, students across the country are going to stir things up in their school cafeterias. And

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you can do it, too. Here are some ideas to help you Mix It Up at Lunch.

1. Reach out

All it takes is one person venturing outside the comfort zone to stir things up, but on November 18, 2004, why not have a whole crowd sitting someplace new?

Ask your friends to join in. Pitch the idea to the clubs, sports teams and other groups you belong to. Invite other clubs to participate. Get teachers and administrators on board. Publicize the event.

2. Plan

How are you going to "do the day?" Here are 5 ways to mix up lunchroom seating.

- Create a "calendar" out of 12 tables and sit by birth month or by Zodiac signs.
- Number several tables and draw your seat assignment from a hat.
- Draw colored candies out of a bag and sit with the matching tablecloth.
- Find a table where you don't know more than two people.
- Give each person a "ticket" that matches the color tag on a chair.

3. Act

The day has arrived. It's November 16th, and you're sitting at a new table staring at a bunch of people you don't know. What now? Here are 5 ideas to jump-start the conversation.

- What's the last CD you bought?
- Imagine you rule the world. What's the first law you'd make?
- What's the craziest thing you ever did in public?

- You're signing autographs. What are you famous for?
- You're the principal. What's the first class you drop -- and what class do you add?

For more information and materials visit: www.tolerance.org

The ReEnergizer Conference



In just over 75 days, the entire SLTP family, together with all of their friends will be coming together at Nichols College for the annual ReEnergizer Conference.

Last year, the ReE hosted over 600 participants from nine different states and over 90 schools. There were even two students from Viet Nam! The conference was louder than ever, and it featured workshop tracks for advisers, parents, collegians and student leaders.

On the Crew Photo CD there are copies of the REE Registration Form. And additional forms can be found on the ReE Home Page –

<http://www.sltp.info/ree>

The REE is scheduled for **Saturday November 27** at Nichols College and is sure to be the *loudest*, *funnest* and *learningest* conference to be held in New England this fall.

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The ReE comes at just the right time of the school year. First term is over and done. Traditionally the busiest term of the year for school activities is Second term and the ReE provides the necessary “booster shot” of motivation and positive energy to keep yourself and your organization on the right track.

Register early. Bring lots of friends – bring your whole student council and even the “cookie cupcake club. You should also bring lots of enthusiasm and bring ideas to share and questions to be answered.

Among the many activities and workshops planned for the conference there will be a “how to” session for those interested in submitting portfolios for the Service and Development Medals.

SLTP Student Elections

The annual Alumni Executive Board Elections will take place at the ReEnergizer Conference.

To be eligible for election the candidate must be a student in middle school, high school or in college (undergraduate only) and must be a graduate of OTS, LTC or ALC.

To place your name on the regional ballot, Alumni need to register by email.

Registrations should include:

Alumni Name—Conference attended/year (i.e., LTC2 / 2003);
School; Grade level; Town; address;
phone & email address

Election Registrations must be received by November 3.

Candidates will be contacted prior to the conference and will be expected to present a one minute speech at the ReE.

Each of the three established regions Region 1) Massachusetts; Region 2) Rhode Island; and Region 3) Connecticut — will elect three representatives to comprise Alumni Executive Board.

Expectations for the Regional Representatives—

- 1) to stage a regional differencemaker event prior to June 1, 2005.
- 2) to develop a means of communication between and among SLTP Member schools in their region to help alumni in their region.
- 4) to represent their region to the SLTP AB
- 5) to elect the SLTP Student Executive Officers

Activity Fair

At the ReEnergizer Conference there will be dozens of tables representing key groups and activities from all across New England. Our intent is to display the best activities, ideas, and projects so that we can all benefit.

All not-for-profit community service organizations are eligible for a free presentation table.

All member schools and alumni are encouraged to set up a presentation table. (the tables will all be judged by a special committee and camp scholarships will be awarded for the best ideas and best displays)

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Please help us. Consider setting up a table to display and explain your group's best project.

Is your group interested in a space at the Fair?

If so, please tap to Adam Travis at SLTPlead@aol.com

Photo CD's & Videos

In your manual and on the Crew CD you will find an order form for the Camp Video and Photo CD:

- the Camp video contains all of the laughter and excitement of Vaudeville and all of the warmth and spirit of Achievement Night.
- The Photo CD includes **both** of the slide shows featured in the Closing Ceremonies as well as all of the photos taken by the staff throughout the week – from Dorm Squad through closing circle. This summer the staff took over 6,000 pictures!!!

Place your order today.

Stop, look and listen



Connections, the SLTP theatrical troupe have agreed to take "**stop, look and listen**" on the road for a limited engagement. Last year, the play was presented at the Rhode Island Association of Student Council's Conference, Northbridge High, Coventry High, East Greenwich High and at the MassSTAR Citizenship Conference.

Several schools have expressed interest in hosting the play for a Friday

night special event in their auditoriums.

"**stop, look and listen**" is a highly interactive theatrical presentation which focuses on the reality of the social, emotional and physical bullying that exists in every high school.

The play is very powerful and very moving, perhaps because it was written for students by students. It is all too real, and there are no Disney-esque answers provided. Those answers can only be found the hard way – by leaders rolling up their sleeves and going to work. The play is intended to enhance awareness and provide the opportunity for real discussion.

The Administrative Board have developed a packet of materials for the attending schools which include suggested activities and discussions to help implement the message.

If your school would like to arrange to host one of these Connections presentations please contact Jim Fitzgerald via email --

SLTPlead@aol.com

The Earliest Bird Application Deadline is

October 30, 2004

On the Crew Photo CD is a very important form. It is the Earliest Bird Application to next summer's conferences. These applications offer CONSIDERABLE tuition reductions. Take advantage. Sign up for whichever conference you want – you will have until April 1 to change your mind without penalty.

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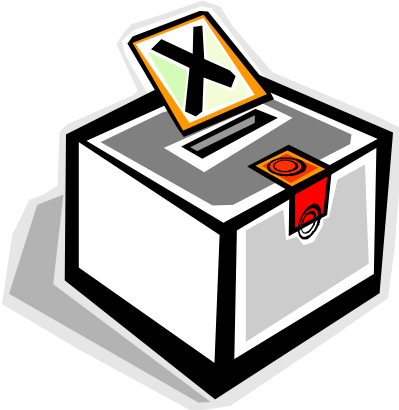
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Make Your Vote Count

(even if you can't vote)

by Adam Travis



Election day is fast approaching and the outcomes will effect all of us. Even if you are not old enough to vote, that doesn't mean you can't be a major part of the decisions happening on November 2. Every election can have a major impact on students, and there is no reason for student leaders to sit back and wait to hear the outcome. Do you know where the candidates stand on education reform, standardized testing, funding for public education, or any other issues that affect students?

Writing letters to our elected officials is important, but if you want to have more impact, you can also join their cause. Youth volunteers make up a critical part of almost all campaigns. It is also important to remember that while the presidential race is getting all the headlines, there are lots of important state and local campaigns going on at the same time. So how can you get involved? Read on, and there's a list of links at the end.

Politics can be a touchy subject, but I think we can all agree that getting

people to register and vote is a critical part of the democratic process. You can help by holding a voter registration drive in your school or community. Many 18 year olds don't vote because they don't know how to register or where to vote. You can get all the information and forms by contacting your city or town's Election Commission or City/Town Clerks Office. Lots of help is available from Freedom's Answer, a non-partisan, non-profit group where students nationwide work to increase voter turnout. In addition to voter registration drives, you can help publicize elections, help remind people to vote on the day of the election, help people find their polling place, and help people to get absentee ballots.

On the local level, campaigns are always looking for volunteers to do everything from making phone calls, to holding signs, to stuffing envelopes, to knocking on doors. You can find out how to get involved by visiting the candidates web site or asking anyone who is working on the campaign. Some candidates will even have a campaign office set up. On national, state, and local campaigns there is always a need for volunteers in your area.

Already feel like you identify with a major political party? You can start a young Democrats, Republicans, Greens, or other party club in your school. And most parties have state and national organizations geared at young people. But regardless of your partisan preferences, it is crucial that you educate yourself about the issues and candidates. By staying informed, you can be an

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active participant in the democratic process. When you know the facts, you can also educate others on important issues and where the candidates stand.

And if you need a little inspiration that people of all ages should participate, read about this candidate, Doris “Granny D” Haddock. She’s 94 years old and she’s running for United States Senate in New Hampshire. When she was 90 years old she walked 3,200 miles across the country to promote campaign finance reform. She states on her website, “It is never too late, and you are never too old.” I don’t think she would accept the excuse that anyone is to young either.

Good luck in all of your election activities.

Election Activity Resources

Here are some resources that can help:

Freedom’s Answer – high school students helping to get out the vote:
<http://www.freedomanswer.net/>

Voter Registration and Help Finding Polling Places or Absentee Ballots:
<http://www.DeclareYourself.com/>

United States Election Assistance Commission:
<http://www.eac.gov/>

Voter Registration and Candidate Information from Capitol Advantage:
<https://ssl.capwiz.com/congressorg/e4/nvra/>

Young Democrats of America:
<http://www.yda.org/>

Young Republican National Federation (does not have a web site, but can be contacted here):
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE Suite 302
Washington DC 20003

Campus Greens:
<http://www.campusgreens.org/>

MTV Choose or Lose Campaign:
<http://www.mtv.com/chooseorlose/>

Doris “Granny D” Haddock for Senate:
<http://www.grannyd.com/>

Dates to remember

October 10
Earliest Bird Applications Due

November 3
SLTP Election Registration

November 16
Mix it Up Day

November 27
The ReEnergizer Conference