

True Points

a newsletter for the parents of student leaders

November, 2007

Volume 4, Issue 2

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From where I sit By Dr. Jim Fitzgerald, SLTP Director



There are hundreds of stories about successful “leaders” available on line, at the library and even on TV. Last night 60 Minutes profiled a “leader” whose major skill appeared to be spending money on himself lavishly. Unfortunately the public perception of leadership is entwined with wealth and power. I call most of the examples put forth by the media as “unfinished” leaders.

One of my favorite unfinished leaders in the United States is Steve Jobs of Apple, Inc. His successes have been marked by determination, intensity and initiative. Like the legendary Phoenix, he and Apple have risen from the ashes more than once. Multiple times he and Apple have been written off by experts. Yet he and Apple

have endured. Today about twenty five percent of the personal computer market uses an Apple computer.

Jobs is convinced that his life is all about changing the world (sounds like you and me and the rest of the SLTP staff). To my knowledge Jobs has not yet noticed SLTP, but he has several qualities we as budding differencemakers can pattern or role model.

One of his best lines is a challenge to the Apple employees: “Let’s make a dent in the world!”

In saying that he makes it clear that he understands a deep human truth – all people of all generations at the deepest level of their hearts want to make a difference with their lives. So he urges his fellow workers to make a difference by contributing their talents to a product

that makes a difference.

We too are urged to contribute our talents in an effort to change the world. And you know what? SLTP is meant to make an everlasting “dent” as well. Long after this summer, if we have fulfilled our mission, we will have done just that – we will have enabled our students to make a dent.

I like that phrase. Not in the defiant let’s kick the hell out of the system sort of way, but rather in the let’s shake things up if we can. I see it as making an impact. I see it as creating action.

Jobs sees his dent as coming from the things he makes.

We see our dent as coming from the students we empower.

We are both hoping to unleash the power of

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It is not too late: The ReEnergizer Conference

In just over 2 weeks, the entire SLTP family, will descend on peaceful, sleepy little Dudley for the most raucous event on our schedule—the ReEnergizer Conference.

Last year, the ReE hosted over 500 participants from nine

different states and over 90 schools. The conference was louder than ever, and it featured workshop tracks for advisers, parents, collegians and student leaders.

We should have a really huge crowd at the REE this year. At Nich-

ols we will have access to the entire campus, so our only limitations will be the number of people who can be accommodated at lunch. We are currently planning two lunches so our registration limit is upwards

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Why leadership training at all?

Teens today face many interesting challenges. Whether the challenges of today are more difficult than the challenges of yesterday is the subject for editorials and sermons. What we do know is that kids today live in a fast paced world filled with extraordinary pressures, responsibilities and requirements.

Schools today offer more after school activities and organizations than ever before. Within the context of these activities, teens can find opportunities for greater personal growth than they can within the confines of the classroom. In student activities, teens can learn more about learning and life than they can anywhere else.

That's why colleges favor involved students. Yet, colleges are not simply looking for filled resumes. Colleges look for evi-

dence of meaningful activity and leadership.

Students leading students. Students working cooperatively on meaningful projects. Students solving real problems and dealing with real issues — that is what STUDENT leadership is all about. Leadership is a set of skills that must be learned. There is no such thing as a “born leader.” Yes, there are traits and qualities, such as being an extrovert, that are inherited, but applying those traits to lead requires skill.

Listening is a skill. Communicating is a skill. Problem solving is a skill (actually a set of skills). Time management is a skill. Goal setting is a skill. The list goes on.

And then there are the qualities of leadership. These too can be learned. Commitment, determination, empathy . . . The qualities can not be learned

through preaching—teaching works though.

What does it take to be a leader? It takes the desire to make a difference. That begins as the desire to belong to something meaningful. Desire alone won't do it. In the end to lead takes skill.

Teens live in a very real world. One that includes all sorts of scary issues. Student leadership is the answer and SLTP is the best place to begin.

From where I sit continued from page 1

change.

Has Jobs made a dent?

I don't think we should do as the media do and measure it by money. I think we should measure it by people. Talk to any Apple computer owner, and the great majority will gush with enthusiasm about their machine.

Do we make a dent?

Using the same standard, talk to any SLTP graduates, and the great majority will gush with enthusiasm about their experience. In a way, we get to make multiple dents. First we make a difference (dent) for the students who attend our conferences. Then those students apply what they learned making differences (dents) in the lives of the students and people in their schools

and communities.

There are a few other lessons we can take from Steve Jobs. We can learn from his unrelenting belief in Apple. We can learn from his pride in what his company does. We can learn from his continuous invitation to outsiders to join him.

While I am not a fan of his product, (I am not an Apple user) I am a fan of his passion. And please be mindful that there are a ton of ways he does not exhibit leadership, which is why I categorized him as “unfinished.”

For us, I put forth a challenge to make a dent in the world. The ReE is our first great opportunity to do so this year, isn't it? Our denting begins with each delegate we enroll. Our denting will con-

tinue by preparing our lessons well, and our denting will be polished off through working our plan as professionally as possible.

So let's get denting!

Help SLTP and help yourself too *by Krissy Butler*

Exciting raffle opportunity!
Help SLTP raise \$, and help yourself
(or someone you know) pass an exam!

Kaplan, the world leader in test prep, recently agreed to donate a course for SLTP to raffle as a fundraiser! This course is good for ANY of the test prep courses that Kaplan offers. That's right, we said ANY! Kaplan offers preparation courses ranging from the SAT (a \$900 value) to the MCAT (a \$1650 value).

Tickets are \$10 each and the winner will be announced at the Re-Energizer Conference on November 25, 2006. You can purchase a raffle ticket from a current SLTP staffer, or you can purchase your ticket at the ReE. Don't be

left out, this is an incredible opportunity!

About Kaplan: With nearly 70 years of experience, Kaplan is the world leader in test prep and has helped more than 3 million students prepare to take the tests necessary to achieve their education and career goals. Kaplan offers complete preparation for entrance exams for secondary school, college, graduate school as well as English language and professional licensing exams.

Course examples
College admissions: PSAT, ACT and SAT
Graduate school: DAT, GMAT, GRE, LSAT and MCAT

English language: TOEFL, TOEIC, GMAT, GRE and SAT preparation for non-native English speakers
Professional Licensing exams
Professional Certification & Designation exams

For more information, please contact Krissy Butler
(krissy@sltp.info).

Financial Aid for College

As soon as your teenager is ready to apply to college, it's time to start financial aid planning. But this isn't simply a matter of filling out forms and hoping you get a good response from financial aid officers.

These tips from the U.S. News and World Report may help you to get your future scholar a better deal:

- ◆ Make an appointment. Arrange a time for you and your teenager to discuss your application with a financial aid officer, either in person or by phone.
- ◆ Do your homework. Make sure you and your teenager have solid needs-based or merit-based evidence to support your case for a more generous award.
- ◆ Review the forms. Keep financial aid officers aware of updates or omissions in your family's finances.
- ◆ Cooperate. If your teenager has offers from competing colleges, make this known, without demanding that one college match another.
- ◆ Find other decision-makers. Communicate with the admissions office—they often can negotiate merits-based deals or keep track of openings when other applicants turn down offers.
- ◆ Remember the financial aid offer is just that an offer. Be a shopper.

Get involved –join us!

Join us. Help SLTP to grow and thrive. Become part of the action. We need help getting the word out. What can you do? Here are some direct action suggestions:

1. Join the Presentation Teams at SLTP information tables at various conferences
2. Join the Welcome Wagon team for our summer conferences to meet and greet the parents dropping off their kids.
3. Join the Facilitation Teams for one or all of the Parent Orientation Programs at the closing of this summer's conferences.
4. Join the Fundraising Teams to seek out in-kind donations from local businesses.
5. Join the Phone Calling Teams to call schools and secure information.
6. Join the Recruiting Teams to present to parent groups.
7. Join the Connections theatrical troupe to present or help stage on of our traveling productions.
8. Apply to join our staff.

An on line Rosetta Stone

411 information
5 wait a few minutes to speak, a parent is in the room
55 coast is clear, we can talk about anything
ADIH another day in hell
AFK away from keyboard
A/S/L age/sex/location
B/F boyfriend
B4 before
B4N bye for now
BAK back at keyboard
BF best friend, or boyfriend
BFD big f_____ deal
BM&Y between you and me
BOHICA bend over, here it comes again
BR bathroom
BTDT been there done that
CTN can't talk now
CUL see you later
CWYL chat with you later
D/L download
EMA e-mail address
ESAD eat s_____ and die
F2F face to face
FOAD f_____ off and die
FOMCL falling off my chair laughing
FITB fill in the blank
FUBAR f_____ up beyond all recognition
FYEO for your eyes only
G/F girlfriend
G2G got to go
G2R got to run
GOI get over it
GYPO get your pants off

H4U hot for you
HOAS hold on a second
IG2R I got to run
ILU I love you
IPN I'm posting naked
JAC just a sec
KMA kiss my a____
KOTC kiss on the cheek
KOTL kiss on the lips
L8R later
LDR long distance relationship
LMAO laughing my a__ off
M8 mate
MILF mother I'd love to f____
MorF male or female?
MoS mother over shoulder
MOSS member of same sex
MOTOS member of the opposite sex
NIFOC nude in front of the computer
OLL online love
OMW on my way
OOH out of here
P911 my parents are coming!
PA parent alert
PAL parents are listening
PANB parents are nearby
PHAT pretty hot and tempting
PM private message
POP parent is on prowl, can't speak freely
POS parent over shoulder
POSSLQ person of opposite sex sharing living quarters
PRW people/parents are watching
SOB stressed out bigtime
SorG straight or gay?

SOS sibling over shoulder, watch what you say
STM spank the monkey (masturbate)
STFU shut the f_____ up
TARFU things are really fouled up
TDTM talk dirty to me
TLF true love forever
TPTB the powers that be
UV unpleasant visual
WAYF where are you from?
WIIFM what's in it for me?
WOMBAT waste of money, brains and time
WTF what the f_____?
WTGP want to go private?
WUF? Where are you from?
WWYC write when you can

Survive and Thrive

It's often the little things that start wearing on families: time constraints, long commutes, daily chores. Does your family have the resilience to withstand the tension? Use these "traits of resilient families" from Family Life Specialist Ben Silliman to help develop a healthy, supportive environment.

Commitment—Encourage family members to be diligent in keeping their promises to each other.

Cohesion—Stick together but respect each other's individuality.

Adaptability—Work flexibility into your family rules and traditions.

Communication—Speak openly and listen with care.

Spirituality—Always act from your faith, and encourage other family members to do so.

Connectedness—Keep in touch with extended family and friends, and spend time in community activities.

Time—Set aside daily family time.

Efficacy—Focus on your family's achievements with pride and optimism, and support each other's explorations and accomplishments.

The ReEnergizer Continued from page 1

from 800. Due to the size crowd we are expecting, our advice is to register early.

On the Crew Photo CD there are copies of the REE Registration Form. And additional forms can be found on our website—www.sltp.info — those forms are repeated in this newsletter. As we go to press we already have 100 registrations and it is not yet October!

The REE is scheduled for **Saturday, November 24** at Nichols College and is sure to be the *loudest, funnest* and *learningest* conference to be held in New England this fall.

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 your sons & daughters and

their organization on the right track.

Register ASAP. Bring your principal and bring the advisers—there will be a special session for them.

Please keep in mind, that we have a special parent’s program with workshops geared just for you.

Due to the size of the crowd – we will begin and end the program at the athletic center in the big gym. Plan to park in that parking lot. There is lots of room there for the buses! Drive to the Remillard dorm turn left and follow the noise and signs to the gym parking area.

As you know the ReE is a true learning experience.

Among the many other activities and planned for the conference there will be: an Activity Fair, a special theatrical presentation (bring your

administration, advisers); Community Leader recognition, the Kaplan Raffle, and much, much more.

The program will begin early (by 9:00). Don’t miss a minute.

It is vital to note your email address on the Registration Form — we will contact delegates via email regarding conference news and updates. **No one will be admitted who has not pre-registered.**

Remember: Formal registration will take place in the Gym Lobby at Nichols.

The conference will run from 9–3 on Saturday, November 24.

2008 SLTP Conferences

Where leaders learn HOW to make a difference!

- **The ReEnergizer Conference**
November 24
- **InterLead Leadership Forum**
April 27
- **The Start Conference**
June 8 & 9
- **Officer Training Seminar**
July 1 - 2
- **Leadership Training Conferences (4)**
July 8 - 12; July 15 - 19;
July 22 - 26; July 29 - Aug 2
- **Advanced Leadership Conferences (4)**
July 9 - 12; July 16 - 19;
July 23 - 26; July 30 - Aug 2
- **The Leadership Center**
July 9 - 12

We’re on the Web!
www.sltp.info
Information for Parents, Teachers, Students, Administrators Applications *

Directions to Nichols College for the ReE

Directions to Nichols College

Nichols College is located in Dudley, Massachusetts 20 minutes south of Worcester.

From the North:

Take I-290 to Auburn, where I-290 becomes I-395 South*. Follow to Exit 4B (Sutton Rd./Oxford Center). Turn right off ramp and stay in the right lane. Go straight through light at Oxford Center (Cumberland Farms on right). Follow straight past light for 0.8 miles and take a left onto Dudley Rd. (produce stand on right). Follow this road for 3.7 miles until you come to a fork (you will see water on the right and left). Bear right at the fork and continue for 2 miles through two stop signs, then straight onto the Nichols campus.

From the East & West:

Take the Mass Pike to Exit 10 in Auburn and get on 395 South. Follow directions from above*.

From the South:

Take I-395 North to Exit 2, (Webster) and turn left off ramp. Go straight through the first set of traffic lights. Follow Route 12 South (Route 12 will turn left through Webster Center). Continue through Webster Center. After the railroad tracks, continue straight into Dudley on Route 197 (Route 12 will turn left – do not turn left; stay straight). Turn right at Cumberland Farms onto Airport Rd. Follow Airport Rd. to the Webster-Dudley Golf Course. Bear right and take the first left onto Center Rd.

Proceed to Remillard Dormitory (last building on the left) turn into driveway behind the

Dormitory, follow around until you reach the Athletic Center.

Newsletter Submissions



SLTP welcomes contributions to our newsletters from our alumni and friends.

Articles should be no longer than 200 words. Each article submitted for publication must address a topic of interest to student leadership. The article must include a

bio of the author - name; address; email address, phone; school; year in school; & SLTP graduation year.

Opinions must be clearly identifies as those of the author.

We reserve the right to edit for length, clarity and style. We also reserve the right not to publish articles which do not meet the criteria

established in our guidelines.

For additional information, please refer to the guidelines posted on sltp.info

Recycling



At the ReEnergizer we will once again be collecting toner cartridges from copiers and printers.

SLTP has signed up to participate with a national organization. They take care of postage,

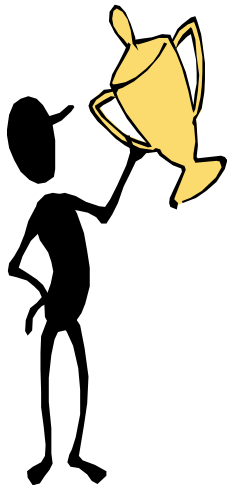
all we have to do is collect the cartridges and seal the box. Upon receipt of the box, the items are assessed for value and a check is cut to SLTP.

We did this at the ReE last year and the result was a 50 dollar contribution to SLTP.

Which is a real bonus for cleaning up the environment.

SO, if your school, home office or business has empty cartridges – don't just chuck them in the trash, bring them along to the ReE.

Recognizing Community Leaders



All across New England in every community there are ardent advocates for youth whose support and advocacy is not due to any self interest. Since 1993, The Student Leadership Training Program

through its staff and graduates have sought to recognize the contributions of these special community leaders. Without the support of these champions, the goals of community involvement and community service that most student activity programs set would be unattainable.

The idea behind this award program is simple. SLTP hopes to assist local student leaders in their efforts to recognize community support. Essentially this award is about catching people doing things right.

The criteria for this award must vary from school to school, as each school's circum-

stances are different. However, the effective criterion must not be changed. This award is intended for community leaders who are ACTIVELY committed to making a difference for youth. SLTP suggests that : No more than ONE award be given annually to any individual. All Alumni and Staff of the Student Leadership Training Program are eligible to nominate individuals for the awards.

To be effective this program must be implemented with the full cooperation and involvement of the school administration. Involve everyone in the school that is actively involved in the community.

Publicity is vital. Remember praise is much more effective as a form of recognition when it is public.

Yet, this recognition is much more than a certificate and a press release. This recognition offers an opportunity to celebrate and enrich school support. If possible, host an assembly or reception. Provide gifts and/or flowers. Create an event.

Please allow SLTP to

help you honor your community champions. To nominate a community leader, please submit: their name; a brief profile; and a brief explanation of the reasons for the nomination. Send that to Stacey Hurd: stacey@sltp.info

SLTP will publish all of the award winners names and profiles on a special website and on the pages of our newsletter. There are two opportunities to celebrate your community Champions. The first will be at the ReE on November 26. Additional Champions will be feted in the spring at the InterLead.

The Deadline for submitting names and profiles for recognition at the ReEnergizer Conference is November 15, 2007.

Champions will receive a packet which contains their certificates, press release information and special scholarships which will be created in their name.

Parent and Adviser Programs at the ReE

There will be a special presentation for parents, advisers and principals at the ReEnergizer Conference. Our own Dr. Jim Fitzgerald will present "Helping teens to help teens who are hurting."

Today's student leaders face very real challenges and need real support systems to be able to "take back their schools." Jim will share what he has learned traveling around the country from successful practitioners of student based activity programs.

We offer these session not only because many advisers, principals and parents do the driving to get our students to the ReE, but we offer them because we want to do more to enable our student leaders to develop as much as possible.

The aim of the special workshops for advisers and principals is simple. We hope to inform and encourage every principal and adviser to maximize the development of their student leadership. Additionally there

are special workshops for parents that are geared to their needs as the parents of student leaders.

We will also provide both groups a "peek behind the curtain," which will enable them to better understand the environment we create at SLTP and how they might be best able to empower their student leaders.

Please encourage your principal and adviser to attend (and to drive). We think you will be glad that they did.

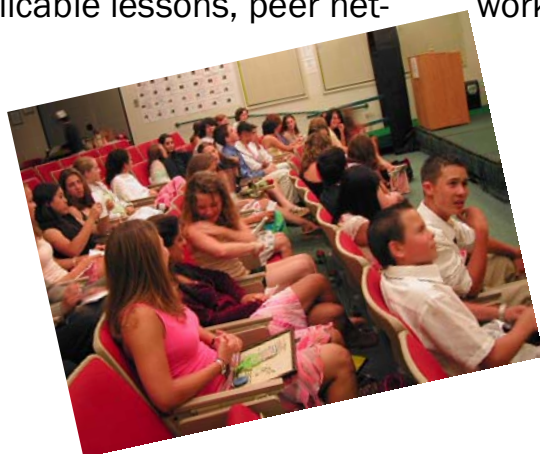
**Interested in learning how to make a difference?
Need to revitalize your leadership skills?**

Join us on **November 24th** at
The Student Leadership Training Program's

ReEnergizer

conference

where? Nichols College – Dudley, Mass.
when? November 25th, 8:45am-3pm
what? leadership skillshops, theatrical
presentation, keynote speaker,
collegiate track, fun, practical and
applicable lessons, peer net- working



Registration: only \$15!
(includes materials and lunch)

For more information
Visit: www.SLTP.info/REE

Conference Highlights:

*Idea sharing ~ Skill building ~ Critical concerns
Essential Skill training ~ Special Program ~ Student Leader of the Year Nominations
DifferenceMakers ~ scholarship drawings ~ Celebration of the Champions for Youth Awards
"Connections" theatrical presentation ~ Large Activity Fair ~ Keynote speaker
Parent program ~ Teacher Program ~ Collegiate Program
and much much more ...*

www.sltp.info

