

CHARACTER



Worth and Potential

May 2006

Because of your value your potential is limitless.

“To do good things in the world, first you must know who you are and what gives meaning in your life.”

—Paula P. Brownell

Potential, Worth & Macramé

Potential, worth and macramé. Macramé? What does macramé have to do with potential and worth? Macramé was a popular craft in the 1970s. It was the art of knot tying, usually with twine, jute or other coarse rope. The knots could be turned into wall hangings, hanging plant holders, and other groovy objects. As a 5th Grade student at Foothill Elementary School in Saratoga, California, I excelled at macramé. I had learned macramé the previous summer at Summer School.

Such skill came in handy when we were asked by our 5th grade teacher to share a talent with the class. On our class Talent Day there were pink tutus, tall karate trophies, squeaky violins, and shiny tap shoes. Then there was me with my brown ball of twine. I timidly showed the class a series of knots and the cool patterns that form. I felt silly showing this goofy “talent” of macramé. After school that day, my teacher asked me to stay after. I was very shy and never wanted to be in trouble so I was worried about what I had done. To my surprise, my teacher told me that she had just bought a new home and wanted me to make a large, macramé hanging plant holder for her patio. She also wanted to pay me for making it. She said she trusted me to come up with the design.

It was a hard task for me but with my mother’s help I completed an impressive hanging plant holder for my teacher. She came to my house to pick it up and went on with compliments and wonder at the sight of the plant holder. When she asked

me what I needed for payment, I had no idea. She helped me understand the cost of materials and that my time had a price, too. We agreed on a price, she paid me and I was beaming. Looking back, I see that my teacher was letting me know she could see potential and worth in a shy, apprehensive 5th grader. Her confidence in my ability stayed with me. My 5th Grade year was one of my best years both academically and socially as I knew that my teacher believed in me. She could have bought a plant holder at a store and paid less money; instead, she employed me, which was a huge boost to a timid gradeschooler.

As parents, one of the biggest challenges is giving children tasks and opportunities that let them both struggle and succeed. But it is those experiences that allow our children to feel their worth and their potential. The feeling of accomplishment translates into the feeling of being capable and that allows us to pursue our potential... or, to transform a brown, ball of twine into a useful, gratifying creation. Macramé forever!

Renee Buchanan Tribe

Lindon Resident
 Mother of Five
 Non-camper
 2000-2003 Lindon Days Parade Coordinator
 2004 Lindon Days Chairman
 2005-06 Timpanogos Academy PTO President...

“Oft-times nothing profits more Than self-esteem, grounded on just and right Well-manag’d.”
 --John Milton

“I know of no more encouraging fact than the unquestionable ability of man to elevate his life by conscious endeavor.”
 --Henry David Thoreau

“Success is 99% perspiration.”

“I think I can.”
 --The Little Engine that Could

Book List

Mike Mulligan and his Steam Shovel

by Virginia Lee Burton

The Very Hungry Caterpillar

by Eric Carle

Who Wants Arthur?

by Amanda Graham

The Art Lesson

by Tomie de Paola



Family Activities

-Golda Meir was born May 3, 1898 in Kiev. Because of economic conditions, her family immigrated to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She graduated from Milwaukee Teachers College and taught school. Involved in the Zionist movement, she later moved to Palestine and became one of the founders of Israel. At age 71, she became Israel's Prime Minister. She was the world's second female Prime Minister. *Discuss how each person has the potential for accomplishment and success no matter how humble their beginnings.*

-Pop some popcorn. Talk about the corn kernel and how its potential is achieved through heat. Plant a garden, and talk about the number of seeds just one tomato seed produces. Achieving one's potential involves work and energy.

-Achieving one's potential involves making the best use of opportunities. Fill a jar with wooden blocks. (These are the large projects that must be completed.) The jar looks full, yet dried lima beans, then rice may be added filling in small time gaps until life is truly full and the most of all opportunities have been made.

-Aesop tells of a donkey that wanted to chirp like a grasshopper. He decided to only eat the food of grasshoppers and be like them in every way. After a few days of his very sparse diet, he was so weak that he could not even bray. Everyone's potential is different. To be of worth, one does not need to be the same as someone else.

Kid's Corner

A great local leader, Gordon B. Hinckley, has said this about the worth and potential of all youth:

"My dear young friends, you are the strength of the present, the hope of the future. You are the sum of all the generations that have gone before. You are not alone in this world-there are hundreds of thousands of you. You live in many lands. You speak various languages. Every one of you has great potential within you. I think of the future with all of its wonderful possibilities. I wonder what will happen to you in the next 10, 20 years. Where will you be? What will you be doing? That will depend on the choices you make, some of which may seem unimportant at the time but which will have tremendous consequences. You have the potential to become anything to which you set your mind. Put forth great effort and use your best talents to make your way to the most wonderful future of which you are capable."

Julie Wooten
Pleasant Grove High School

We, at Character Connection would like to focus on helping parents access character materials by using the web site located at www.lindoncharacterconnection.com. If you are interested in receiving a monthly reminder of the character traits and access to resource materials, please e-mail your address to arlainea@isquaredinc.com

Character Connection is a not-for-profit organization encouraging the enhancement of character development in our community. We are accepting financial support. If you can help please send contributions to:
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