

CHARACTER



Respect

December 2006

**Respect: To earn it we must show it.
"Respect for others begins with respect for self"
-Unknown**

The dictionary definition of RESPECT is to honor, to revere, consider worthy of esteem, to be quiet-to meditate.

When I was growing up we were taught to respect our parents, our elders, our teachers, our flag, our country etc., but in this noisy, busy world of ours, this quiet word almost gets drowned out. As adults, it is our responsibility to see that it does not.

I would like to comment on many areas, but space permits only two: RESPECT for each other and for our community.

Recently my son-in-law told me that in the corporate world today there is a new buzz-word - micro-inequities - the way we treat each other that speaks of the inequities between us. (In my language it means small differences.) The business world has learned that when employees treat each other kindly and with RESPECT, performance is much better, production much higher. So, big companies spend big money to hold seminars and workshops to teach people how to treat each other kindly and accept each other's differences. It would work for all of us.

The story of "The Banker and the Beggar" illustrates my point.

A series of reverses had deprived him of his money, his possessions and finally self-respect. He turned despairingly to begging--extending an unsure hand with a few pencils in it at a subway station in midtown Manhattan. One day an elderly Banker dropped a quarter in the beggar's trembling hand, turned to go, then stopped and said: "I want to apologize for treating you as a beggar. You are a merchant, of course, and I came back to get the pencils I paid for. The astonished peddler handed the banker five pencils and thanked him with

wondering warmth. Many months later, the banker stopped into a small stationary store on the outer fringe of the Wall Street area. As he was about to leave after making a few minor purchases, the proprietor stopped him and said, "I'm sure you don't remember me, but I will never forget you. Some time ago I was a subway beggar with a handful of pencils and you treated me as a businessman--a merchant you called me. That remark gave me back my self-respect. From then on I really sold pencils-lots of them and good ones too. From the sidewalk business I saved my money, borrowed a bit more and then opened this little shop. I am going to make a go of it and all because of a few words from you."

(Taken from "Wellsprings of Wisdom" by Ralph L. Woods and C.R. Gibson)

Respect for Community - One place I find the word RESPECT alive and well is right here in Lindon.

This has been my home for forty-one years. I am proud to be a citizen of Lindon. As I drive up and down the streets, I see houses of all sizes, shapes and colors and they are nicely kept and the yards are beautiful and clean. I see neighbor helping neighbor and that tells me that the people here respect each other and their community. I think it is important that we respect and support the people who give of their time and talents to run our city government. And all those who volunteer to help make "This Little Bit Of Country" the best community in the world.

Lorna Walker
Lindon Resident

*"Rudeness is a weak man's imitation of strength."
-Eric Hoffer*

*"Life is not so short but that there is always time enough for courtesy."
-Ralph Waldo Emerson*

*"I MUST RESPECT THE OPINIONS OF OTHERS EVEN IF I DISAGREE WITH THEM."
-HERBERT HENRY LEHMAN*

Book List

Thank You Mr. Falker

by Patricia Polacco.

Chester's Way

by Kevin Henkes

The Rag Coat

by Lauren Mills



Family Activities

***Talk about flag courtesy. Watch for the courtesy shown to the flag in the New Year's parade.*

***There are many different holiday celebrations in December: Kwanzaa, Christmas, and often Hanukkah. Talk about ways to show respect for the many different people and religions that are part of our world, then make latkes, a special treat for Hanukkah.*

***On December 26th, Boxing Day is celebrated in Canada and Great Britain by bringing boxed gifts to public officials. As a family, talk about the importance of respecting public officials. Then, box up a gift for a local official, postman, etc.*

Kid's Corner

Respect means to value or care about other's rights. Sometimes this means to accept other's opinions or decisions even when we don't agree with them. When we have respect for others, we use good manners around them. We care for our environment and respect other's property. We show respect for the flag. We tolerate differences between us because we can see the good in each other and what we share in common as human beings.

During this campaign season, there has been much shown about the differences in our country's political parties. Respect would be to listen to one another, not attack people personally and to focus on the fact that we want the same thing—what's best for our country, even though we believe the way to go about it is different. Coming together to communicate and understand one another helps go a long way towards respecting one another's differences. It has been said that respect for others begins with respect for your self!

Stefanie Johansen, 16

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