

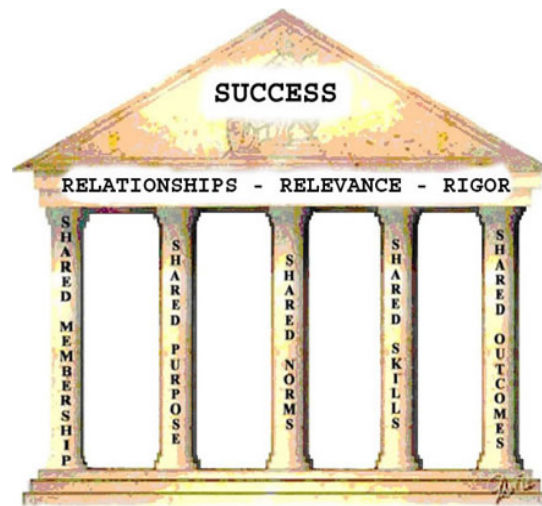
# I JUST CAN'T WAIT 'TIL TOMORROW...

## Learning Communities Newsletter



Edited by: Matt Duchow

Volume: 3      Number: 1



### THE RUBBER CHICKEN AWARD GOES TO:

Given for an outstanding LEARNING  
COMMUNITIES contribution

#### Becky Stanton

For being willing to work with all first through fifth graders on building successful learning communities concepts to hopefully get us all off to a great start this year.

Welcome back! I hope you are all ready for a great new year. As I said multiple times last year, we need to do something different to make things go more smoothly this year. I have a number of ideas. Of course one of them has to do with Learning Communities.

With a lot of help from the PE department the plan is to go through a sequence of activities with all students in grades 1 through 5 to develop trust, problem-solving skills and willingness to take academic risks. We also plan to develop and teach a standardized set of rules for playground games so that students have more positive options during recess.

**I will send out a newsletter each week to let you know what the kids are doing and provide you with some questions to ask them after PE to cement their learning and help them apply the learning in the classroom and on the playground.**

This week in PE we are beginning our sequence as all learning communities sequences should begin, with warm-up activities. We also will teach a playground activity that can be used at recess.

Learning Targets include: Learn PE ground rules (Digital Contract), names, playground game

### **Suggested questions that I would greatly appreciate you ask your class:**

- What is the "Digital Contract?"
- Do you think the "Digital Contract" works?
- How could the "Digital Contract" work in our classroom?
- What activity did you learn that you could do at recess?
- What did Mrs. Stanton and Mr. Duchow do to get your attention?
- How do you think that might work in our classroom?

**I need stories. Last year was tough. Not many funny stories to share.**

#### **YOUR ASSIGNMENT:**

**Come sit in the rocker or recliner in my office and tell me a funny kid story.**

JTTC = "Journey Toward the Caring Classroom"

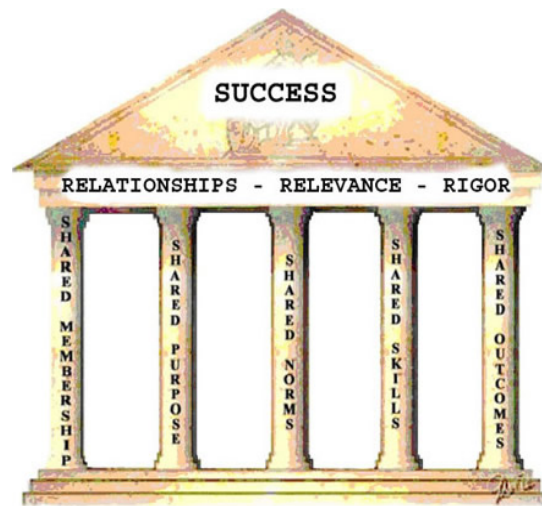
# I JUST CAN'T WAIT 'TIL TOMORROW...

## Learning Communities Newsletter



Edited by: Matt Duchow

Volume: 3      Number: 2



## THE RUBBER CHICKEN AWARD GOES TO:

Given for an outstanding LEARNING  
COMMUNITIES contribution

### Cheryl Daniels

For already having her class  
complete its full value  
contract/code of conduct during  
the first week of school

So the boss was gone all last week. I think she's gonna be sorry. While she was away Richard got a promotion. When they saw him, two kids from Hallinan's class said in unison, "Hi Computer Wizard!" I suspect he's expecting a raise...

**This week in PE** we are continuing with warm-up activities, getting to know each other better as well as reviewing our Digital Contract (Full Value Contract). In addition, the first and second graders will continue to learn the rules for Hop Scotch while students in grade three through five learn rope jumping with songs.

**Learning Targets** include: Learn good sportsmanship, get to know others better, learn hop scotch or rope jumping activities to use at recess.

### Suggested questions for discussion you may ask your class:

- What did you learn about someone else in class?
- Why is it important to know things about your classmates?
- How can knowing your classmates better help you in class?
- What is the "Digital Contract?"
- How do you play Hop Scotch?
- Do you think you will play Hop Scotch at recess?
- Did you learn some rope jumping activities you will try out at recess?

Listen carefully to their answers. You just might get a kick out of what you hear. I like to have kids hold each other accountable for their Full Value Contract. I was conducting a discussion with some 1st graders, and one was helping out the other with appropriate talk:

**Boy 1 out of the blue:** "Wedgie"

**Boy 2:** "Dude, no one wants to hear that"

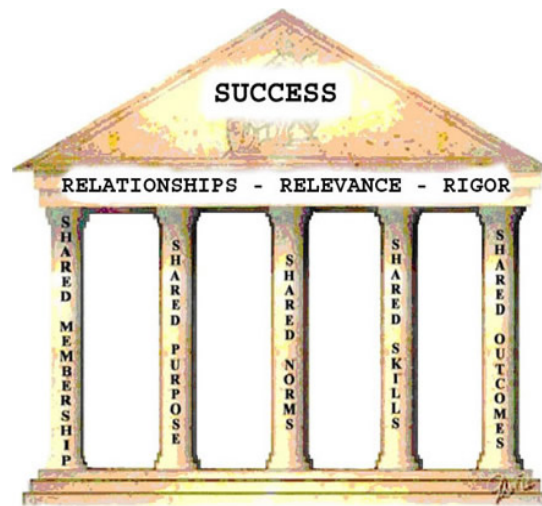
# I JUST CAN'T WAIT 'TIL TOMORROW...

## Learning Communities Newsletter



Edited by: Matt Duchow

Volume: 3      Number: 3



## THE RUBBER CHICKEN AWARD GOES TO:

Given for an outstanding LEARNING  
COMMUNITIES contribution

**Claire Hallinan**

For arranging to take her class on a field trip to Carrie Blake park for a day of community building.

I was recently reading a list of "Useful Phrases for Work." This one particularly hit home: **The fact that no one understands you doesn't mean you're an artist.** It's tough when reality hits you square in the face... Another one that jumped out was: **I'm not being rude. You're just insignificant.** This reminds me of what I started talking with the kids about his during PE last week. We have many students that do not make eye contact or any type of response when walking down the hall/sidewalk and are greeted by an adult. I am often completely ignored (I'm hoping that I'm not that insignificant around here) unless I stop the student and specifically invite them to respond. **I have begun to instruct the students during PE to be sure and respond with "Good Morning" or "Hi" when greeted by an adult.** I would appreciate it if you would reinforce this. I think Haller should be a friendly welcoming place.

**Building Successful Learning Communities Update:** This week in PE we are continuing with warm-up activities, getting to know each other better as well as reviewing our Digital Contract (Full Value Contract). In addition, students will be working on short and long rope jumping skills.

**Learning Targets include:** Learn good sportsmanship, get to know others better, learn short and long rope jumping.

### **Suggested questions you may ask your class:**

What is the "Digital Contract?"

How does the digital Contract help you in PE?

Could those same guidelines work at recess?

Could they work in the lunch room?

Did you learn some rope jumping activities you will try out at recess?

### **Story of the Week:**

Eric reported that his class was discussing writing topics. The emergency room was mentioned. One of his students was talking about how her aunt cut her finger really bad. She cut it so deep you could see her testicles. The room got quiet until another student asked if she meant tendons.

**PLEASE KEEP THOSE STORIES COMING!**

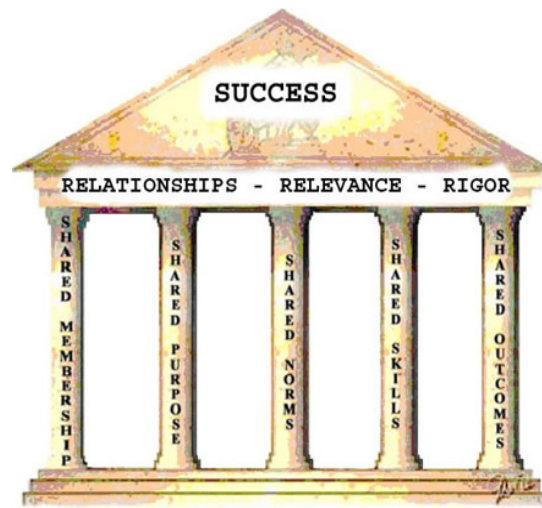
# I JUST CAN'T WAIT 'TIL TOMORROW...

## Learning Communities Newsletter



Edited by: Matt Duchow

Volume: 3      Number: 4



## THE RUBBER CHICKEN AWARD GOES TO:

**Sharle Osborne**

For having her class paint  
our new hop scotch marker  
blocks so that all students in  
our community can enjoy  
them on the playground.

Given for an outstanding LEARNING  
COMMUNITIES contribution

I don't often get to be the exception to the rule. Today, however, as I was talking with the entire fifth grade about behavior expectations at Haller I was telling them that there are no boyfriends and girlfriends at Haller. They are a distraction. Then one of them asked a question that made me realize I am the exception. My girlfriend is at Haller three days a week. Had to admit that to the kids. Actually Eric is another exception. Hopefully, as grown-ups, both of us are able to not let our girlfriends be a distraction at work. It is hard though.

### Building Successful Learning Communities Update:

This week in PE we are moving into trust building activities. In addition, students will continue to work on short and long rope jumping skills, foursquare, and introducing tetherball. I am told by some of the playground folks that the playground activities being taught are having a positive effect on our little community out there.

**Learning Targets include:** Learn good sportsmanship, learn how to show you are trustworthy, and learn rope jumping, four square or tetherball.

### Suggested questions you may ask your class:

How do you show someone you are trustworthy?

Why is important to trust people in your class?

What did you learn in PE that you will try out at recess?

### Story of the Week:

Speaking of boyfriends and girlfriends... last spring a Kindergartener was talking to Miss Grotzke about two first graders who are boyfriend and girlfriend." Jimmy is 7 and Malinda is 6. She is way too young to be dating a guy that old!"



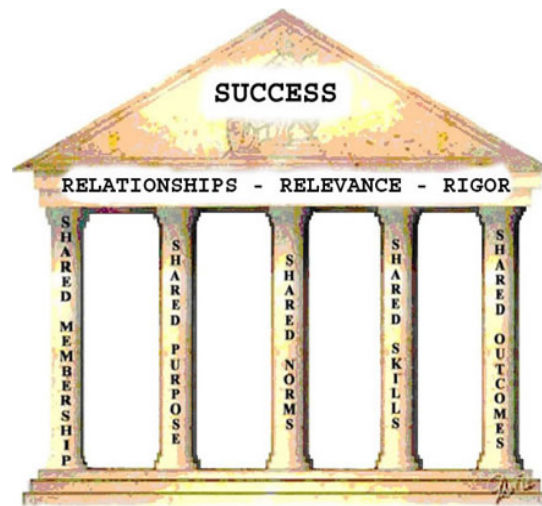
# I JUST CAN'T WAIT 'TIL TOMORROW...

## Learning Communities Newsletter



Edited by: Matt Duchow

Volume: 3    Number: 5



## THE RUBBER CHICKEN AWARD GOES TO:

**Lili Ring**

For stepping in and getting kids that normally do nothing at recess to participate in activities like four square.

Given for an outstanding LEARNING  
COMMUNITIES contribution

### Building Successful Learning Communities Update:

This week in PE we are continuing to work on trust building activities. In addition, students will continue to work on and/or review short and long rope jumping skills, foursquare, and tetherball.

### Learning Targets include:

Learn good sportsmanship, learn how to show you are trustworthy, and learn rope jumping, four square or tetherball.

### Suggested questions you may ask your class:

How do you show someone you are trustworthy?

Why is important to trust people in your class?

What did you learn in PE that you will try out at recess?

### Story of the Week:

Overheard as a third grade class was walking in line to PE last week:

**Boy #1:** Hey, pull your shorts up. We can see your underwear!

**Boy #2:** No you can't. I'm not wearing any!