DELIVERING THE MULTICULTURAL MESSAGE MONTHLY

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April is. . .
Child Abuse Prevention Month
Celebrate Diversity Month
Global Child Nutrition Month
Keep America Beautiful Month
Month of the Young Child

the drum

April 2011

Nebraska Department of Education

Office of Multicultural/Native American Education

www.education.ne.gov/mce

The complaints I hear from parents!

By Jeff Watkins, Wichita Public Schools,
Native American Program
Printed with permission

I get calls quite frequently asking me to intervene in situations where parents think their child has been unfairly disciplined or is being discriminated against because they are Native American. One of my duties is to work with parents to try and resolve issues they might have with their children's schools. Some of the issues brought to my attention are legitimate and warranted.

However, often parents are looking for a scapegoat to blame for their child's poor decisions. I want to go over some of the reasons parents call me.

Parent complaint #1

My child's teacher doesn't like them because they're Native American. They are failing and I want them moved to a different teacher.

What really happened? The student didn't turn any work in all semester and now is receiving a failing grade. When the student finally got around to doing his work, the teacher didn't stop everything they were doing to serve as this child's personal tutor. The student eventually turned in some of his work but it still wasn't complete or even done at an acceptable level. **Of course, the parent wants to blame the teacher for this.**

Parent complaint #2

My student got suspended from school and the other student didn't get suspended at all.

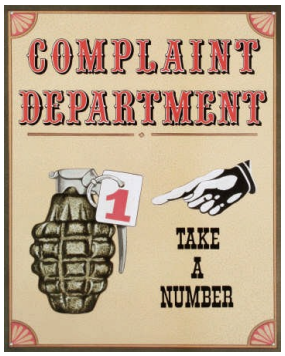
What really happened? The student who was suspended spit on another student. The allegation from the student who got suspended is that the other student laughed when they tripped on the playground so they spit on them for laughing.

Of course, the parent felt that spitting on another student was an acceptable response and laughing was not.

Parent complaint #3

My student is in the band and they had a concert one evening that they forgot to attend. The teacher subtracted points from their grade for missing. The teacher should have contacted us the day of the concert to remind us about it.

What really happened? When students



sign up for band they, along with their parents, sign a paper acknowledging they have to play in after-school concerts as part of their grade. They are also informed of the dates of the concerts at that time.

Of course, the parent expects the teacher to contact all 150 band members' parents reminding them about the concert, so they can remind their children. Expecting their high school student to take responsibility is unreasonable.

Parents need to adopt an attitude of partnership with their child's school and teachers. We must all work together to see that our students are educated properly and that begins at home. Personal responsibility is a characteristic that is being lost on our younger generations. It is up to parents, grandparents, and the community to make sure that these lessons of good character are kept alive.

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Awards of Excellence Program
NEBRASKA
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Honor your educator.
See page 9 for details.

Remember when were all equal and got along?

The Case of the Black Barbie Doll

Teaching Tolerance
H. Roy Kaplan
April 5, 2011

http://www.tolerance.org/blog/case-black-barbie-doll?newsletter=TT041211

Note: Mattel introduced the Black Barbie in 1980

Leslie, a 38-year-old social worker who counsels children with stressful life situations, found her 4-year-old daughter, Sophia, engaged in animated play with her dolls. She watched incredulously as Sophia invited the four white dolls with blonde hair to a tea party while the dark-skinned doll with black hair lay alone across the room.

"Why isn't that doll going to the tea party?" she inquired.
"She's dead," replied Sophia matter-of-factly.
"Dead? How can that be? She's just like the other dolls. Why can't she play with them?"
"They don't want to play with her."
"Why is that?"
"Because she has dark skin," replied Sophia.

Leslie's mouth dropped to the floor as she fought back tears. How could this be? Hadn't she and her husband worked diligently to teach her child to be inclusive? Sophia had a variety of multicultural toys and books. She was only allowed to watch progressive television shows like *Sesame Street*, *Dora the Explorer*, *Diego,* the *Backyardigans* and *Yo Gabba Gabba*. An only child, she attended an expensive, supposedly inclusive pre-kindergarten school which included children of color.

"Sweet Pea," said Leslie, plaintively, "you're hurting that doll's feelings. You've got to let her play with the other dolls." "She can't. She's in jail," Sophia replied as she rationalized her decision to exclude the dark-skinned doll.

This scenario has probably been repeated in countless homes and classrooms around the country. But it was a real situation that wrenched Leslie *and me*, as we tried to come to a resolution to the problem. You see, Sophia is my granddaughter, and I happened to be visiting when this incident occurred. As an advocate for civil rights and a diversity trainer, the family looked to me for an answer.

I naturally thought of the doll experiments conducted by Kenneth and Mamie Clark in the 1940s. They revealed a preference for white dolls by both black and white children. And despite attempts since then to create equal educational opportunities for all children, replications of the Clark's work consistently reveal similar results.

Social scientists attribute negative attitudes toward blackness to historical and cultural processes in our society that perpetuate perceptions of dark skin as inferior to white, stigmatizing blacks and other ethnic minorities as being lazy, shiftless, and uneducable—attitudes that affect the achievement gap in educational attainment between blacks and Latinos versus whites and Asians. These attitudes have been referred to as symptoms of systemic racism.
Such stereotypes have even been accepted by people victimized by them, a process called stereotype threat. Some parents and teachers do not recognize the pervasive effect that white culture has on children from other ethnic groups. And we can see how negative stereotypes persist despite efforts to change them.

We can break this cycle by using multicultural materials in the home and classroom. But they should be accompanied by experiential activities that help children understand, appreciate and identify with the issues faced by children from other cultures—what educator, Jane Elliott did in her Iowa classroom by separating brown and blue-eyed children.

We may never know what triggered Sophia's behavior with the dolls. But when Leslie showed her a photograph of her sitting alongside her cousin, Dabney, a Haitian child adopted by her aunt and uncle, a broad smile creased her face. She reached for the dark-skinned doll and pushed her into the toy car with the others. "They're all going to the party now," she said cheerfully.
How would you handle such a situation?

Kaplan teaches in the Africana Studies Department at the University of South Florida, Tampa.

The Answer Isn't Magic; It's You!

"The adult is aware that he has no magic; no quick fix to solve problems. He must communicate to the student clearly that not only does he have no magic, but he needs no magic." William Glasser, 1998

This is one of my favorite quotes because it reminds us that in caring for and working with our youth, we do not have nor do we need magic to be successful. However, it remains true that we do need something. And at times I'm sure that we have all asked, "Exactly what do I need to support this child, work with this person, be in this relationship, etc.?" The answer to what you need is you!

Read the entire article at Reclaiming Youth International http://www.reclaiming.com/content/node/181

Submitted by: Edna Olive, RYI Board Officer, Executive Director, ROCKET, Inc. and Author of "Positive Behavior Facilitation"

She was also the keynote speaker at the 2009 Diversity in Education Symposium held in Chadron.

Web-based Education Project to teach Civics

They know the American Idol judges before their own branches of government.

Ex-Justice Sandra Day O'Conner launches program at Fulmore Law Magnet Middle School. This is a new **free, online curriculum program** with iCivics an AISD. Designed to teach students civics and to inspire them to be active participants in democracy and foster an interest in the law. iCivics allows students to engage in interactive games and lesson plans.

A nationwide skills/knowledge test shows two-third of students scored below average proficiency. Only 33% could name the three branches of government while a whopping 66% could name the American Idol judges.

Teachers are giving positive feed back and stressed this needs to be done.

More information at iCivics www.icivics.org.

Excerpts and highlights from article. Full article can be found at http://journalstar.com/ap/business/article_28e7d35f-1022-5747-977a-fa8c88bc04be.html

Associated Press-Viacom poll suggests most high schools are failing to give students a solid footing for the working world or strong guidance toward college, at a time when many students fear graduation means tumbling into an economic black hole.

Most surveyed say their school wasn't good at helping them choose a field of study, aiding them in find the right college or vocational school or assisting them in coming up with ways to pay for more schooling.

On getting students ready for work remains central to high schools' mission. And most young people say their school didn't do a good job of preparing them for work or helping them choose a future career. They also give high schools low marks on exposing them to the latest technology in their field and help them get work experience, according to the poll conducted in partnership with Stanford University.

Three out of ten think their high school counselors were a lot of help. Nonwhite students felt high school counselors help them than white students.

Awesome when they get so excited

Family Dynamics are Changing

Have our attitudes toward people shifted?

The blend of interracial families has increased according to the U.S. Census by 32% since 2000. The largest family blend is black and white Americans.

Census Facts between 2000 and 2010 Census

1. 9 million people identify 2 different races
2. 4.2 million young than 18 belong to 2 races, up 45.9%
3. 57 different race combination
4. 1.8 million marked black/white
5. 1.7 million marked white with "some other race"
6. 1.6 million marked Asian/white

Odd: The Census bureau considers Hispanic/Latino an ethnicity, not a race. Thos who responded Hispanic/Latino origin were classified as "some other race."

Source: 2010 U.S. Census

No Water at Lunch????

School cafeterias are not offering water at lunch. Why??? They don't offer cups—budget reduction. Alternative, wait in line at the drinking fountain. But wait, you can't because you have class, recess or will be loitering in the halls.

CDC study shows 15% of kids in the 12 year old age group consume adequate amounts of water to stay healthy. It would be logical when they spend most of their time at school that water would be offered or more accessible. CDC recommends 6-8 glasses for children and 11 glasses or more per day for teens.

New federal law , school districts will have to provide water in eating areas but does not discuss the accessibility. Calculations are that a school with 1,700 students should have a minimum of four water fountains and a 30-minute meal time—remember this satisfies the new legislation. Is it happening—NO.

USDA will be speaking with schools and develop a proposed rule to provide law provisions.

Read the Multicultural Book Review

PAPERBACKS ARE NOT DEAD YET!

A recent poll and found 80% of the readers still want paperback books instead of e-readers.

Loud and Proud!

(from *Indian Country Today, April 20; Alison Owings)*

Taped through a serious of years, Alison Owings journeyed across America—east to west, north to south, and back again—to document what native Americans from 16 different tribal nationals including Pawnee, Ojibwe, Navajo, Hopi, Lakota and Tonawanda Seneca Indian—had to say about what it is like to be a BNative American in the 21st century. Owings conducted long, intimate and sometimes shockingly candid interviews that touch many topics from adultery to haircuts to politics but often came back to the staggering ignorance of non-natives. Read Full review

The Great Platte River Road Archway

Experience the History
2011 Dancers of the Plains
June 17-18, 2011 Kearney, NE

Be part of a one-of-a-kind cultural event in Nebraska!

Cultural Education Day

Friday June 17, 2011 11:00 am—4:00 pm

Experience a unique opportunity to learn more about Nebraska's history from the Otoe-Missouria Youth Leadership Initiative

Participants

Summer Schools, Home Schools and other Youth Organizations are welcome to attend with adult supervision

Camping

- Camping available at Fort Kearny Please call 308-865-5305

Food

- Food vendors will be available at the Archway during the powwow event

Contact Information:

Great Platte River Road Archway
Ronnie O'Brien email: robrien@archway.org
3060 East 1st St., Kearney NE 68847
PH: 308-237-1000 www.archway.org

Friday June 17

^9:00 am Tipi raising

^10 am—11:00 Hands-on stations west of the earth lodge focus on Trail History and Settlement

^11 am—noon Hands-on stations in earth lodge and arena with Otoe-Missouria Youth*

^1:00—3:00 pm Dance demonstrations and explanations in arena

* from 10—11 am stations with Otoe-Missouria reserved for Boy Scouts working on Badge requirements

Saturday June 18

^Demonstrations and Vendors 9:00 am –4:00 pm

^ Dance Exhibition 1:00 pm—3:00 pm

Cost: There is no cost to your organization to attend this event! Free-will Donations Are Appreciated.

May 21, 2011 1:00-6:30 p.m.

www.bookfestival.nebraska.gov

19th Annual
Nebraska Book Festival
CULTIVATING CREATIVITY

Nebraska History Museum-Lincoln NE

Writers' Workshop Readings by Nebraska authors 2011 Mildred Bennett Award

Keynote panel: Local Wonders authors Ted Kooser, Virginia Smith and Paul Amandes

You don't really understand human nature unless you know why a child on a merry-go-round will wave at his parents every time around and why his parents will always wave back.
William D. Tammeus

The long-awaited broadcast of *Freedom Riders* is right around the corner! The inspirational story of courageous civil rights activists who boarded interstate buses and traveled through the segregated South in 1961 will premiere on Monday, May 16th at 9/8c. Mark your calendars!

Fifty years later, *American Experience* has invited 40 college students from across the country to "get on the bus." From May 6-16, the selected students will join original Freedom Riders in retracing the 1961 Rides from Washington, DC to New Orleans, LA. Follow their journey o

Website: pbs.org/freedomriders
Facebook: facebook.com/ride
Twitter: @FreedomRidePBS

Premier video is amazing http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/freedomriders/watch

✓ A thought...we never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public!!

NEBRASKA Middle Level ACADEMY
Supporting Educators in Grades 4-9

June 9-10, 2011
www.nebraskamiddlelevelacademy.org
Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools
Keynote Speakers
Dr. Roger Breed,
Nebraska Department of Education
Jessica Gall, Education Project Director
for the
Plains States Regional Anti-Defamation League

SIXTH NATIONAL TRAINING
SANE SART
May 25 - 27, 2011
Austin, TX
CONFERENCE
www.sane-sart.com

Office of Juvenile Justice 6th National Sexual Assault Response Team Training. For more information about the conference, visit http://www.sartconference.com/Conference.php.

The SEPA workshops are:

1) The Science of Mental Illness and Healthy Behaviors: Teaching Native American Children about Psychological and Behavioral Health (Audience - middle and high school teachers, administrators, counselors)

2) SEPA Science Teacher Workshop: Focus on Outdoor Education (Audience - K-8 teachers)

Dates for both are June 13 to 17. More information and sign ups at www.unmc.edu/sepa

No charge. Stipends and expenses paid by SEPA.

Brain Injury Focus

May 19-20-Kearney

Highlights of the conference include Jason Crigler and his sister, Marjorie Crigler, who will explain how family involvement made a difference in Jason's recovery after he experienced a brain hemorrhage in 2004. Marjorie will speak from the family's viewpoint while Jason will offer a survivor's perspective on the challenges of his recovery. They will open the conference
May 19 at 1:30 p.m., presenting the keynote address, *Defying the Odds*.
www.braininjury.ne.gov.

9 Systemic Processes To Raise Student Achievement

Nebraska Native American Education Symposium

October 31, 2011 > 7:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. > Wayne State College

Hosted by the Nebraska Department of Education and ESU 1.

Keynote Speakers from aha! Processes

Full day sessions. You must select K-6 or 7-12 session when registering.

This is a hands-on workshop where you will be able to walk into your classroom the following day with new, effective tools to use. Learn the nine teacher-friendly processes that are designed to raise student achievement. Simpler processes are key to this collegial model that is designed to take less time and yield strong results. Using the book, *Researched Based Strategies* and the workbook *9 Systemic Processes to Raise Achievement*, our presenters will walk clients through a model that creates sustainable excellence. Especially excellent for low performing schools, schools with demographic shifts, schools with students from poverty, and schools struggling to meet AYP with specific subgroups.

Kim D. Ellis
Presenter for K-6

Beverly Ray
Presenter for 7-12

Limited Registration: Deadline October 1, 2011

Registration is **strictly** limited to 200 participants per presenter. No exceptions. Registration will be a first come basis. Confirmations will be sent by October 10. Nebraska Department of Education will offer a waiting list for registrations.

COST: $25 material fee per person (ESU 1 will invoice your school district or business.) Include all staff on one purchase order.

Recommended Audience

- K-12 classroom teacher
- Administrators
- NDE staff,
- ESU staff
- Guidance counselors
- School personnel directly involved in instruction of students.

How to register*

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

ESU #1

Group and individual registration forms are available online at www.education.ne.gov/mce
Print and complete forms. To submit, use one of the following methods.

1. Fax registration form and purchase order to Peg Kirby at 402-471-8227
2. Scan in registration form and purchase order and email to peg.kirby@nebraska.gov
3. Mail registration form and purchase order
   Peg Kirby
   Nebraska Dept of Education
   301 Centennial Mall South
   Lincoln NE 68509

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES	Award	Eligibility	Deadline
.**Best Buy Children's Foundation: @15 Community Grants** The Best Buy Children's Foundation @15 Community Grants empower teens to thrive by helping them excel in school, engage in their communities, and develop life and leadership skills. Maximum award: $10,000. http://www.bestbuy-communityrelations.com/community_grants_rfp.htm	Maximum award: $10,000.	nonprofit 501(c)3 certified organizations located within 50 miles of a Best Buy store or Regional Distribution Center that provide positive experiences that will empower early adolescents (primarily ages 13-18) to excel in school, engage in their communities, and develop life and leadership skills.	August 1, 2011.
U.S. Department of State: Teachers for Global Classrooms The Teachers for Global Classrooms Program is a professional development opportunity for middle and high school teachers from the United States to participate in a program aimed at globalizing U.S. classrooms. Activities include an online course; two Global Education Symposiums in Washington, D.C. (pre- and post-travel); and an international fellowship through a two-week country visit upon successful completion of the online course. Maximum award: a fellowship, including two weeks' travel to Brazil, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Morocco, or Ukraine. http://www.irex.org/project/teachers-global-classrooms-program-tgc	International fellowship	Full-time secondary-level (middle or high school) teaching professionals with five or more years of classroom experience in disciplines including English as a Second Language, English Language or Literature, Social Studies, Mathematics, or Science, who are also U.S. citizens	June 15, 2011

Application for Nebraska Teacher of the Year 2012

The **Nebraska Awards of Excellence Program**, which features selection of the **Nebraska Teacher of the Year**, serves to recognize the contributions of the classroom teacher. Candidates should be exceptionally dedicated, knowledgeable, and skilled teachers; have the respect and admiration of parents, colleagues, and students; play active and useful roles in the community as well as in the school; be poised and articulate; and possess the energy to withstand a busy schedule. The most important criterion is a superior ability to inspire students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn.

Deadline: August 15, 2011

http://www.education.ne.gov/documents/12_TOY_application_form.pdf

Improving Literacy for English-Language Learners Webinar May 4

2:00-3:00 EDT FREE EVENT.
Education Week Registration Site
Also available on demand after the event.

Many school districts are focusing on creating more consistency in how they teach literacy to English-language learners across schools. Their efforts include:

- Reviewing research on best practices for ELLs
- Beefing up professional development on strategies to reach ELLs, and
- Creating district wide curriculum that addresses the needs of such students.

Such efforts are particularly important as school districts consider how to implement the common core state standards for English-language learners. The Council of the Great City Schools has been a leading organization in advising and supporting school districts to form coherent and workable plans to serve this fast-growing population of students.
Our webinar guests will discuss both the research on the most effective approaches to improving literacy for ELLs and how some school districts have tried to carry out those approaches.

Guests:

- **Diane August, Ph.D.** is a senior research scientist affiliated with the Center for Applied Linguistics, in Washington. She is a frequent speaker on research-based practices for teaching literacy to ELLs at conferences. She is the principal investigator for a large federally-funded study investigating the development of literacy in English-language learners.
- **Gabriela Uro** is the manager of ELL policy and research for the Washington-based Council of the Great City Schools. She organizes teams to conduct comprehensive audits of ELL services in large urban school districts. She's also a liaison for the council's task force on English-language learners and bilingual education.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES	Award	Eligibility	Deadline
Earth Island Institute: Brower Youth Award The Earth Island Institute Brower Youth Award recognizes young people for their outstanding activism and achievements in the fields of environmental and social justice advocacy. http://www.broweryouthawards.org/article.php?list=type&type=12	Eligibility: youth ages 13-22. Deadline: May 16, 2011.	Maximum award: $3,000, a trip to California for the awards ceremony, and a wilderness camping trip.	May 16, 2011
Native American High School Academic Team. American Indian graduate Center is accepting nominations for its All Native American High School Academic Team through May 4. Download application at AIGC.com	$250 honorarium, featured in the *American Indian Graduate* magazine	Outstanding academic achievement, leadership in school, civic and extracurricular activities, motivation to succeed	May 4, 2011

Summer is NOT the time to lay on the couch. Be productive and the key is to start NOW.

NOW WOULD BE A GREAT TIME TO

1. Take a baby sitting class
2. Look at colleges, think of a career. If close by, visit a campus.
3. Help the neighbor next door
4. Refresh and inspire yourself
5. Jot down some personal goals
6. Find a job. If you want to be a lawyer, ask to volunteer in a law office. Create your own, pet sitting, lawn mowing.
7. Do a photo journal of things, places and people in your community.
8. Your library has a summer enhanced reading program for all ages and it's FREE.

Just get off that couch this summer!!!

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