

CHARACTER EDUCATION

*South Carolina Department of Education
Office of Youth Services*



Special points of interest:

A unique alternative environment for students at Anna Boyd School

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Character Connection at Anna Boyd School

By: Dr. Arlene Bakutes, Grants Coordinator, Richland County School District Two

Anna Boyd School, located in Richland School District Two, offers a unique alternative environment for students. Its mission is succinct: "Anna Boyd School, in partnership with Richland School District Two schools, families and the community at-large, provides a technology-based and individualized learning environment that engages students through academic challenge, multi-level interventions, civic engagement, leadership and social/emotional life skills for successful transition to regular school settings." Anna Boyd School offers many diverse character education connections.

Anna Boyd School has DIVAS, LINKS, *Energy*, a Green Team and now the ABS News. How does this partial list of seemingly random program names support the evidence of character-building among students, faculty and staff at Anna Boyd School?

Beginning with the DIVAS, this is the plural form of an acronym for a girls-only leadership group: Determined Intelligent Vivacious Achievers. Promoting a positive self-image and embracing the interpersonal and intrapersonal challenges girls face during the upper elementary and middle school years are central topics for this group.

Next, the Columbia chapter of LINKS which stands for Leadership Initiative Navigating Knowledge for Success, provides funds for an after-school enrichment program by the same name here at ABS. Topics covered at the weekly meetings range from health/fitness and cultural awareness to civic engagement, among others.

Energy, the name for our student dance team, simply represents the intensity of *motion* and *emotion* expressed through dance. This program encourages our students through a high level of physical engagement.



For the burgeoning eco-conscious citizen, the Green Team provides an opportunity to support recycling at ABS. Students assist with collection, promotion of guidelines for recycling materials and special projects.

Finally, and definitely not least, as the recipient of a donation from Verizon Wireless combined with grant awards from Francis Marion University and Learn & Serve to offer service learning through a student-led media production team, the school will soon launch the ABS News. Under the supervision of designated IT staff, faculty and support staff, this daily news show will be student-driven with content development, production and on-camera delivery of the news.

In closing, if research tells us that character education in schools is best delivered in conjunction with diverse opportunities for leadership, extracurricular engagement, community service and service learning, then indeed a strong character connection exists at Anna Boyd School!

Character Education at Home, Why Bother?

By: Winnie B. King, MA, Guidance Counselor, Moore Intermediate School, Florence County School District One

Why not? What is so hard about teaching our children to have respect for others, practicing manners, or being honest?

Our children, most of them, don't place character traits high on their priority of things that interest them. So, is the problem with our children or with our adults?

"Children learn by role models. Because we love them, it's sometimes easy to do too much for our kids, and we miss opportunities to build character in them. Or, by our own actions, we can model behavior we don't really want our children to emulate. This article lists some ways to build character in our kids by providing character-building opportunities, and by modeling good character as parents.

An important way to build character is to try not to "smooth the way" for your child, allowing him to experience failure on his own. Failure can build character by teaching a child that success is not handed to him without hard work or initiative.

The other side of the coin for step number one is to allow your child to

succeed on his own, without parental intervention. Your child may have the best science fair experiment in his class if you help him do the work. However, he will not have real pride in the project since it doesn't represent his own efforts.

Whenever possible, make the reward for success the success itself. Try to avoid material rewards, so the child does not come to expect them. Allow him to become motivated by the reward of success itself.

Never give praise unless it has been earned. Tell a child "good job", if he has truly accomplished something by working toward it. "Good job" ceases to have meaning to a child if he hears it frequently, and without good reason.

Try to avoid letting your child win at games. Even if you are running a race with him, let him lose once in a while. Children need to learn to lose and win gracefully. A young child who has experienced losing will lose as an older child or adult without falling apart. And when he wins on his own, the victory will be that much sweeter!

Do not deprive children of struggle, and make sure that natural

consequences accompany these experiences. For example, if a child forgets his homework, really evaluate whether you should rush in to the school for him. He will gain a valuable life-lesson if he has to explain to his teacher why he doesn't have the assignment on the day it is due. Remember, someday your child will be on his own, and won't have you to explain to a professor or employer why he hasn't met a deadline.

Finally, an important way to model good character as parents is to avoid the temptation to break rules/laws for your own convenience and to have a 100% "no-cheating" household (including adults!). Most adults agree that cheating in school is wrong. But many of us are tempted to keep the extra change the sales clerk gives us or even to illegally steal cable TV or download music. You may think your child is not aware of such activities. Allowing yourself to cheat, however, sets up a pattern of behavior that will become apparent to your child by the teen years, when children become more aware of adults' behavior." (["How to Build Character in Your Child"](http://www.ehow.com/how_4834635_build-character-child.html#ixzz1HACKLSJU)) [eHow.com http://www.ehow.com/how_4834635_build-character-child.html#ixzz1HACKLSJU](http://www.ehow.com/how_4834635_build-character-child.html#ixzz1HACKLSJU)

Moms4FamilyTV

FYI from Joan Dickinson

Moms4FamilyTV, a grassroots organization, is looking for counselors and educators from various parts of the country to screen a movie and offer their comments. Please read the synopsis of the movie, *Field of Vision*, and consider participating as a screener. Please send your comments to Marie Kelly at mariekelly7@gmail.com.

SYNOPSIS:

Through mysterious footage captured on a malfunctioning second-hand video camera, Madison High School's star quarterback, Tyler McFarland, learns that some of his teammates have been bullying Cory Walker, a troubled new transfer student. Aware that sharing this information with the coach might get his friends kicked off the team and

ultimately cost the school the state championship, Tyler must choose what's more important: winning or doing what's right. As these events unfold, the camera also reveals more surprising footage to Tyler's kid sister Lucy... She learns that Cory has a secret past, unknown to even him. Now Lucy must convince her mom (Faith Ford, *Murphy Brown*) and family that the camera's revealing insight is not a product of her imagination as she enlists their assistance to help find the answers Cory so desperately needs. It's a compelling and intriguing story that shows both the challenges and rewards of doing the right thing even when it's tough to do.

SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITIES

edZOOcation: Learning Adventures at Riverbanks Zoo and Garden

- **Summer Zoo Camp** (June 6 to August 12)
10 one-week sessions for kids ages 4-12
- **Early Childhood Classes** (45 min. sessions)
An excellent opportunity for young explorers, ages 2-5 and parents, to learn exciting things about nature.
- **For more info or to register, call 803-978-1113 or go to www.riverbanks.org.**

LCRAC

- **Summer Day Camps** (at Batesburg-Leesville, Lexington, Spire, and Tri-City) designed to keep your child active and entertained. Contact the centers for more information.
- **Specialty Camps** include basketball, circus, guitar, gymnastics, hip-hop/cheer, racquetball, sports challenge, and volleyball.
- **For dates, times, costs and other information, go to www.LCRAC.com.**

My Amigos Day Camp (July 11-15, 2011)

- A full week immersing children in a multi-cultural environment and Spanish language study.
- Ages 3-11
- 9:00 – 5:00 Cost \$125
- 7:30 – 5:30 Cost \$135
- **For more info or to register, call 803-356-2232 or www.myamigosbec.org.**

Camp Island Adventure at Glenforest School

- July 11 – 15, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Grades 6–8
- Cost: \$225
- Students will discover just “what it takes” to establish, build, own, operate and expand the dream island that they have envisioned through fun hands-on activities.

Camp Musical Masterpieces at Glenforest School

- July 13 – 17, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Grades 1–6
- Cost: \$225
- Students will discover the joy of music through amazing hands-on activities.

Camp “Skillz” at Glenforest School

- July 13 – August 1, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Mondays and Wednesdays only
- Ages 5-16
- Cost: \$250 (for all 8 weeks)
- Ideal for kids with Autism Spectrum disorders or other unique learning needs
- Provides social skills instruction for real-life social situations within a safe and secure environment

ArtShack Art-Fun-Camps at Glenforest School

- 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Grades K-12
- June 13 – 17 Fabric Frenzy
- June 20 – 24 Paris Craft Creatures
- July 18 – 24 FUN-damentals of Drawing
- July 25 – 29 Beginners Acrylic Painting (8yrs +)
- Cost: \$185 per week

Extreme Weather Camp at Glenforest School

- July 25 – 29, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Grades K–8
- Cost: \$225
- Students will investigate the many ways weather affects us and influences our daily lives.
- Hands-on experiences, A/V technologies, and multi-media activities

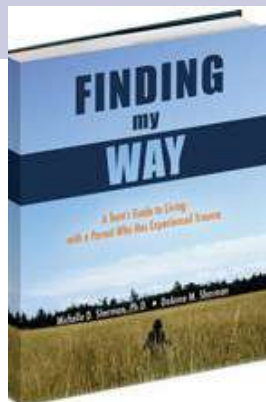
For more information regarding the camps at Glenforest School, call 803-796-7622 or register online at www.glenforest.org.

Book Review

By: Joan Dickinson

At the recent LINN Military Child Education workshops, I received many wonderful materials to assist children in coping with the challenges of deployment, loss, and transition. I'd like to recommend that school counselors take a look at *Finding My Way: A Teen's Guide to Living with a Parent Who Has Experienced Trauma* by Michelle D. Sherman and DeAnne M. Sherman. (ISBN 1-59298-117-8) Seeds of Hope Books, www.seedsofhopebooks.com

In first of three parts, the authors cover the basics of PTSD from a teen's perspective of his parent as the identified patient. Each of the six chapters reveals facts about symptoms, trauma, risk factors, co-morbidity, and treatment



plans. Next, the authors present five chapters of coping strategies from which the teen may draw to live successfully with the parent who has experienced trauma. The final part includes three chapters of lessons learned, commonly asked questions, and a resource list, as well as notes for professionals, parents, and caregivers.

Written in an easy to read, compassionate style, this book outlines the consequences of traumatic stress to teenagers and provides much needed “self-help” and support.



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"Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved."

Helen Keller

US blind & deaf educator (1880 - 1968)

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SCDE Upcoming Events

June 17	Independent Living/NYTD Kick-off Metropolitan Convention Center, Columbia
June 26–30	Education and Business Summit First Carolina Center, Greenville
July 20	Summer Institute for Suicide Prevention Career Development Center, 8016 Wilson Blvd., Columbia 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. For counselors, administrators, and mental health professionals.
August 27	Middle School Mock Trial Day Camp – RESCHEDULED , Columbia For Mock Trial Students and Coaches (Students \$40, Teachers \$20) Contact: Cynthia Cothran to register at ccothran@scbar.org Register no later than August 18.

Who Is Responsible in Orangeburg Consolidated School District 5

By: Hazel Rickenbacker, Guidance Counselor, The Technology Center

If asked the question in our district, "Who is Responsible for developing Good Character in the Schools", multiple responses would come your way. Someone might say, it is a team effort between the administrators, teachers, guidance counselors and staff members. Another response might be that the schools are responsible for too much now and that parents should be responsible. Still another response might be that student involvement in clubs and organizations will develop true character. If the truth were told, no one person or group can assume the responsibility of developing "good

character" in the schools. It is a team effort that involves three important partners, the school, the community and the home. In Orangeburg Consolidated School District 5 (OCSD5), the primary contributor that introduces character activities and programs is the group of school guidance counselors.

In OCSD5 all of the elementary guidance counselors schedule classroom guidance lessons that focus on developing good character. In addition to classroom guidance, small group sessions are held, mentoring programs, book clubs,

after-school institutes and a County-wide Character Recognition Program for 5th graders. In the middle schools guidance counselors manage Boys Clubs, mentoring programs, Social Butterflies' Club, Dare to Be A Queen's Club, classroom guidance lessons on character and a community speaker's bureau. In the high schools guidance counselors sponsor mentoring programs, a speaker's bureau, Character Hall of Fame and Student Recognition Programs. Together, they all show responsibility for developing and nurturing character in our youth.