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**School Practitioner
Listserv**

**A Weekly Community of Practice Network
for Sharing and Interchange**



November 28, 2016

**Thinking about Special Times of the Year as
Natural Opportunities for Social Emotional Development**

>Students celebrating by helping others

Invitation to Listserv Participants to Share Perspectives

Featured Set of Center Resources for

>Supporting students helping others

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**Please forward this to a few colleagues you think might be interested.
The more who join, the more we are likely to receive to share.**

**For those who have been forwarded this and want to be part of
the weekly exchange, send an email to Ltaylor@ucla.edu**

**For previous recent postings of this community of practice, see
<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/practitioner.htm>
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Note: In keeping with the *National Initiative for Transforming Student & Learning Supports*,* this is being sent to and forwarded by over 114,000 school and community stakeholders concerned about (1) daily matters confronting schools, (2) promoting whole child development and positive school climate, and (3) the transformation of student and learning supports.

Thinking About Natural Opportunities for Social Emotional Development

>What are students doing to help others during special times of celebration?

As schools focus to strengthen positive school climate and promote social and emotional learning, there are natural opportunities for students to learn more and apply what they are learning. As Greta Brewster stresses:

“The holiday season offers an optimal time to teach young people about the value of helping others. In the classroom, activities focused on philanthropy can broaden students’ understanding of the culture they live in and make students aware of the challenges people around the world face in meeting their basic human needs. In addition, encouraging youth to help others outside of school hours can help offset the materialistic frenzy often associated with the holidays.

Studies show that youth who are taught to help others at a young age continue those practices through adulthood. Experts recommend involving youth as much as possible in deciding how and whom to help; they will be more invested in the outcome if they are an integral part of the process.... For example, bring holiday cheer to elders in a nursing home by having students design holiday cards or make crafts to deliver to residents. Alternatively, students could sing or put on a play....”

http://www.educationworld.com/a_curr/students-help-others-altruism-holidays.shtml

Here an example of outreach from a high school in Rochester Hills, MI:

“...We love to help and volunteer! If you have an event that you need some assistance with, ...we will try to assist you.... Our service activities include specific events such as Kids Against Hunger, Empty Bowls Project, UNICEF, Halloween Hoot, and Daffodils for Dinosaurs. We also ... clean up trash from parks, shovel neighbor's driveways, work at Elmwood Nursing Home, Gods Helping Hands, assist at food drives for Busch's grocery, elementary school carnivals, and make donations to Rochester Area Neighborhood House.”

<https://www.rochester.k12.mi.us/rochester-high-school/pages/102700/sho-students-helping-others>

Of course, when special events are over, the opportunities for helping others continue. For example, over the next few weeks as the December holidays approach, it is a good time to engage students in “brain storming” a range of ways they can show their regard for others.

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Invitation to listserv participants:

What do you suggest for using special events as natural opportunities for enhancing social emotional learning and putting such learning into practice?

**Share lessons learned. Comments. Recommendations.
And let us know what’s happening locally?**

Send your responses to Ltaylor@ucla.edu

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Featured Set of Center Resources for

>Supporting students helping others

Institutionalize the Focus on Helping Others into School Everyday Life

Increasing a school's focus on natural opportunities for personal and social growth requires advocacy, planning, and building the capacity of school staff. At most schools, there are a group of folks who want to make this happen. As a starting point, they can form a small work group dedicated to moving the agenda forward. The group can (1) develop a "map" of natural opportunities for promoting social - emotional development and (2) share it throughout the school. Then, they can explore ways to engage the school in making this a regular part of school life.

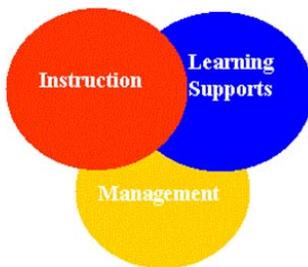
For aids, see:

>Service Learning in Schools – <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/service.pdf>

>Natural Opportunities to Promote Social-Emotional Learning – <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/newsletter/fall03.pdf>

For more on Social and Emotional Development and Social Skills, see the Center's Online Clearinghouse Quick Find on the topic – http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/qf/p2102_05.htm

THE MORE FOLKS SHARE, THE MORE USEFUL AND INTERESTING THE INTERCHANGES BECOME!
Sign-up for the Listserv mailings – email Ltaylor@ucla.edu
Also send resources ideas, requests, comments, and experiences for sharing.
We post a broad range of issues and responses to the *Net Exchange* on our website at <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/newnetexchange.htm> and on *Facebook* (access from the Center's home page <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/>)



*For information about the

National Initiative for Transforming Student and Learning Supports,
<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/newinitiative.html>

And note that our new book detailing the prototypes and related resources is now in press.

For a preview, contact Ltaylor@ucla.edu