



PRACTICAL PARENTING PARTNERHIPS
Working Together for Our Children

Volume 15, Issue 4
December 2010

LASTING LESSONS FROM THE HOLIDAYS

by Janet Shepard, Director

The holidays are a wonderful time of sharing and caring. Most of your schools are probably collecting food or other needed items for kids and their families. Students in your classes may be the recipients of donated items such as mittens and warm coats collected by others and given to children through the schools. Sadly much of the generosity is seasonal. Maybe this is a good time of year to talk with students and with parent and community groups about ways to promote caring and respect throughout the year. You can also encourage parents to talk with their children and make plans as a family to care for others. We do have lots of good examples around our state.

Many districts which are active in character education have engaged community partners to help promote awareness and practice of the chosen character traits in the community. Posters printed and displayed by local businesses, character word of the month on business marques, billboards and banners have all been observed around the state.

Columbia has designated the last week in January as the Week of the Emotionally Healthy Child. Community partners including the school district have come together for the Columbia Cares for Kids project spearheaded by Central Missouri Community Action. The week centers around the work of Dr. Gerald Newmark and his book *How to Raise Emotionally Healthy Children*. He had identified five critical needs of children (and adults). They are the need to feel respected, important, accepted, included and secure. More will be shared about this project in the January newsletter. You can learn more about the Dr. Newmark's work at www.emotionallyhealthychildren.org.

School-based back pack food programs are a wonderful way to support families throughout the school year. Schools saw a big increase in requests last year and some schools are reporting that the number of backpacks filled each week has nearly doubled again this year. A mid-Missouri food bank is reporting in one of their holiday ads that 70% of their clients are working mothers with one or more children to support.

In addition to participating in school and community based efforts to create an optimum environment for all of our children while also supporting those who may be struggling, we can each take time to reflect on our personal views, beliefs and practices in reaching out to those we serve. Teaching Tolerance recently shared a teacher's blog entitled [In Jail, Pencils are Weapons](#) which was a great example of going the extra mile plus a reflection of the difference our efforts may or may not make for a student.

Each of us can make a difference collectively and individually by carrying the message and spirit of the holidays with us throughout the year.

PPP CENTER UPDATE

by Janet Shepard, Director

Happy Holidays to you, the rest of the staff, students and their families!

As you finish up your holiday shopping, please remember that purchases made from Amazon through our [website](#) will generate funds for PPP. Just click on the Amazon button on the right hand side of the home page. If your holiday plans include travel, you can support our partner, Missouri KidsFirst, by reserving hotel nights at [Drury Hotels](#). Reservations must be made through this link.

Last month we posted a link to a survey on PPP funding. We have received many thoughtful responses. The survey is still open at this link: <http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07e34bo279gg9m25b0/start>. Please take a few moments to share your thoughts with us. We will leave the survey open until the end of December and will share results with you in January.

PPP has begun their winter clearance sale by further reducing some of the prices on last month's [sale order form](#). We have also added pocket folders to the sale list. Janet or Shelly are happy to deliver orders when in your area in order to save on postage. We also will have some reduced priced items at upcoming regional meetings and training.

Clemson University hosts the [National Dropout Prevention Center / Network](#) website. PPP is pleased to be listed as one of 152 model programs on family engagement on the site. The site is rich with resources, research and model programs. If your school has a dropout prevention team or committee, you may want to share the resource with them.

Our colleagues at Missouri KidsFirst are gearing up for Child Abuse Prevention Month which is April and Go Blue Day on April 15. The pinwheel is the new symbol for Prevent Child Abuse America. You will find details on pinwheel gardens, the Go Blue t-shirt and more on the Missouri KidsFirst website at www.missourikidsfirst.org. There are lots of ways schools can participate in Child Abuse Prevention Month. Check this month's site news to see what one district is planning.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- January 11, 2011 Regional Professional Development [Macon: RPDC](#)
- January 12, 2011 Regional Professional Development [Jefferson City - Cole County MU Extension Center](#)
- January 20, 2011 Regional Professional Development [Kansas City: RPDC](#)
- February 1, 2011 Home Visit Training Jefferson City MO
- February 17, 2011 Home Visit Training Kansas City MO
- March 3, 2011 Kindergarten Transition Training [SE MO RPDC](#)
- March 4, 2011 Home Visit Training Cape Girardeau MO
- April 19, 2011 Home Visit Training Springfield MO

HOME VISIT TRAINING RECEIVES CLOCK HOUR APPROVAL

by Janet Shepard, Director

PPP's Home Visit Training has just been approved by the Missouri Health and Senior Services for 2.5 clock hours of training for child care providers through the Missouri Care Aware program. [Missouri Child Care Aware](#) is the new name for the former Missouri Child Care Resource and Referral Network.

Child care providers are encouraged to make home visits with the families of the children enrolled in their program. Centers who voluntarily participate in Missouri's Quality Rating System are making home visits.

While PPP's home visit training materials are written for those who visit families of children K-12, the training seems to be useful to childcare providers.

PPP is scheduling home visit training in locations around the state with dates set for Jefferson City, Kansas City, Cape Girardeau and Springfield. If you would like to host or attend home visit training in your area, please let me know so we can schedule additional sessions.

Training will be held in Jefferson City February 1, 2011 at the Missouri KidsFirst office where PPP is also housed. We are seeking a host school or agency Cape Girardeau or some where else in Southeast Missouri or on March 4. Locations for Kansas City on February 17 and for April 19 in Springfield will be announced soon.

KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION

by Janet Shepard, Director

Missouri School Improvement Plan forms have a place for schools to check-off that a kindergarten transition plan is in place. One purpose of PPP's Kindergarten Transition training is to assist school teams in writing the plan. Other districts have had a plan in place, but have not fully implemented or find that it is time to review and perhaps rewrite the plan.

Once in a while PPP receives a request for a template for the plan. We won't ever provide a template because of our strong belief that the plan needs to be locally determined and fully implemented with all stakeholders having a voice in creating and carrying out the plan. We would, however, love to have a few sample plans that we might share with districts which ask. Please let us know if you are willing to share!

Kindergarten Transition training is scheduled in Southeast Missouri March 3 in partnership with the Regional Professional Development Center. Registration is available through [My Learning Plan](#). If you would like for this training to be held in your area, please let us know.

SITE NEWS FOR PINWHEELS FOR PREVENTION

by Janet Shepard, Director

Plans are underway for Child Abuse Prevention month with pinwheel gardens in Jefferson City and around the state, Go Blue t-shirts, Children's Trust Fund Conference and more. You will find details on the Missouri KidsFirst website at www.MissouriKidsFirst.org. Robin Mackey PAT Coordinator for Branson Schools has shared her plans for Go Blue 2011.

Branson plans to offer pinwheels for a donation to area businesses and organizations. The sponsored pinwheels will be displayed on the hillside of the elementary school on April 15th, 2011 for Go Blue Day. Everyone district wide will be encouraged to wear blue on that day.

Proceeds from the pinwheel drive will fund community *Celebrate Family Days*.

Old fashioned fun such as family sack races, obstacle courses, hula hoops, pinatas, tricycle races, and more will be featured at the event. A simple meal of grilled hot dogs, chips and bottled water will be provided. The events would be held at area parks and or apartment complexes where families attending would socialize with the other families within their neighborhood and join together to *Celebrate Family*.

The events will be held in six neighborhood locations in late March and early April on a Saturday morning with the pinwheel display at the school as the culminating event. Some pinwheels will be displayed at each event in order to build community awareness. Each site will have two co-chairs who will oversee the neighborhood activities and each co-chair will wear a Go Blue shirt from Missouri KidsFirst.

Practical Parenting Partnerships loves seeing PPP schools getting involved with prevention and activities designed to celebrate and promote strong families. Thanks Robin for sharing your ideas.

THREE PPP REGIONAL MEETINGS IN JANUARY

by Shelly Lock, Program Development Coordinator

Participants at the regional workshops that have already taken place repeatedly express appreciation for the opportunity to share and interact with others in their region regarding family engagement ideas, strategies, activities, and more. We hope you can join us and your fellow educators for the three remaining chances to network!

- January 11, 2011 [Macon: RPDC](#)
- January 12, 2011 [Jefferson City - Cole County MU Extension Center](#)
- January 20, 2011 [Kansas City: RPDC](#)

SAVE THE DATE!

Children's Trust Fund Conference
April 13-15, 2011

Practical Parenting Partnerships was created in 1992 by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education with support from the Danforth Foundation.

PPP is sustained by a fee structure, contracts and grants with major funding from the U. S. Department of Education Parent Information and Resource Center (PIRC).

For information on the PPP program, please contact:

Director	Janet Shepard, 573/761-7770
Program Development Coordinator	Shelly Lock, 573/761-7770
Office Manager	Patty Stegemann

jshepard@pppctr.org
slock@pppctr.org
pppctr@pppctr.org

520 Dix Road, Suite C, Jefferson City MO 65109

Phone: 573/761-7770

Fax: 573/632-4601





LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES OVER THE HOLIDAYS

By Shelly Lock, Program Development Coordinator

Children and parents welcome the academic downtime over the holiday break. It is wonderful to relax the schedule when school is not in session and homework is not coming home. However, it is still beneficial to keep minds sharp and keep children reading. Families can make this a fun time with less focus on reading from school text books and more reading incorporated into holiday experiences. Here are a few ideas:

- Read holiday themed books together. You can establish a tradition of reading a favorite holiday story out loud together every year.
- Have your children read holiday cards as they are received and encourage children to write their own messages in cards being sent.
- Bake together. Children can read ingredients and instructions from holiday recipes while you bake together. It's a great way for them to improve in reading comprehension, math measurements and science concepts.
- Sing holiday songs together from song books so children can follow along.
- Encourage children to do storytelling of their holiday memories or write then read aloud their favorite holiday stories.
- Give books and magazine subscriptions as gifts.
- Play games together. Board games at home or I Spy games in the car provide more opportunities for conversation, reading, matching, and more.
- Take time to visit the library over the holidays and check out books to have in the home while children are off school.

Take time to enjoy just being together as a family over the holidays and discover the many opportunities for learning such as reading, cooking, building, traveling, crafting, and playing games together. Happy holidays!

