



Jewish Federation
OF COLLIER COUNTY

1st place
2011

COLLIER EDUCATOR GRANT "STAND UP FOR JUSTICE"

Sponsored by the Community Relations Committee, Jewish Federation of Collier County

A \$250 annual grant will be made to the educator, whose lesson(s) and/or activity(s) is selected as best meeting the criteria below. The purpose of this grant is to honor those Collier County middle school educators who have striven to counter the prevailing tendency within today's popular culture for students to deride or denigrate others based upon difference. The lesson(s) or activity(s) should have as a major objective the purpose of instilling the positive character trait of "respect for others" in students. All nominees must have created lessons of their own design or successfully made adaptations from other programs and should be able to show evidence of a positive nature as a result of implementation. Successful nominees will be contacted and asked to submit a copy of the lesson(s) or activity(s) from the current school year a description of its implementation, and evidence of effectiveness. Nominees may include Collier County middle school teachers, guidance counselors, school librarians, administrators, and media specialists. Self-nominations are accepted.

Nominee's Name _____ Lisa Garby _____
Nominee's email _____ garbyli@collier.k12.fl.us _____
Number of years' teaching _____ 9 _____
Grade or subject taught _____ 8th grade LA _____
School _____ Manatee Middle School _____
School Address _____ 1920 Manatee Road; Naples, FL 34112 _____
Phone (daytime) _____ 239-377-3674 _____
Phone (evening) _____ 732-278-3973 _____

On a separate page(s) with the name of the nominee on each page, please briefly:
Describe the precipitating events that motivated you to initiate these lessons or activities.
Describe the lesson(s) or activity(s), and, if adapted from another source, please reference.
Explain how the lesson(s) or activity(s) teach students the importance of respecting others no matter what religious, racial, cultural, or other differences exist.
Explain how it helped them counter bigotry and bullying and prepare them to stand up for justice?

IF YOUR APPLICATION IS SELECTED AS A FINALIST, YOU WILL BE ASKED TO PROVIDE EVIDENCE/PROOF OF EFFECTIVENESS, SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO: A QUESTIONNAIRE OR INTERVIEWS, DOCUMENTED ANECDOTAL CONVERSATIONS AND/OR OBSERVATIONS, ETC.

Please complete the following section if you are nominating someone other than yourself.

Your name _____
Your email _____
Your address _____
Your phone, day and evening _____
Relationship to nominee _____

Submit the completed form no later than February 15, 2011, to:
Beth Povlow
Educator Grant Coordinator
c/o CRC, Jewish Federation of Collier County
2500 Vanderbilt Beach Road, Ste. 2201
Naples, FL 34109

Nominee: Lisa Garby Manatee Middle School

During a persuasive essay writing lesson "Are Bullies Criminals" from Jr. Scholastic magazine the class discussion turned from the article and video clips we watched to the specific bullying happening on school grounds. Students were very engaged, open and honest about what they felt were some of the biggest issues on campus. Instead of continuing with the writing for this particular class we began a list of issues and possible solutions. The next day the students in all of my classes took part in an anonymous survey regarding bullying and then chose 200 random students in the school to survey as well. The one class then tabulated the results of these surveys and formally came up with a list of possible solutions to address the main issues on campus. From here, administration was invited to a round table discussion where the students addressed the concerns and proposed their ideas. Administration was very open to their ideas and asked for five students to meet with the guidance counselor and myself to discuss options further.

From the meeting with Mr. Alamo, the guidance counselor, another staff member, ~~Mr. Webb~~, five students and I, the "We Respect Differences Week" was proposed for Nov. 15th-19th, 2010. The title for the week came from an idea on educatioworld.com where a teacher had students create a "We Respect Differences" collage. We coincided this week to run at the same time that the UK holds their National Anti-Bullying week because the US had already celebrated the week prior to our meeting. This week consisted of a contest where students could write a rap, poem or create a poem for the theme "We All Matter". First, second & third place prizes were awarded in each category. I was able to get Carabba's to donate 3-\$20 gift certificates; Sonic to donate 3 - \$10 gift cards and McDonald's to donate 3 - coupons for free extra value meals and smoothies. The submissions were displayed in the cafeteria and students cast their ballots for the winners. Winners were announced and rewarded on the school's morning TV show and their submissions are included in the school literary magazine.

The week also included other activities. During HR on Tuesday students were provided an opportunity to sign a pledge not to bully. This pledge was modified from one that the committee located on bullying.org. The teachers read the pledge and let the students have a discussion on the importance of respect and tolerance and what and what not to do in a bullying situation. The pledges were then displayed in the cafeteria so all students could see them. Bracelets were slated to be sold that were pre-ordered in school colors that say "Bully Free" on them but they did not arrive for this week. Wednesday was "Mix it up at Lunch" day was adapted from tolerance.org where students were asked to sit with someone they did not know. The students were provided with a questionnaire to help start a conversation with the new person. After lunch teachers were asked to have a brief discussion about what they learned. Thursday was "Tolerance Thursday" and the bullying committee of five students chose 10 different random acts of kindness to type up and tape to a Smartie. During HR that day the students received their Smartie and discussed with each other the importance of it and suggestions of how to complete the acts. Finally on Friday students were able to "Black Out Bullying". For \$1 they were able to wear a black shirt and blue jeans. The proceeds from this activity went to "Books of Hope". My current classes are writing textbooks to send to an orphanage in Uganda and there is a \$200 fee.

The bracelets finally arrived the last week in December. They are now being sold during the week of Jan. 24th-28th in celebration of "National No-Name Calling Week". The bracelets will be sold during lunches and each morning on the TV show there will be advice on the importance of respect. On Friday students will wear their bracelets and jeans in honor of the week.

This week long school-wide activity gave the students a chance to learn the importance of diversity in our school and the world. It provided them a chance to meet new people they might not have met, learn about each other, reflect on how to be kind and respectful and it taught them tolerance. Through the homeroom discussions and pledges students were able to learn about the proper steps to take when being bullied or witnessing bullying, created poems, posters and raps that were shared with the entire

school, and showed kindness. The lessons were further enhanced with my 70 students not only learning about Africa, its culture, government, people and habitat, but are learning about altruism through writing textbooks for an orphanage in Uganda. Ignorance breeds fear; fear breeds hatred. Here at Manatee these lessons and our expectations of students to be Respectful, Organized, Accomplished and Responsible breeds understanding, tolerance, kindness and a sense of family.