

**Pt. Loma Cluster Schools Foundation
Learning Environment Committee
May 5, 2008**

Traffic Safety: *Kerri DeRosier and Monte Swann* are co-chairing a specific interest group to compile traffic-related safety issues. An e-blast was sent out to the cluster, and we received about 25 responses relating to parent and student behavior, need for crosswalks, and better street lines. We are compiling these responses by school and possible implementation schedule, and will share these responses with our principals to ensure that no important safety issues are being overlooked. Then the SIG will collaborate with the City of San Diego, Police Department, and Councilmember Faulconer's office to determine what safety improvements are viable and develop an ACTION plan.

Behavioral Expectations SIG: Under the leadership of *Andrea Justus and Marvin Estrin*, the Behavioral Expectation SIG will promote cluster-wide behavior norms for students, parents, teachers, and principals; emphasize respect and consideration; and involve parents in the education of their children. Our SIG includes parents, P.E. coaches, administration, and school counselors who will collaborate on an effective program. Our objective is to develop a workable behavioral norm that is positive, realistic, and can be implemented.

Summary of Discussion from April 16th meeting:

Cluster-wide vision: All students will have an opportunity to realize their full academic, social, and physical potentials in an inspiring, supportive and secure environment. There is consensus that students who feel safe and secure in their learning environment are in a better position to achieve.

Consistency of message from K - 12 is vital

- Similar core values throughout cluster is desirable
- Character trait or social skill of the month -- different words and timing okay - Tariq Khamisa Foundation's inspiring nonviolent choices; Coach John Wooden's Pyramid of Success; 'TERRIFIC', 'SOAR', 'STRIVE'
- Consistency in implementation – the themes will be incorporated into the curriculum in all classes
- Dana and Correia should be more sophisticated than the elementary school versions; recognizing that the students are progressing in their maturity and thought processing
- Provide education on replacement behaviors - "Skillstreaming the adolescent"
- Positive reinforcement – "Kindness Counts", "Caught Being Good", Correia Cash

Research-based character development programs, along with supporting curriculum, will be utilized throughout the schools in the cluster. Professional staff will collaborate on the actual programs, which will probably vary based upon the age of the students, but will be consistent in the overall core values. The Behavioral Expectations SIG will be a forum for discussion and ways to weave core value themes into the curriculum.

Continual Communication

- Signage on campuses- positive action core value words (respect, honesty, etc.) including banners, posters, and paint (for example, painting positive action words on the Correia hand ball courts)
- Involving students – such as ASB and art classes – students need to identify with and take ownership
- Inappropriate language not acceptable – time and place

A number of age-appropriate positive reinforcements will be part of the program. The importance of our core values will be promoted on campuses using signage, banners, and posters – many designed by ASB and art students, on cluster and school websites (including "character quality of the month"), and in the student planners.

Discipline

- The schools *do* enforce the code of conduct, and *can* and *will* suspend students
- The schools can *recommend* to the District that a student be expelled for serious offenses.

There will be consequences for students who make 'bad choices'. The behavioral expectations, along with the discipline policies, will be communicated to students and parents. A "Parent Expectation" document will be developed so they are 'involved' in encouraging appropriate behavior (such as parents ghosting their children at school for a day -- versus an at-home suspension where kids play video games and watch television).

Character Development: “A Sporting Gesture Touches Them All”



Carrying injured opponent around bases eliminates CWU from softball playoffs

<http://www.thenewtribune.com/news/promos/wirepicks/story/349161.html>

Joseph B. Frazier; The Associated Press

A Sporting Gesture Touches 'Em All

George Vecsey, New York Times

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/04/30/sports/baseball/30vecsey.html?em&ex=1209700800&en=9bbff492af3949f1&ei=5087%0A>

ESPN Video

<http://sports.espn.go.com/broadband/video/videopage?videoid=3376663&categoryId=2491548>

Last week, in a college softball game with playoff implications, Sara Tucholsky of Western Oregon University uncorked her best swing and did something she'd never done, in high school or college. Her first home run cleared the center-field fence at Central Washington University's home field in Ellensburg.

But it appeared to be the shortest of dreams come true when she missed first base, started back to tag it and collapsed with a knee injury. She crawled back to first but could do no more. The first-base coach said she'd be called out if her teammates tried to help her. Or, the umpire said, a pinch runner could be called in, and the homer would count as a single.

Central Washington first baseman Mallory Holtman, the career home run leader in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference, asked if she and her teammates could help Tucholsky. The umpire said there was no rule against it. So Holtman and the Central Washington shortstop, Liz Wallace, lifted Tucholsky, hands crossed under her, and carried her to second base, and gently lowered her so she could touch the base with her good leg. Then Holtman and Wallace started to giggle, and so did Tucholsky, through her tears, and the three of them continued this odd procession to third base and home to a standing ovation.

"The only thing I remember is that Mallory asked me which leg was the one that hurt," Tucholsky said. "I told her it was my right leg, and she said, 'OK, we're going to drop you down gently and you need to touch it with your left leg,' and I said 'OK, thank you very much.'"

"She said, 'You deserve it, you hit it over the fence,' and we all kind of just laughed." "We started laughing when we touched second base," Holtman said. "I said, 'I wonder what this must look like to other people.'" "We didn't know that she was a senior or that this was her first home run," Wallace said Wednesday. "That makes the story more touching than it was. We just wanted to help her."

As the three reached home plate, Tucholsky said, the entire Western Oregon team was in tears. Central Washington coach Gary Frederick, a 14-year coaching veteran, called the act of sportsmanship "unbelievable."

Holtman said she had been taught by her coach, Gary Frederick, that "winning is not everything." Is there something intrinsic to women's sports that caused this generosity? Holtman, nearly 23, did not think so. "Not many people are ever in that position," she said. "I would hope that our baseball players would do it." Pam Knox, the Western Oregon coach, said the act "came from character." "They're playing for a coach who instills it," she said.

"It's amazing what they did," Tucholsky said of the Central Washington players Tuesday, while facing what she assumes will be the first surgery of her 21 years for what is suspected to be a torn ligament. "Mallory didn't know it was my first home run," said Tucholsky, whose college career will end with a .153 batting average and exactly one home run. "It just says a lot about them."

Tucholsky's home run sent Western Oregon to a 4-2 victory, ending Central Washington's chances of winning the conference and advancing to the playoffs. Holtman said she and Wallace weren't thinking about the playoff spot, and didn't consider the gesture something others wouldn't do. "In the end, it is not about winning and losing so much," Holtman said. "It was about this girl. She hit it over the fence and was in pain, and she deserved a home run."