

**Character Council of Hamburg**  
**Education Committee**  
**11-13-08 at 9:00am**  
**Immaculata Academy**  
**Host: Jill Monaco**

In attendance:

Jill Monaco, Immaculata Academy  
Nancy Maisano, CCOH Board member  
Jackie Jackson, Big Tree Elementary  
Dawn Springer, Frontier  
Sarah Widmer, Immaculata Academy intern  
Saima Horab, Immaculata Academy and Saint Bernadette's  
Sean Obrochta, Saint Francis  
Laura Ruszczuk, Charlotte Avenue Elementary  
Anne Gilhooly, Boston Valley Elementary  
Patti Durni, Cloverbank Elementary  
Christina Sullivan, Frontier High  
Dave Smaczniak, Frontier High  
Grant Wrap, Frontier High student  
Nancy Hajduk, Global Concepts Charter School  
Sue Overdorf, Bishop Timon-Saint Jude  
Jill Crossetta, Hamburg Middle  
Peter Simon, CCOH Board member  
Jane Pastor, Blasdell Elementary  
Lisa Garvey, Southtowns Academy/Erie 1 BOCES  
Kathy Battin, Hamburg High  
Leana Scibetta, Union Pleasant Elementary  
Jennifer Giallella, Union Pleasant Elementary  
Laura Glista, Pinehurst Elementary  
Kim Barry, Frontier Middle  
Jennifer Betz, Frontier Middle

WOW! 25 educators in one room talking about great things!! Keep coming to our meetings; only good can come from them! ☺

Sign in, welcome and intro's

Board update – Pete Simon

- Recognized individual school donations from dress down days
- Champions for Character – 1<sup>st</sup> meeting was held with 5 pillars of the Hamburg community; their personal reflections will be on the website soon.
- The website continues to be improved upon; updates will be there soon.
- Update on the Character Conference – a flyer was handed out; PLEASE PROMOTE THIS IN YOUR SCHOOL.
- Excellence and Ethics handout – Smart and Good School Initiative

#### Hamburg Sun article update – Patti Durni

- Gratefulness articles were in today's Sun (11-13-08)
- Articles are due to Patti by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month
- Character article schedule was handed out; St. Francis was added on to March; Saint Bernadette's was added on to February and April
- If you would like a copy of the schedule, please contact Patti – [pdurni@frontier.wnyric.org](mailto:pdurni@frontier.wnyric.org)

#### Character Carnival – Laura Glista and Nancy Maisano

- There will be a booth for each school to “man” relating to a character virtue. Suggestions/materials for activities were handed out based on the virtue that was randomly picked for you at this meeting. You will need two activities: one geared for elementary level and one to middle/high school level. Please contact Laura and/or Nancy with any questions or if you'd like to volunteer: [lglista@frontier.wnyric.org](mailto:lglista@frontier.wnyric.org) or [nanmaisano@aol.com](mailto:nanmaisano@aol.com)
- The following virtues were drawn for the carnival:
  - Pinehurst – virtue
  - Cloverbank – flexibility
  - Blasdell – compassion
  - Big Tree – determination
  - Frontier Middle – generosity
  - Frontier High – wisdom
  - Armor – truthfulness
  - Boston Valley – enthusiasm
  - Charlotte Ave – gratefulness
  - Union Pleasant – gentleness
  - Hamburg Middle – orderliness
  - Hamburg High – sincerity
  - Immaculata Academy – faith
  - Saint Francis – obedience
  - Hopevale – attentiveness
  - Saints Peter and Paul – dependability
  - Saint Bernadette's – cautiousness
  - Saint Mary's of the Lake – thoroughness
  - Southowns Catholic – forgiveness
  - Bishop Timon – honor
  - Global Concepts – justice

#### Conference volunteers – Jill Monaco and Kathy Battin

- A sign up sheet will go around at our next meeting for volunteers for the entire conference. Even an hour in the morning or a lunch hour will be helpful if you can. The dates are March 17-20 during the day.

#### Remaining virtues for 2008-09:

- Nov/Dec= Generosity
- Jan/Feb= Forgiveness

- Mar/Apr= Sincerity
- May/Jun= Honor

Remaining meetings for 2008-09:

- THURSDAY, 01/22/09 – Saints Peter and Paul
- THURSDAY, 03/12 – Pinehurst Elementary
- THURSDAY, 05/14 – Hamburg High

Character Sharing – THANK YOU FOR WRITING DOWN YOUR HAPPENINGS!

- IA – Operation Overseas – collection for soldiers; \$5 dress down day for former student with cancer to assist with medical bills – raised \$1,000; truthfulness recognitions last week; new club this year – Helping Hands club.
- CAE – Christmas present drive for 15 families within the school; coins for Christmas drive; hat day to raise \$ for a family that lost almost everything in fire; holiday breakfast for new students.
- St. B – each grade participates in a service project; student recognition for showing good character.
- UPE – Character Ed committee – monthly projects for student and staff; Thanksgiving and Christmas food drive – peer helpers collect from each classroom and it gets donated to a local church; mitten tree for Christmas – donations made by students and staff; gift card & food card donations for needy families this holiday season.
- BT-St. J – character ed assembly focused on honesty; November: Thanksgiving food drive to stock local food pantry; students working with St Luke’s Mission of Mercy; art department reworked CCOH posters in contemporary designs that are displayed in the foyer of school; parent character ed committee designed to support parents; posters in each homeroom; December: adopt a family project where each homeroom adopts a family and provides Christmas; serving at St. Luke’s – working in a hands on way with poor and homeless; PEACE club – 78 members; mix it up day.
- GCCS – Food Bank food drive; each class challenged to do 100 acts of kindness – recognize students who perform good deeds/acts; Veteran’s Day tribute to the troops – award certificates of gratefulness; displays of posters; morning announcements to explain how to express character traits; Peace Garden – awarded a grant to do this – all classes will participate in it’s creation.
- BVE – Thankfulness Tree where leaves depict what students are thankful for; HHS and BVE mentoring program starting this month; Building an House of Generosity – a house made of a large box is being filled with food donations; staff is donating Christmas gifts for about 300 children.
- St. F – signs are displayed throughout the school; annual food drive coordinated through Campus Ministry.
- FMS – Rachel’s Challenge – students were trained after the programs creating a club of 100 students – those students broke into 4 groups; 1 – Kindness Matters – signs in school and chain reaction of kindness and compassion; 2 – Helping Hands – outreach program to students, caps for kids; 3 – Frontier Falcon Family –

sunshine club for kids, new student program; 4 – Nice Notes – notes of appreciation to faculty and staff in building.

Mutual respect committee – group of faculty put together nomination forms for teachers/students that have displayed kindness; committee members go through nominations and present awards.

- FHS – conducting a survey to find strengths and weaknesses for character building; Buffalo 4 Africa Family Fun Day coming next month; 2 leadership conferences for students; Student Star Award nominations coming for the Chamber of Commerce; Thanksgiving drives starting now for needy families; Mr. Falcon program has started – a fashion/talent show put on by students.
- BE – bi-monthly Bee assemblies – building a beehive with all good character traits demonstrated by students; monthly character meetings with grades k-5; 4<sup>th</sup> grader wrote a cross-stick about gratefulness for the Sun; Several students will be helping with holiday project of giving gifts and service to the community; food drive distribution.
- HHS – Thanksgiving food drive; adopt a family for Christmas

Next meeting: Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at Saints Peter and Paul, 9am.

- See you then!

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, Happy New Year!!!!!! ☺