

Board-wide Action

Character Development in Action: One Board's Celebration ...

About the program ...

The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board wanted to share good news about how its character development initiative has been unfolding in the district. In order to reach all of its schools and communities, OCDSB's Character Team used the ministry's [2008 successful practices document](#) as a model to create their own [Character Development in Action yearbook](#), using specific examples from schools across their board. All schools were invited to provide a summary of an initiative or program that illustrated character in action, and a cross section of all received was chosen for publication. Reaction has been extremely positive and the team hopes to produce *Character in Action, Volume II* in 2010–11.



An elementary story: *Market Day*, Centennial Public School

As a culminating project for a Grade 6 unit on Trade, and as a bridge to the next unit on Canada's Links to the World, students hosted *Market Day*, and then donated their profits to an agency that supports the developing world.

Impact on student learning and school culture ...

- Students learned what it takes to market and sell goods and services, made connections to the real world beyond the classroom and increased awareness of diversity at their school.
- Students learned that each small action can make a difference. This has impacted the school's safe and caring culture.

A secondary story: *Learning in Action*, Ottawa Technical Learning Centre

Following discussions about character attributes, students identified homelessness as a community issue to take action on. They learned about cooking, about how to safely handle food and about volunteerism by preparing coolers of hot dogs and distributing them to the hungry and needy through shelters in the city core.

Impact on student learning and school culture ...

- Students gained an understanding of the purposes of the 40-hour community involvement graduation requirement.
- Students saw themselves as citizens and “agents of change” capable of making a difference in their community.

Character into Action ...

The attributes that define the OCDSB *Community of Character* provide the common language through which respectful, caring, safe and inclusive learning and work environments are created. The goal is to move beyond awareness of the attributes to a culture that sees all members of the community engaging in activities that allow for the continued development of character.

To find out more, contact ...

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