A Day to be Thankful for
By Bedjina Gerome

During the course of this week, I’ve interviewed several Rosa Parks students and teachers about Thanksgiving. Two students who participated in the interviews were Kathy and Anabel Pierre, a pair of sixth grade girls.

I asked them, why they found thanksgiving important and what they’re thankful for. They were also asked who they thank the most, and what they do during Thanksgiving.

During Kathy’s interview she told us that Thanksgiving is about staying thankful, and that she’s thankful for her family who has tried to help her have a positive outcome throughout life. She is also thankful for her school and friends. Most importantly she is thankful for God, who she believes has put her where she is. Helping her mother the Thanksgiving meal is how she spends her Thanksgiving.

Anabel told us Thanksgiving was important to her because she gets to “spend time with my family”. I also asked Anabel if she believed in Thanksgiving miracles and here is what she had to say. “Yes I do, because my dad was stuck in New York and we had to wait for him to have Thanksgiving dinner. Luckily he came home back in time”. Finally I asked her if she had one Thanksgiving wish, what would it be. Anabel said “for everybody to have an amazing Thanksgiving.”

I also had a chance to speak with one of my favorite math teachers, Mr. Ntoufus. I asked him what does he do on Thanksgiving. He told me that “All of my family comes together”. I also asked him why Thanksgiving is important to him, he said “It’s a time where we all come together to celebrate what we’re thankful for and thank all the people who helped us in life”.

It’s almost that time for Thanksgiving and it seems everyone is looking forward to spending some time with the ones they care about. I’m thankful for my family and the people who care about me. Let’s all have a great Thanksgiving!
Holiday Memoires
By Pamela Andrade

With the holidays coming up, we are all looking forward to spending time with our family. If it’s over dinner, at a party, or while shopping for gifts, holiday time is family time. I’ve interviewed teachers about their special holiday memories as kids, asking them what holiday they celebrate, and what memory to they most remember as a child. My first interview was with Ms. Catanzarite, the 6th grade language arts teacher. When she was 5 in 1976 she said it was fun to sing carols with her family and dance.

I spoke next to Mr. V, “I celebrated Christmas as a kid and my favorite memory was getting the millennium falcon star wars toy.” He said. When asked how old he was and who he spent the holiday with he said, “I was 7 and spent it with my Mom and Dad.”

I interviewed Mr. Ntoufus next. “I celebrate Christmas.” When asked about his favorite memory he said, “Well, it happened in Greece where I grew up, the village where I grew up was very poor. A man from Africa had brought all of the kids in the village toys.” I asked Mr. Ntoufus why it was so special and he said, “it was a special memory because it was the first time we ever got toys. I spent that holiday with my family and cousins and I was 10 years old.”

So with the Holiday season coming up, let’s hope we all are able to spend time with the ones we care about and we all are able to enjoy the time together.
The Six Pillars of Character
By Briana Thomas

The six pillars of character are respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, fairness, caring, and citizenship. Everyone has one of the six pillars of character to work on. I have interviewed Rosa Parks’s students and staff to find out which pillar they needed to work on.

I first interviewed Mr. Van Valkenburg, the six and seventh social studies teacher. He has to work on Citizenship. He does nothing to help the town, Rutherford. In 1995 he moved to Rutherford in high school. “When my town is looking for volunteers I made sure that I was busy and had something to do.” Now ask yourself do you support your community?

The next person I interviewed was Ms. Delgado. She wanted to work on fairness. She believes that you and other people have different perspectives. This pillar became a problem when she started teaching and she needed to work on being fair with her students. Ms. Delgado says that when dealing with certain students she gets more personal than fair.

I then interviewed a student named Carlos Rodriguez. Carlos needs to work on responsibility. Carlos said he needs to stop lying, wants to take responsibility for what he does, regardless of the consequences. His lying in fact became a problem in the 3rd grade. Once he was talking and laughing in class and his teacher caught him and asked if he was the one talking and laughing. He lied and said that he wasn’t talking or laughing.

The next person I interviewed was also a student; Gina Zhinin. Gina has to work on Respect because she uses profanity. This pillar became a problem in the 4th grade when she was 10 years of age. Gina says that her friends were using bad language. She knew it was wrong but started using it anyway.

I also spoke with and interviewed Hozifa Mohamed. He needs to work on Citizenship. Hozifa chose this pillar because he doesn’t do anything to help others out. He told me that the local community had a group to volunteer and help plant plants and he didn’t join in or offer to help.

The last person I interviewed was Ms. Catanzarite. Ms. Catanzarite chose Respect. Ms. Catanzarite needs to work on Respect because she throws her shoes at people. This pillar became a problem in high school. In junior high school Ms. Catanzarite heard a kid say something and her mom heard her mumble the bad words under her breathe. Next thing you know she was soaped (aka: soap in the mouth).

The six pillars or character was meant to help everyone improve their character. From students to teachers we all could use help with our six pillars as you can see here.

Opinion Column
Peer Pressure
By Marvelous Ekeh

Smoking, on the streets, ragged clothes, no money, and dirty. This is what becomes of those that stay under the influence of peers. Most people fall into the trap of peer pressure because they want to fit in or become “popular.” Peer Pressure is said by scientists to be one of the great causes of teenage stress. Peer pressure is dangerous and can get you in serious trouble. People get injured, some even die. If one of your friends is trying to force you into something you don’t want to do such as smoking weed, drinking alcohol, or stealing, don’t be afraid to say no. Just walk away and tell a trusty adult about the situation.

A common example of peer pressure is when your friends compel you to smoke a cigarette. You know its wrong, but you do it anyway because you don’t want them calling you abusive names or trying to beat you up. If it was me and I was in a similar position. I would say “NO!” I don’t like cigarettes because they seem disgusting to me and since I know cigarettes are harmful, I wouldn’t try it.
Peer Pressure (continued)
By Marvelous Ekeh

As I said earlier, most people fall into peer pressure because they want to be someone they’re not. Don’t get me wrong, some people know not to follow their friends. They don’t want to end up on the streets with no money, ragged clothes, dirty, smoking weed or some other drug. They want to become successful in life and peer pressure can ruin that. They don’t want to be a crack head, pot head, or alcoholic on the streets. Peer pressure not only affects you physically it can also affect you mentally. It causes depression and your brain to work differently. You lose your perception, and most importantly your attitude changes. So next time peer pressure is on you, make sure you’re your own person and don’t just follow the crowd just because you’re scared you won’t fit in.

Advice Column

Bullying: Why it Effects
By “Natalia”

“Bullying is cruel and” Says a sixth grader who is frustrated with bullying.” “Some people do it to be cool, but it’s not cool, it’s wrong”. Another sixth grader says, he doesn’t care about bullying as long as it never happens to him. Well if you ever become a victim of bullying, never talk back to the bully. There is a very big difference between an argument and bullying, so when you say something back you’re making it an argument. However, if you are being bullied, first tell them to stop. If that doesn’t work, tell a teacher, parent or any other trusted adult.

“What some bullies don’t seem to realize is that bullying follows you into adulthood.” I talked to a teacher’s aide who I met in SRAE and she says even as an adult, at her college,

So, even if it’s at school, online, at lunch or even on the streets, bullying can effect people. Sticks and stones may break my bones, but word will never hurt me, right? Wrong, words do hurt. It doesn’t matter how old or young you are or big or small you are. Everyone wants to feel secure and good about themselves.

Instead of calling someone ugly, call them pretty. Instead of rolling your eyes at someone, smile and say “hey”, just to make them happy. Let’s stop making people feel bad and instead make them happy and help make Rosa Parks School a bully free place!

Anyone who wants to send a question to “Natalia”, stop by Mr’. V’s room and submit your question. Your question might be answered next issue!
Sisterhood program?
By Alrick Codner

Lots of girls complain that they deserve a sisterhood, and they definitely do. The girls understand they’re just as good as the boys and need help with things too.

Ms. McCoy gives advice to the girls and this is one step to a proper sisterhood. Ms. McCoy isn’t the only one who wants to help. So does Ms. Falk.

When asked if there was a sisterhood would she help, Ms. Falk said, "Absolutely, girls need guidance. I didn't have guidance from a lot of people. I got that guidance from my teachers. It's my way of giving back."

She says she'll help afterschool and maybe during the weekends. Mrs. Falk also said, "girls need outlets like boys do."

Mr. Miller also wants to help. He says sisterhood is not a bad idea, but that the boys need more help or that his attention would more toward the boys than girls. Mr. Miller said he'd be willing to do workshops but not a full class like he currently does with the boys.

All these amazing teachers want to help the girls. The boys have their brotherhood class, so now the girls just might get sisterhood class as well.

Comics

The Gift of Giving
By Kharim Cadeus
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