

MENTOR MOMENT

"Correction does much, but encouragement does more."

-Unknown

Volume 2

October—November 2006



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Thank you to all who attended our most recent Advanced Mentor Training Luncheon. We hope you enjoyed the meal and the presentation. I think many mentors' questions were discussed and hopefully answered. If you would like to view a taped version of the presentation, one will be available when we can figure out how to put it on a media everyone can view (see mentor needs section).

As you read in the main newsletter, we have held three new mentor training sessions and trained many possible mentors. A list of our new mentors can be found on page three. Please welcome all of them into

TeamMates when you get the chance. We are having another new mentor training on Tuesday, October 3rd at 11:30am AND 5:30pm. Hopefully, we will be able to add additional mentors to our "new faces" list next newsletter!

Our 1st Quarter Celebration is scheduled for Saturday, October 21st. We have planned a Husker Football Celebration for the UNL vs. Texas game. Our plans for the game are still up in the air; however, we hope to have them finalized soon. We would like to attend the game at the Pavilion in Lincoln; however, transportation may be an issue. We will keep you informed. Students are not aware of our plans as of yet, because

we do not want to get their hopes up. Regardless of where we are, we promise a fun opportunity to interact with your student outside of school.

Please note the 2nd Annual "Taste of TeamMates" Parent Event coming up November 6th. We will once again be asking mentors and students to cook together and bring the dish for everyone, including parents, to sample that evening. Look for more information in the weeks to come.

Keep up the good work with your social skills packets. Invitations will be mailed in mid-November for the TeamMates Holiday Dinner. Remember this is by invitation only—for those who complete their packet!

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Special Notes:

- New Mentor Trainings Tuesday, October 3rd 11:30am AND 5:30pm Lexington Middle School
- EARLY DISMISSAL 1:30pm Wednesday, October 4th
- 1st Quarter Celebration Saturday, October 21st HUSKER FOOTBALL CELEBRATION - Time and Place To Be Determined
- Parent - Teacher Conferences Thursday, October 26th NO SCHOOL
- FALL BREAK Friday, October 27th NO SCHOOL
- Daylight Savings Ends Sunday October 29th (Set clocks back one hour)
- 2nd Annual "Taste of TeamMates" Parent Event Monday, November 6th at 6:30pm
- EARLY DISMISSAL 1:30pm Wednesday, November 22nd
- Thanksgiving Break Thursday, November 23-24th NO SCHOOL
- Holiday Dinner (by Invitation Only) Thursday, November 30th at 6:00pm Holiday Inn Express

BIRTHDAY BANNER

October

1st—Claudia S.; Dally V.
8th—Daryl Crook
9th—Armando H., Kevin G.; Florence Kring
10th—Judy LaBrune
12th—Tara Rodriguez
18th—Jeffrey D.
19th—Glorisel A.; Juan L.
21st—Eduardo D.; Shelly

Hansen

22nd—Griselda C.; Jr. C.
23rd—Casey Ford
24th—Mike Araujo
29th—Marina C.; Terri Burch



November

1st—Jessica Rodas
2nd—Ana G.; Patty Mandelko
3rd—Mike Mandelko
9th—Alex T.
10th—Lisa Fricke
13th—Mike Maloley; Paul Matson
15th—Kari Klatt
23rd—Claudia H.; Linda Saiz
27th—Julio G.

Students names are listed with their last initial only

BOUNDARIES WITH TEENS SATELLITE EVENT

TeamMates mentors have been invited to join best-selling author and psychologist, Dr. John Townsend, for a special two-hour seminar based on his newest book in the award-winning Boundaries series: *Boundaries with Teens*.

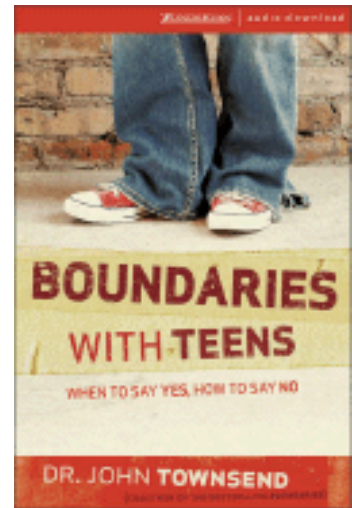
A satellite workshop entitled *Boundaries with Teens* with Dr. John Townsend will be simulcast on Tuesday, October 10th from 6:00–8:00pm at the Parkview Baptist Church (803 W. 18th Street). This workshop is for parents, youth workers, coaches, teachers, family and friends. Participants will learn how to establish healthy boundaries and help teens take responsibility for

their actions, attitudes and emotions. You can find out how to set healthy limits and realistic consequences, deal with disrespectful attitudes or irresponsible behaviors, establish loving and caring rules and develop problem-solving strategies.

This event is sponsored by the Parkview Baptist Church. A free dinner will be provided.

VERY IMPORTANT: Please RSVP by Sunday, October 8th to (308)746-1226.

I hope everyone will consider attending this very timely workshop that we have available to us.



MAKING MEETINGS MATTER!

Hopefully all returning matches have begun meeting and have enjoyed the "Who am I" project. I can honestly say this was much more difficult than I had expected. I think I got a few questions *right* about my student. Hopefully, you did better than I did!

Please remember to leave both sheets in the green folder in the office when you have completed the project. We appreciate all of your participation. If you have not yet completed the project, please do so as soon as possible. For new matches, feel free to use this project as one of your first meetings (even filling out the form on yourselves instead of each other and discussing them) or wait a week or so.

There is also another meeting requirement for this semester which is our "Social Skills for Success" packet. You will find the mentor version in your red manual under the red divider and your student's version in the black box in the school office. Believe it or not, one student has already completed her packet with her mentor. Thank you Judy and Jasmin for all your hard work. You have until the middle of November to complete your Social Skills packet, but as fast as time has passed already, November will be here before we know it. If you have questions about this packet, please contact me as soon as possible.

More important than the activities you do together when you meet, is that

you ARE meeting. It is vital that you sign in the red folder whenever you meet at the school and document somehow any outside of school time you spend meeting with your student. There is the weekly calendar toward the back of your red manual to help you keep a record of outside meetings. Remember this information will be necessary when we contact you in January to prepare for our Gallup report.

You may be interested to know that studies show that students who spend at least 24 hours a year with their mentor show a marked increase in academic performance, decline in disciplinary referrals and absenteeism. We hope this will be a goal of all our matches.

ADDRESSING TEAMMATES MENTOR NEEDS

Do you have any needs that have not been addressed? Are there any issues that you are dealing with that others might be as well? What can we do to help?

It is so important that we know how we can help you so that we can provide timely, relevant information to you and our other mentors. For example, one mentor asked that we tape our Advanced Mentor Training Sessions so that he could view them when he had time. As a result, we taped our last advanced

mentor training session which will probably benefit several other mentors who were also unable to attend. Unfortunately, the tape is currently on a small videotape and we are unsure how to dub it off onto a DVD or videotape mentors can watch. If you have any expertise in this area, we would appreciate your help so that we can provide this support to those mentors unable to attend the actual training session.

If you have other needs, please let us know.

On a related note, we have also considered purchasing TeamMates clothing, but are unsure what our mentors would be interested in. If you have thoughts on this, we would love to hear from you. Wearing the TeamMates logo often helps me start conversations about my most favorite topic—TeamMates! (That is other than talking about my kids). Maybe it can help you too.