



# Community Unity

## Educational Resources Committee

Spring 2009

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**Did you know?** – These newsletters are available online at our website: <http://www.communityunity.org>.

### How Can We Serve You Better?

When we began this newsletter service, we distributed a questionnaire asking for input. Our readership has grown, schools and staff have changed, and we think it's time to ask for your input again. Included with this newsletter is a list of eleven questions aimed at keeping us current with the strengths and wishes of you and your school. Please take the time to answer and return the results to Melissa Jackson at Lanesville Schools.

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### MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR A TRIP AROUND THE WORLD

Community Unity's WORLD ON THE SQUARE returns the second Saturday in August--this year, that's August 8, 2009. As always, there will be international music, food and beverages as well as representatives of countries with presences here in the Harrison County area. Please encourage your students to join us for a chance to learn about other countries from people who've been there. They can win prizes and enjoy free samples of international foods. It's a great public-service volunteer opportunity, too, for students who need volunteer hours to meet school requirements. For more information as it becomes available, please visit the World on the Square website, <http://worldonthesquare.org>.



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### HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT IT'S LIKE TO HAVE A DISABILITY?

That's the question asked on the Indiana University's Center for Disability Information & Referral web page for kids, Kids' Corner: <http://www.iidc.indiana.edu/cedir/kidsweb>. This easy-to-use resource has links to games, books, ways to talk about disabilities, lists of celebrities with disabilities and more.

### ARTS, EDUCATION AND DISABILITIES

VSA arts (<http://www.vsarts.org/x101.xml>) has a wonderful website full of cross-curricular resources linking the arts, math, literacy and disability awareness. Short literary works by people with disabilities are available in English, French and Spanish. There are links to funding opportunities, tips on creating and using inclusive educational settings, ways to improve academic performance for students with or without disabilities, and even materials to send home to parents. START WITH THE ARTS is a program for four, five and six-year-olds. EXPRESS DIVERSITY is an arts program that also promotes diversity/disability awareness.

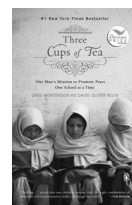
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### George Washington Carver--

How far you go in life depends on you being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and the strong. Because someday in life you will have been all of these.

## Promote Peace--One School at a Time

That's part of the subtitle of Greg Mortenson's book THREE CUPS OF TEA. In 1993, Mortenson was separated from his companions when returning from an attempt to climb a mountain in Pakistan. He wandered into an impoverished village where, despite their own destitution, they fed him and nursed him back to health. While he was there, he saw people sitting on the ground writing in the dirt with sticks, determined not to let their lack



of teachers, schools or supplies get the better of them. He promised to build them a school, going so far as to sell all he owned in an attempt to raise the money. His first big donation came from...a school. An elementary school in Wisconsin, where his mother was principal, collected pennies. Since then, he has helped establish the Central Asia Institute (<http://www.ikat.org>), which promotes community-based education, especially for girls, who are traditionally considered not to need education. His book's web site, <http://www.threecupsoftea.com>, tells his story and how to order his books. Dr. Mortenson's own web site is <http://www.gregmortenson.com/>.



Mortenson's original book has been rewritten for Young Adults and for elementary school level (this one, under the title of LISTEN TO THE WIND).

## HOW TO BE A PART OF DR. GREG'S VISION

Many schools have contributed to Greg Mortenson's undertaking. Collecting pennies to help other boys and girls have the education American students take for granted is a cross-discipline public service project children of all ages can understand and participate in. A website, Pennies for Peace (<http://penniesforpeace.org>), explains the program, gives facts about Pakistan and Afghanistan and provides a toolkit for the Pennies for Peace project. According to the Pennies for Peace website, "The curriculum is guided by themes designed to stimulate critical thinking in students. It is grouped into grade clusters K-4, 4-8, and 9-12 and is tied to national social studies, literacy, and mathematics standards."



## Responding to Hate at School

Hate can take all forms, from shunning and name-calling to threats and physical violence. The best way to respond is to create an environment in which diversity is respected, differences can be discussed in a safe but open way, and unkindness is actively discouraged. The organization Teaching Tolerance has a wide variety of free information and programs available. One is called "Responding to Hate at School" and can be downloaded at <http://www.tolerance.org/rthas/index.jsp>. It discusses being prepared, emergency response, and has links for teachers, parents, teens and kids. The main web page, <http://www.tolerance.org>, has diversity and non-violent problem solving news items and links to activities, programs and response plans.



## Robert Louis Stevenson--

There is so much good in the worst of us,  
and so much bad in the best of us,  
it behooves all of us  
not to talk about the rest of us.