December Newsletter FLMS

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Save The Date

What: 47th Annual FLMS State Conference

When: June 15-16

Middle Schools: Let's RAVE about equality.
Leaders and Learners Building Appreciation, Relationships, Values and Expectations for all

Keynote Speaker Line-Up

Friday: Roy Dobbs

Roy Dobbs is an award-winning educator, who has served as a teacher, coach, Dean of Students, Assistant Principal, and Principal in both traditional and alternative school settings. In addition to these educational experiences, Roy Dobbs has served as the Principal of an all-male middle school. As the founder of the Young Men of Purpose Mentoring Program, he inspires today's young men to become tomorrow's leaders through teaching the importance of character, scholastic achievement, and service. He resides in Indianapolis, Indiana, with his wife, Kristen, and three children.

Saturday: Dr. Shannon Vincent

Dr. Shannon Vincent is currently the superintendent of the Moss Point School District in Moss Point, Mississippi. She is the former principal of the Pascagoula Opportunity Center, a former middle school principal, and a former teacher. She has also been an adjunct professor at Grand Canyon University and Mississippi State University.

Past Events

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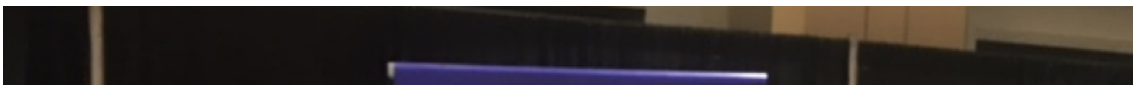
Your Florida League of Middle School Board Members represented the state at the AMLE Conference in Philadelphia. This group learned a tremendous amount of new ideas to help students to be successful in your classroom. Join us in June at the Hyatt Sarasota as we share these new ideas and latest research with you at the Florida League of Middle School Conference!

Pictured: Right to Left- Top: Cathy Egley, Terri Golden, Kathy Shewey, Lawson Brown Bottom: Janet Spence, Dr. Shirley Fox Missing: Cheryl Ellerbrock



Your FLMS Board Members were working diligently in Philadelphia to promote the AMLE conference which will be held in Orlando in 2018. Make plans to be in Orlando October 25-27 next year, 2018.

Kindness

November was Florida Family Engagement in Education Month:

On Nov. 17, Florida Virtual School (FLVS) Flex and The Homeschool Fellowship Cohort team held a joint field trip to view the movie *Wonder*. Teachers met with students and families at theaters around the state to enjoy the opening day of the film, which is based on a book that many students read in class. Fifteen teachers met with more than 50 FLVS students in Orlando, Miami, Jacksonville, Fort Myers, and other counties. Families drove hours across Florida to visit before the movie and told the instructors how much they love the constant contact—meeting face to face was the icing on the cake! FLVS families shared stories about their favorite funny teachers, collaboration sessions, passion for the cohort group, love of the activities like Fun Zone, Kindness Club, and Cohort Student Council. Parents, students, and teachers all shared their hopes that the fun field trips would continue during the year.

#FLVS
WONDER

GROUP

flvs
Wonder
Kindness Club

Promote Kindness in the Classroom!

#Lovewithoutjudgement
#Observewithcompassion
#Validatewithrespect
#Empowerwithconfidence

"Three things in Human Life are important: The first is to be kind. The second is to be kind. The third is to be kind." – Mother Teresa

30 Random Acts of Kindness for Students

ON THE PLAYGROUND	IN THE HALLWAY	In the Classroom	Towards Adults	Towards Kids
Pick up litter and put it in the trash can.	Smile and say hello to someone new.	Make ☺ or ☮ cards for everyone in your class.	Help the cafe workers wipe the tables.	Donate the clothes you've outgrown to your school's clothes bank.
Give up your swing to someone who is waiting.	Let someone go ahead of you in the water fountain line.	Give your good behavior prize to someone who deserves it, but didn't win.	Write a thank you note to your gym teacher for teaching you how to stay healthy.	Tell another student "Nice job!" in class or on the playground.
Invite someone playing alone to join your game.	Pick up something that has fallen off the wall & return it to a teacher.	Partner with someone who usually has trouble finding one.	Pick up papers you see in the building so the custodian doesn't have to.	Bring an extra lunch dessert from home & share it with someone.
Let someone go ahead of you down the slide.	Let someone who had to leave for something get back in line in front of you.	Tell someone how much you like their new haircut, shirt, back pack or shoes.	Smile and show parents the way to the office.	Help another student carry a heavy book bag to their classroom.
Help put the playground balls away when the bell rings.	Help someone who has dropped their books or papers.	Straighten up the classroom library.	Tell other teachers how nice they look.	Make friends with the new kid at school.
Hide a ☮ rock for someone to find later!	Leave a Positive PostIt note to brighten someone's day!	Leave a nice note for your teacher.	Put a kindness card in a returning library book for the librarian to find.	Paint a kindness rock for a friend.

Kindness Reading List

INTERMEDIATE:

Thank You, Jackie Robinson by Barbara Cohen, 1989. A fatherless white boy presents a baseball autographed by Jackie Robinson to his elderly African-American friend who is on his deathbed.

Sukey and the Mermaid by Robert D. San Souci, 1992. MamaJo, the mermaid, shows kindness to Sukey who has slipped away to the seashore after being mistreated by her stepfather. A Cinderella tale from the South Carolina sea isles.

Pink and Say by Patricia Polacco, 1994. A moving story about an African-American soldier and a white soldier who are captured by Southern troops during the Civil War. Kindness is shown to the two by the African-American soldier's mother and they develop a caring relationship toward each other.

Sarah, Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlan, 1985. Caleb and Anna yearn for a mother and their father advertises for a bride. Sarah—plain, tall and independent—misses the sea. However, she realizes she would miss the family more than she misses the sea, so she decides to stay.

Stone Fox by John Reynolds Gardiner, 1980. Little ten-year-old Willy hopes to pay the back taxes on his grandfather's farm with the purse from a dog sled race he enters. He competes against the Indian mountain man, Stone Fox, in the national dogsled race.

Charlotte's Web by E.B. White, 1980. Wilbur the pig is saved by the farmer's daughter Fern and then is saved from being the farmer's Christmas dinner by his kind friend Charlotte, a spider.

Donavan's Word Jar by Monalisa DeGross, 1994. Donavan keeps a jar for his word collection and when it fills up, finds a special way to give his words away and receive something special in return.

Littlejim's Gift by Gloria Houston, 1994. Littlejim hopes to convince his stern father that he will soon be a man as he uses his hard-earned savings to buy a Christmas gift for his sister.

MIDDLE/HIGH:

Out of Nowhere by Ouida Sebestyen, 1994. Harley is abandoned by his mother and through kindness and trust builds a new family comprised of an old pit bull, an outspoken old woman, an eccentric junk collector and an optimistic handywoman. They work together to rebuild their lives.

Shadow of the Red Moon by Walter Dean Myers, 1995. In this fantasy, a group of Okalian children led by fifteen-year-old Jon embark on a journey to attempt to return to the Ancient Land and restore their race to its former greatness. They display caring concern for each other, as well as for all life.

The Gift-Giver by Joyce Hansen 1980. A fifth grade girl meets a special friend who teaches her self-confidence and understanding as she tries to keep her family together during hard times.

The Cay by Theodore Taylor, 1969. Philip and his mother are forced to leave Curacao during World War II, but their ship is torpedoed by a German submarine. Philip survives and learns to overcome his prejudice when he is left blind and dependent on an extraordinary black-skinned man.

And One For All by Theresa Nelson, 1989. Geraldine views the lives of her brother and his friend during the Vietnam War era. Their responses to the war reflect the opposing views that divided the country. Coming to terms with tragedy, Geraldine challenges injustice in an adult world.

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck, 1993. Ranch hand George and his mentally handicapped friend Lennie dream of a little house of their own with a garden and rabbits for Lennie to tend. As they travel from ranch to ranch, George tries desperately to protect Lennie from cruelties.
Anne Frank Remembered: The Story of the Woman Who Helped Hide the Frank Family by Miep Gies, 1987. The story of Anne Frank is also the story of Miep Gies, a Dutch woman who regularly smuggled food and news of the outside world to the Frank family's secret hiding place. She courageously risked her own life almost daily for the Franks.

"Kindness" Lesson Plan sites

Thank you Jeff Garthwaite for finding these fantastic sites!

https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/- Site has a link for 'Educators'. Lesson plans are free. You do have to register. Currently hosting a Photo Contest of acts of kindness.

https://www.brilliantstarmagazine.org/parents-teachers/teaching-tools-techniques/lesson-plans-and-activities/kindness-a-virtue-building-lesson-plan- Site has several lesson ideas, including lists of supplies. May be most appropriate for lower grades.

http://www.jeremiahshopeforkindness.org/resources/educator/- Site created by parents of a child, Jeremiah, who committed suicide. Contains info, tips, and resources for educators from a parent's perspective. Gives an account of the horrific painful effects of bullying.

http://savvyschoolcounselor.com/a-lesson-about-kindness/- References a book about kindness. Again, most appropriate for 5th/6th grade. Also discusses examples of 'kind' and 'not kind' which, could assist teachers to develop lessons most appropriate for their students.

http://character.org/lessons/lesson-plans/- Kindness plans listed for elementary, middle or high school. A wealth of ideas and suggestions.

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Drop us a Line

Do you have a story to share?
We would love to have your input!
Contact Terri Golden at tgoldenhart@yahoo.com
to submit an article for publication.

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- Have access to great resources and professional development
- Attend state and regional conferences

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